

12th Air Force, 57th Bombardment Wing
310th Bombardment Group
History: February 1943



*For my dad,
Colonel John "Jack" Fitzgerald, U.S. Army (retired)*

*"Lil Butch"
John T. Fitzgerald, SMSgt, U.S. Air Force (retired)*

12th Air Force, 57th Bombardment Wing

310th Bombardment Group

History: February 1943

The following is a compilation of the 310th Bomb Group's Headquarters and individual Squadron War Diaries. They have been transcribed word for word, from the Squadron Histories provided by the Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA), Maxwell Air Force Base Alabama. At the end of each Squadron's daily entry, the individuals cited in the entry are identified by *full name, rank and duty*, in alphabetical order. The day's entry begins with the Tactical Operations Statement, from the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) Chronology, for the Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO). The history also includes mission reports, mission crew rosters, Missing Air Crew Reports (MACR), personal mission logs, journals, and diaries made available by various sources.

Invitation

*Anyone who has documentation pertaining to the 310th Bomb Group or its members, and would like to have it included in this history, is welcome to participate. Copies of: photos (official or personal); orders (promotion, decoration, travel, etc.); Mission Reports; Missing Air Crew Reports; personal diaries, logs, journals, etc; other documentation; or information that will help identify **hi-lited** individuals will be greatly appreciated, as one of my goals is correctly identify every man and plane assigned to the 310th Bomb Group.*

My only interest in this project is to honor those who served by perpetuating their story, and making it available for future generations, particularly the families and friends of our Great Heroes. If you are interested in helping, or if I may be of assistance in finding information about your 310th BG Hero, please contact me at: Lil-Butch@nc.rr.com

Contributors

Agostino Alberti: Professor - historian (Soncino, Italy)

Michele Becchi: aviation history - archaeologist (Reggio Emilia, Italy)

Jack Brellenthin, great nephew of: Harold Ray Brellenthin, 2Lt, pilot, 446th BS

Cecile Burandt, daughter of: Charles Lawson "Chuck" Burandt, Capt, pilot, 446th BS

Sally Brown, daughter of: Barnard H. Seegmiller, Sgt, armament, 445th BS

Dave Charville, grandson of: Leighton Daniel "Danny" Charville, 1Lt, pilot, 445th BS

Barbara Connolly, daughter of: Edward Charles "Salvo" Ennis, T/Sgt, radar-radio-gunner, 447th BS

Ralph "Monguse" Gimenez: Software Architect, IL2-FB Skinner

Bob Haney, son of: Vincent M. Haney, M/Sgt, flight engineer, 341st BG

Ed Haney, cousin of: Gale Monroe Dickson, Capt, pilot, 446th BS

Contributors (continued)

- John Hughes, son of: *John Jerome "Jack" Hughes, 1Lt, bombardier, 446th BS*
Patti Johnson: *genealogist, proofreader, and family friend of: James Raymond Orechia, T/Sgt, radio-gunner, 446th BS*
Don Kaiser, son of: *Quentin C. Kaiser, T/Sgt, radio-gunner, 489th BS*
John Lanza, nephew of: *William A. Lanza, Sgt, gunner, 446th BS*
Stephanie Lile, daughter of: *Keith B. Lile, S/Sgt, gunner, 445th BS*
1st Lt Joseph A. Malec: *bombardier, 448th BS and friend of: Vernon Curtis Dossey, Capt, pilot, 448th BS*
Vince Mango, son of: *Vincent A. "Vince" Mango, S/Sgt, aerial gunner, 447th BS*
John J. McCarthy: *Sgt, engineer-gunner, bombardier, 447th BS*
Lorraine McRae, daughter of: *James Arrington McRae, 1Lt, bombardier, 446th BS*
T/Sgt Rocco F. "Rocky" Milano & daughter Peggy Chatham: *Crew Chief of Peg O' My Heart, Lil Butch, and Haulin' Ass, 446th BS*
Bob Ritger, nephew of: *Frederic Charles Ritger, 1Lt, pilot, 446th BS*
Irving J. Schaffer: *T/Sgt, radio-gunner, photographer, 448th BS*
1st Lt Frederick H. Smith: *pilot, 447th BS*
Marsha Gurnee Suszan, daughter of: *Clarence E. "Shine" Gurnee, S/Sgt, gunner, 448th BS*
Dominique Taddei: *author, U.S.S. Corsica (Corsica)*
David Waldrip, nephew of: *Robert Laseter Waldrip, T/Sgt, radio-gunner, 447th BS*
Vinny J. White, son of: *Joseph P. White, T/Sgt, radio-gunner, 381st BS*

Crew lists

	<i>Aircraft information - serial #, name, etc</i>	<i>Sometimes used</i>
P	<i>Pilot</i>	Bomb/Nav <i>Bombardier-Navigator</i>
CP	<i>Co-pilot</i>	BN <i>Bombardier-Navigator</i>
N	<i>Navigator</i>	EG <i>Engineer-gunner</i>
B	<i>Bombardier</i>	RG <i>Radio-gunner</i>
E	<i>Engineer-gunner</i>	TG <i>Turret gunner</i>
R	<i>Radio-gunner</i>	AG <i>Aerial gunner</i>
G	<i>Gunner</i>	PH <i>Photographer</i>
F	<i>Photographer</i>	AP <i>Aerial photographer</i>
CL	<i>Cannon Loader (on B-25G)</i>	CC <i>Crew Chief</i>
O	<i>Observer</i>	

Note for the 381st BS only: The letter in () following the A/C No. represents the position # of the aircraft in the formation. For example: A/C No. 41-13052 "TABOO" (P) - the P is position 16.

**A-1 B-2 C-3 D-4 E-5 F-6 G-7 H-8 I-9 J-10 K-11 L-12
M-13 N-14 O-15 P-16 Q-17 R-18 S-19 T-20` U-21 V-22 W-23 X-24
Y-25 Z-26**

Acronyms & Abbreviations

A/C: Aircraft	M/G: Machine Gun
A/D: Aerodrome	MIA: Missing In Action
A/F: Air Field, also Anti-Flak	M/T: Motor Transport (Truck)
AA or AAA: Anti-Aircraft (Artillery)	MTB: Motor Torpedo Boat
abs: absent	M/V: Military Vessel, Maritime Vessel
AGL: Above Ground Level	M/Y: Marshalling Yards
ALO: Allied Liaison Officer	MC: Maintenance Crew
ALW: Alive and Well	NARA: National Archives and Records Administration
AMGOT: Allied Military Government for Occupied Territories	NASAF: Northwest African Strategic Air Force
A.R.C.: American Red Cross	NATC - Northwest African Training Command
ASN: Army Serial Number (personnel)	NATOUSA: North Atlantic Theater of Operations USA
Assg: Assigned	Nav: Navigator
ASV: Anti-Surface Vessel (radar)	N.B.S.: National Bureau of Standards
ATA: Actual Time of Arrival	NC: Nurse Corps.
ATC: Air Transportation Command	NCO: Non-Commissioned Officer
ATS: Air Transport Service	Nickels: propaganda Leaflets
Azon: Azimuth only (guided bomb)	(NMI): No Middle Initial
BC: Bomber Command	NOK: Next Of Kin
BIC: Bruised in Crash	NRO: National Reconnaissance Office
Bmb: Bombardier	OAF: Occupation Air Forces
Bn: Battalion	OD: Officer of the day, also Olive Drab
B.R.L.: Ballistic Research Laboratory	OLC: Oak Leaf Cluster
BSM: Bomb System Maintenance	OTU: Operational Training Unit
CA: Heavy Cruiser	PAX: Passengers
CAVU: Ceiling and Visibility Unlimited	PDI: Pilot Direction Indicator
C.B.I.: China-Burma-India Theater	POE: Point of Embarkation
C/D: Coastal Defense	POW: Prisoner of War (also PW)
CE: Circular Error	PRO-Kit: Individual Chemical Prophylactic packet
CEP: Circular Error Probable	PW: Prisoner of War (also POW)
Chaff (US term): Radar countermeasure: tiny strips of aluminum, metalized glass fiber, or plastic. See Window	PWB: Psychological Warfare Branch
CL: Cannon Loader	PX: Post Exchange
CO: Commanding Officer	QBB: Base of cloud
CG: Commanding General	QDM: Course to steer
CP: Command Post	QM: Quarter Master
CQ: Charge of Quarters	R/B: Road Bridge
C/S: Call Sign	RC: Red Cross
CWS: Chemical Warfare Service	R/J: Road Junction

D/H: Direct Hit
DD: Destroyer
DED: Declared Dead - no body or remains found
Demo: Demolition
DL: Dead List
DNB: Died Non-Battle / Died Not-Battle
DOW: Died Of Wounds.
DOWRIA: Died of Wounds Received in Action
DS: Detached Service
E/A: Enemy Aircraft
E/F: Enemy Fighter
EM or E/M: Enlisted Men
ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival
ETIR: Estimated Time In Route
EUS: Evacuated to the United States
E/V: Enemy Vessel
F Boat: Flying Boat
F/L: Formation Leader - also Flight Leader
FO or F/O: Flying Officer
FOD: Finding Of Death
Frag: Fragmentation
F.S.: Flight Section
GLO: Ground Liaison Officer (UK)
GO: General Order
GP: General Purpose/Gun Position
GTC: General Time Convention (railroad)
HE: High Explosive
IAS: Indicated Air Speed
I & E: Information & Education
(i. o.): Initials Only (initial is the name)
IP: Initial Point

KNB: Killed Not Battle
KIA: Killed In Action
L/A: Landing Area
LC: Landing Craft
L/G: Landing Ground
Lox: Liquid Oxygen

L/S: Landing Strip
L/V: Large Vehicle

LST: Landing Ship Tank
Ltr: Letter

R/Y: Railroad Yards
Repl: Replacement
RMC: Returned to Military Control

RON: Remain OverNight
RR/B: Railroad Bridge
RR/J: Railroad Junction
RR: Railroad
RTD: Returned To Duty

R/V: Rendezvous
SAP: Semi-Armor Piercing
SD: Special Duty
S/E: Single Engine (plane)
S.E.: Special Equipment (Shoran)
S/F: Siebel Ferry
sk: sick
S/M: Submarine
SO: Special Order
SOI: Standard Operating Instructions?
S/P: Sea Plane
Sq: Squadron
Sqdn: Squadron
SWA: Seriously Wounded in Action
T/A: Target Area
T/C: Troop Concentration
T/E: Twin Engine (plane)
TAC: Theater Allied Command
TBF: Tactical Bomber Force
TD: Temporary Duty
TDY: Temporary Duty
TLC: Tactical Landing Craft
TO: Take-Off (time), also Technical Order, and Transportation Officer
T/O: Table of Organization
TOT: Time Over Target/Time On Target
Trfd: Transferred
TWX: Teletypewriter Message
u/i: Unidentified, also unit of issue
UNRRA: United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
Very Pistol or Verey Pistol: Flare gun
VOCO: Verbal Order of the Commanding Officer
W.O.: Warrant Officer
WIA: Wounded In Action

LWA: Lightly Wounded in Action

MACR: Missing Air Crew Report

MATS: Military Air Transport Service

Window (British term): Radar countermeasure: tiny strips of aluminum, metalized glass fiber, or plastic. See **Chaff**

WP: White Phosphorus (bombs)

WT, W/T: Watch Tower

XC: Cross Country

ZI: Zone of Interior (U.S.A.)

Monday, 1 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): HQ 9th Fighter Wing is established at El Kabrit upon arrival from the U.S.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-17s bomb the harbor and shipping at Tunis and shipping in La Goulette harbor. Fighters escort bombers and cover ground forces in the Sened-Maknassy area. A-20s and P-40s bomb tank and a vehicle concentration near Sidi Khalif.

HQ 310th BG War Diary:

310th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
OFFICE OF THE OPERATIONS OFFICER
A.P.O. 520

1 February 1943.

SUBJECT: Tactics on Target.

TO : XII Bomber Command A.P.O. 520.

1. Per operations order #A-32, 12th Bomber Command, an enemy marshalling yard and supply depot was attacked. This was not a coordinated attack.

2. The objective was approached from the east north east with the initial point out over the Gulf. The formation proceeded to within fifteen minutes of the objective on the deck. Altitude was gained from this point to the initial point, climbing at 170 miles per hour at 800 feet per minute. Objective was attacked from an altitude of from 8200 feet to 9600 feet. The run was approximately 40 seconds with each element leader synchronizing on his own target the wing men bombing on him. The formation was stagger with elements echelon right. First flight taking the supply warehouses, second flight taking south marshalling yards, and the third flight taking main marshalling yards. Second flight was high, third flight low; two hundred foot vertical interval between elements and flights. After passing the objective, the formation turned right and then left retaining altitude for five minutes due to light flak; and then descending to the deck. Evasive action was used throughout the attack and withdrawal.

3. Heavy flak over target not intense. Attacked by 16 fighters after leaving target. Fighters followed for thirty minutes and turned back after reaching mountains south of Tebessa.

HARVEY H. HINMAN
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

Monday, 1 February 1943 (continued)

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 35:

Mission Report # 36, 1 February 43

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. NO. AND TYPE A/C: Six B-25-C's.
3. DATE: 2/1/43
4. MISSION: Sea Search. TARGET: Shipping (none sighted).
5. TIME OFF: 1245 hours. INITIAL POINT: 1353 hours. DOWN: 1630 hours.
6. WEATHER: Over land, CAVU except for high cirrus and slight ground base.
Over sea, CAVU except for smoke on course between 300 and 500 feet
7. No. AND TYPE BOMBS DROPPED: 36 X 500-lb bombs carried. No target sighted, no bombs dropped. All bombs returned to base.
8. OUR LOSSES: None.
ENEMY LOSSES: None.
9. RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS: No bombing, no target sighted.

Large yellow mine floating on surface, sighted at 1456 hours at 37 degrees 25 minutes N and 10 degrees 25 minutes E.

Large columns of black smoke from direction of Bizerte and Tunis, visible for thirty miles. Sighted at 1345 hours.

One ME-110 sighted at 1420 hours at 37 degrees 50 minutes N and 11 degrees 50 minutes E. Enemy aircraft did not attack formation, but P-38 escorts were seen to fly toward it.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 35:
(379th BS did not participate)

Monday, 1 February 1943 (continued)

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 35:
(380th BS did not participate)

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 35:
SEA SEARCH

Group Mission # 35	Flight 6 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 19	Escort 12 P-38's
Take Off 12:45	Bomb Load: (6 x 500)
Down 16:30	Bombs Dropped: None
Total Time: 3 Hrs. 45 Min.	

Weather: CAVU.

Remarks: No shipping or Enemy Aircraft sighted.

A/C No. 41-13052 "TABOO" (C)

P *VanDivort, Richard (NMI), 1Lt*
CP *Wightman, Henry B. "Hank", 1Lt*

N *None*
B *Smith, Willie A., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Chaffins, Ray (NMI), S/Sgt*
G *Nelson, Forest S., Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13061 "LIL' JOE" (B)

P *Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt*
CP *Lewis, Kenneth E., 1Lt*
N *None*
B *Daly, Donald J., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Boone, Edward W. W., S/Sgt*
G *Molnar, William J., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13102 "GREEN EYES" (Pancho under CP window) (A)

Eddy, Leonard A., 1Lt
Ferguson, Ivan Leonard, Maj,
Commander
Katzenbach, Nicholas D. "Katz", 2Lt
Pickett, Perry D., 1Lt
None
Taylor, Milo K., S/Sgt
Schave, Henry Lloyd, S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 41-13073 "VAR ARIEN" (F)

Cox, Robert A., 1Lt
Szczygiel, Joseph F., 2Lt
None
Green, William B., 1Lt
None
Brink, Robert W., S/Sgt
Windham, Duke Green, Jr., S/Sgt
None

Monday, 1 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 41-13084 "Dis'n Did't" (D)

P *Crump, Walter P. "Bitsy", 1Lt*
CP *Froelicher, Peter R., 2Lt*
N *Gollnitz, Frederick C., 1Lt*
B *Wilson, Francis E., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Kelley, Donald C., T/Sgt*
G *Massengale, Jack T., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13062 "POTCH-A-GALOO" (E)

Linden, Eric O., 1Lt
Jackson, William C., 1Lt
None
Caron, John B., S/Sgt
None
LaPorte, Frank R., S/Sgt
Hughes, Albert (NMI), Sgt
None

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"Monday. Eddy and the Major went on the "Sea Sweep" today. --"ranked" out. I get very tired of it as it makes the 6th raid I have missed out on. Wrote some letters today. Nothing exciting during the day. The 26's lost a plane today. "Unlucky dogs." I was recommended for my second award of the Air Medal which is the Oak Cluster. Some boys that were forced down the other day finally got back after walking 60 miles over rough territory in only four days. What blisters they have."

Eddy, Leonard A., 1Lt, pilot

Ferguson, Ivan Leonard, Maj, pilot, Commander

428th BS War Diary: Pay day. Paid out \$16,000 and collected \$11,000 in money orders. The "lost" crew went on a well-earned rest.

Everard, William J., S/Sgt, radio-gunner

Glover, Harold, E., S/Sgt, gunner

Kelly, Andrew B., 2Lt, pilot

Thompson, Charles A. "Twitch", 1Lt, pilot

Queen, Kenneth E., S/Sgt, bombardier-gunner

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 35:

(428th BS did not participate)

Tuesday, 2 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): HQ 324th Fighter Group and its 314th Fighter Squadron with P-40s transfers from El Amiriya, Egypt to El Kabrit, Egypt.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-25s and B-26s, in coordinated attacks, bomb El Maou Airfield at Sfax. A-20s, with P-40s and P-39s escorting, bomb a munitions dump in the battle area. Other fighters fly cover missions for ground forces along the battleline and carry out reconnaissance operations.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 36:

Mission Report # 37, 2 February 43

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. NO. AND TYPE A/C: Six B-25-C's.
3. DATE: 2/2/43
4. MISSION: Sea Search. TARGET: Shipping.
5. TIME OFF: 0945 hours. DOWN: 1330 hours.
6. No. AND TYPE BOMBS DROPPED: 36 X 500-lb bombs, 4-second delay fuses, carried. None dropped. All returned to Base.
7. WEATHER: CAVU except for slight ground haze, coverage 1/10 to 2/10, increasing to 3/10 at 20,000 ft.
8. OUR LOSSES: None.
ENEMY LOSSES: None.
9. RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS: Convoy sighted at 37 degrees 25 minutes N and 10 degrees 50 minutes E at 1200 hours, heading 220 degrees. Pilots estimate convoy consisted of seven to eleven vessels, three of which were large merchant ships with escort of four destroyers and one cruiser. Convoy was not attacked because it was strongly protected by escorting naval vessels and airplanes. Naval vessels were

Tuesday, 2 February 1943 (continued)

located around the convoy and many aircraft were observed circling above. Enemy aircraft consisted of four seaplanes which constantly circled the convoy, one JU-88 and five ME-109's directly over the convoy, and ten more ME-109's forming an umbrella at high altitude. B-25 pilots attempted by radio to get help but it was not possible to make contact because of jamming of the radio.

MARINE OBSERVATIONS: At 37 degrees 25 minutes N and 10 degrees 50 minutes E between seven and eleven marine vessels were sighted. These consisted of four destroyers, one cruiser and from four to six merchant vessels. Sighting was made at 1200 hours at a heading of 220 degrees.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT: At 37 degrees 25 minutes N and 10 degrees 50 minutes E, at 1200 hours, were sighted four seaplanes, colored dark; one JU-88 and fifteen ME-109's, all circling a sea convoy. One seaplane with twin floats and a single-engine sighted at 37 degrees 25 minutes N and 11 degrees 25 minutes E.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 37:

Mission Report # 38, 2 February 43

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. NO. AND TYPE A/C: Eighteen B-25-C's.
3. DATE: 2/2/43
4. MISSION: Bombing. TARGET: Sfax el Maou.
5. TIME OFF: 1100 hours. TARGET: 1240 hours DOWN: 1410 hours.
6. WEATHER: CAVU, en route, with slight cirrus at 20,000 ft. At target, CAVU except for slight haze and dust S of target area.
7. No. AND TYPE BOMBS DROPPED: 215 clusters of 20-lb fragmentation bombs carried. 203 clusters dropped (one plane crashed before arriving at target).
8. OUR LOSSES: One B-25-C at 34 degrees 49 minutes N and 9 degrees 56 minutes E. Plane shot down by light flak or machine-gun fire. No report as to fate of crew.

Tuesday, 2 February 1943 (continued)

9. RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS: Target was well hit and bombs covered airdrome. All sections of the landing ground were covered, and in particular the parking areas at the NW edge and SE tip of airdrome. Clusters of bombs fell in the grove just N and NW of airplanes in territory reported to be a parking area. Greyish-black smoke was visible for thirty miles from the target. Pilots all report that target was well hit and that raid was a success.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERED: Two ME-109's and one FW-190, also two unidentified aircraft, seen taking off from target at time of attack. Approximately twenty unidentified aircraft were seen on landing ground at time of attack and one was seen to crash when attempting to take off. These planes consisted of transports, fighters and bombers. Sixteen aircraft, consisting of three transports and thirteen other planes not identified as to type were seen in grove along NW edge of airdrome. Many aircraft destroyed by bombing, but no definite number reported because of smoke and dust over target area.

FLAK OBSERVATIONS: Machine-gun fire and/or light flak at 34 degrees 54 minutes N and 9 degrees 52 minutes at point where B-25-C was hit on way to target. Fire was coming from tanks and gun positions and was accurate. This fire was encountered both going to and coming from target. At target, intense heavy flak, barrage type, excellent as to range, bad as to deflection. Red, black and white bursts were observed. Slight light flak encountered at target area.

MARINE OBSERVATIONS: Four medium-size vessels were seen between Sfax Harbor and Rharbi Island. Four ships, two large and two small, were observed just outside Sfax Harbor. They appeared to be moored.

GROUND OBSERVATIONS: Fifteen tanks were observed parked on side of hill at 34 degrees 57 minutes N and 9 degrees 22 minutes E. Tank battle was in progress at 35 degrees N and 9 degrees 35 minutes E. Two tanks were seen burning.

ALTITUDE OF ATTACK: 9200 ft to 11,000 ft.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

Tuesday, 2 February 1943 (continued)

379th BS War Diary: Lt. Allred and crew were shot down by enemy flak while on route to target--Sfax el Maou A/D. The plane made an excellent crash landing and members of the crew were seen to get out and run away from the plane before it was destroyed by fire. Crew members were:

- 1st Lt. Alfred N. Allred (P)
- 2nd Lt. Harvey A. Doss (CP)
- 1st Lt. Edward Kennedy (N)
- S/Sgt. Donald D Peery (G)
- S/Sgt. Herbert E. Ballard (B)
- S/Sgt. William C. Burket (RG)

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 36:

A/C No. 1 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 37:

A/C No. 1 41-13101 (MACR-? shot down) A/C No. 2 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

P *Allred, Alfred N., 1Lt*
CP *Doss, Harvey A., 2Lt*
N *Kennedy, Edmond (NMI), 1Lt*
B *Ballard, Herbert E., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Burket, William C., S/Sgt*
G *Peery, Donald D., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 3 *aircraft & crew unidentified* A/C No. 4 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

Tuesday, 2 February 1943 (continued)

380th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 36:
(380th BS did not participate)

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 37:

Mission Report # 24

Date- February 2, 1943

Target- El Maou Airdrome, Sfax

Squadron airplanes- six

The field proved to be a little hard to find, but once again the “eagle eye” of Captain Cometh located the target. Things looked bare and no flak was coming up to give us a cheery greeting, but finally “Jerry” decided he should. Dust streaks from his engines gave him away, and down and away went our clusters of fragmentation bombs.

At least 20 airplanes were caught and destroyed on the ground. We termed our trip quite a success. Enemy aircraft failed to bother us at anytime.

A very humorous incident helped to cheer the boys returning, when an Arab jumped from his camel to hold him better as we came low across him. He held him, all right, but he forgot to anchor himself and the propwash from the 18 planes, sent him rolling across the ground.

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified

P *Cometh, Lawrence (NMI), Capt*
CP *Miller, James I., 2Lt*
N *Huffman, Arnie J., 2Lt*
B *Liverman, Ernest W. “Big Red”, 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Mount, Robert J., Pvt*
G *Melhus, Palmer C., S/Sgt*
F *Wilder, Rodney R. “Hoss”, Maj,*
Commander (observer)

A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified

P *Barnwell, Charles M., Jr., 1Lt*
CP *Rich, Robert S., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Wiench, Alcuin A., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Ginn, James A., T/Sgt*
G *Lea, Clayton D., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

Lacy, Robert A., 1Lt
Thomas, Alan S., 2Lt
None
Kessler, Paul E., S/Sgt
None
Belmer, Charles M., Sgt
Lindsay, Fred (NMI), S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

Draemel, Dean H., 1Lt
Sours, Robert J., 2Lt
Kanode, Robert C., 1Lt
Holmes, William G., 2Lt
None
Shambaugh, Robert M., T/Sgt
Williams, John A., S/Sgt
None

Tuesday, 2 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified		A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified	
P	<i>Sacknoff, David A., 1Lt</i>		<i>Santos, Carroll A., Jr., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Walcott, Albert R., 2Lt</i>		<i>Picklesimer, Marion L., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Links, Albert G., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Wesline, Richard L., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Lively, Jake S., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Grace, John J., Sgt</i>		<i>Redding, William D., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 36:
(381st BS did not participate)

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 37:

EL MAOU A/D - SFAX

Group Mission # 37	Flight 18 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 20	Escort 12 P-38's
Take Off 11:15	Bomb Load: (12 x 120) Frag.
Target 12:40	Bombs Dropped: 8(12 x 120). 11520#
Down 14:05	
Total Time: 2 Hrs. 50 Min.	

Weather: CAVU.

Remarks: No Enemy Aircraft were encountered. 8 (12x120). 11,520# Frag. Clusters covered A/D which had at least 12 Enemy A/C on it. Flak: heavy and light at target with moderate accuracy. The stern of Lt. Phillips' ship had 26 holes in it. Also, accurate Flak from Tank Battle 2/3 way to the target. One B-25 made a crash landing.

A/C No. 41-13062 "POTCH-A-GALOO" (M)		A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE" / "ROYAL FLUSH" (L)	
P	<i>Linden, Eric O., 1Lt</i>		<i>Phillips, Carl A., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Jackson, William C., 1Lt</i>		<i>Schrupp, Elwin F., 1Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Caron, John B., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Myers, John H., 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>LaPorte, Frank R., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Nickelson, Royal C., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Hughes, Albert (NMI), Sgt</i>		<i>Kiel, William H., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>

Tuesday, 2 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 41-13052 "TABOO" (P)

P *VanDivort, Richard (NMI), 1Lt*
CP *Wightman, Henry B. "Hank", 1Lt*
N *None*
B *Smith, Willie A., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Chaffins, Ray (NMI), S/Sgt*
G *Nelson, Forest S., Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13061 "LIL' JOE" (O)

P *Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt*
CP *Lewis, Kenneth E., 1Lt*
N *None*
B *Daly, Donald J., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Boone, Edward W. W., S/Sgt*
G *Molnar, William J., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13084 "Dis'n Did't" (Q)

P *Crump, Walter P. "Bitsy", 1Lt*
CP *Froelicher, Peter R., 2Lt*
N *Gollnitz, Frederick C., 1Lt*
B *Wilson, Francis E., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Larck, Buster A., T/Sgt*
G *Massengale, Jack T., S/Sgt*
F *None*

**A/C No. 41-13102 "GREEN EYES"
(Pancho under CP window) (N)**

Eddy, Leonard A., 1Lt
Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt
Katzenbach, Nicholas D. "Katz", 2Lt
Pickett, Perry D., 1Lt
None
Taylor, Milo K., S/Sgt
Schave, Henry Lloyd, S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 41-13073 "VAR ARIEN" (S)

Cox, Robert A., 1Lt
Szczygiel, Joseph F., 2Lt
None
Green, William B., 1Lt
None
Brink, Robert W., S/Sgt
Windham, Duke Green, Jr., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 41-13090 (R)

Martin, Robert W., 1Lt
Sindelar, Emil Edward, 2Lt
None
Schick, Raymond E., 2Lt
None
Bush, Donald W., Sgt
Thomas, John P., S/Sgt
None

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*
"(Log 3:00 hours) Tuesday. Another raid on Sfax airport. We lost a B-25. It was shot down by our own tanks. The B-26's hit the same target. Had the usual air alerts at night. We could see the bombing of town 60 miles away. It is rumored that the value of francs is going up. That will be nice, if true. Saw a show finally, "Argentine Nights" with the Andrews Sisters and Ritz Brothers. Good music but poor story. 1st show I've seen since Iceland. Think I will go to bed early tonight. Rather tired. Saw a big tank battle today."

Tuesday, 2 February 1943 (continued)

428th BS War Diary: They increased the value of the franc today; giving 50 francs to a dollar rather than 75. A hurried trip to Telergma failed to get the money order cash back. Large convoy sighted but did not attack due to heavy escort. Attempt to get help by radio failed as air waves were jammed.

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 36: Our part in the Group's effort on February 2nd was another sea search. Six B-25's took off with 500 pounders. At 1200 they sighted a convoy of eleven vessels---five of them a naval escort with top cover of seventeen planes. The possibilities of greater losses than potential gain made it seem unwise to attempt a run. The crews attempted to call for more help but jamming prevented their making radio contact.

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified - may be "Skunk Hunter"

P *Marsh, Edward D., 1Lt*
CP *Stack, James F., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *McDonald, Donald E. "Mac", Sgt*
E *None*
R *Bosworth, William H., T/Sgt*
G *None listed - likely the bombardier*
F *None*

A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified

P *Middleton, Laula M., 2Lt*
CP *Frost, Roland (NMI), 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Surbaugh, Steven G., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Ficeto, Bartholomeo T., S/Sgt*
G *Dickey, Norris D. "Pop", S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified

P *Milius, Morris O., 1Lt*
CP *Harder, Frank A., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Schletz, Howard G., S/Sgt*
G *Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 probably 41-13077 "The Reluctant Dragon" (later "Old Patch")

Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt
Cunningham, Robert L., 2Lt
Colvin, Jay W., Jr., 1Lt
Vestal, Marion S., 2Lt
None
Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt
Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 4 probably 41-13083 "Old 83"

Loutrel, John McCluney, 1Lt
Smith, Merle E., 2Lt,
None
Naworski, Edward F., S/Sgt
None
Bennett, Robert L., T/Sgt
Phillips, William E., Pvt
None

Tuesday, 2 February 1943 (continued)

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 37:

(428th BS did not participate)

In the Group's other raid for the day, Lt. Allred and his crew of the 379th were forced down behind enemy lines before the target. The crews reported good results against the Sfax El Maou Landing Ground, the Target.

Allred, Alfred N., 1Lt, pilot, 379th BS

Ballard, Herbert E., S/Sgt, bombardier, 379th BS

Burket, William C., S/Sgt, radio-gunner, 379th BS

Doss, Harvey A., 2Lt, pilot, 379th BS

Kennedy, Edmond (NMI), 1Lt, navigator, 379th BS

Peery, Donald D., S/Sgt, gunner, 379th BS

Wednesday, 3 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, B-24s hit the harbors at Palermo, Sicily and Messina, Italy; one bombs Plati, Italy. The 316th Fighter Squadron, 324th Fighter Group with P-40s transfers from El Amiriya, Egypt to El Kabrit, Egypt.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-26s attack Gabes and vessels between Tunisia and Sicily. B-25s hit bridges over the river north of Maknassy, damaging the railroad bridge. A-20s hit tanks and vehicles further north, and attack a large howitzer and numerous trucks east of Ousseltia. The 81st Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 12th Bombardment Group (Medium) with B-25s transfers from Tmed El Chel, Libya to Berteaux, Algeria. These units are attached to the XII Air Support Command.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 38:

Mission Report # 39, 3 February 43

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. NO. AND TYPE A/C: Eighteen B-25-C's.
3. DATE: 3/2/43
4. MISSION: Bombing. TARGET: Railway and highway bridges North of Maknassy.
5. TIME OFF: 1400 hours. TARGET: 1515 hours DOWN: 1635 hours.
6. WEATHER: En route, 3/10 to 4/10 coverage at 6000 ft from Base to Tebessa, with visibility unlimited. At target, CAVU, scattered cumulus at 6000 ft, with slight ground haze reported.
7. No. AND TYPE BOMBS DROPPED: 54 X 1000-lb bombs, 45-second delay fuses, carried. 45 X 1000-lb bombs dropped. 9 X 1000-lb bombs returned to base.
8. OUR LOSSES: None.
ENEMY LOSSES: None.

Wednesday, 3 February 1943 (continued)

9. RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS: Railway bridge damaged but not totally destroyed. Bombs of 14 ships dropped in the area of the railway bridge. Reported that this bridge was well-bracketed. Two hits were observed on this bridge and three bombs were dropped at the south end of the bridge and went under it. One bomb fell directly at the south end of the bridge and many bombs fell just over the railway bridge. The planes following had to drop bombs into the dust arising from the area and vision of target was obscured.

One plane bombed the highway bridge and hits were observed on the ground at the south end. Smoke and dust arising from target obscured observation, but pilots believe railroad bridge is still standing. For future missions, it is reported that the highway bridge is at least seventy-five feet above the bed of the stream.

The highway bridge reported to be approximately 150 to 175 feet in length is in reality less than fifty feet in length and the road reported to be a highway is in reality nothing more than a trail. The failure of more planes to bomb the highway bridge is due to the inability to see the target.

FLAK OBSERVATIONS: Four-gun heavy battery located between Maknassy town and Maknassy airdrome about one mile SW of the town at 34 degrees 35 minutes N and 9 degrees 35 minutes E. Slight heavy, fair as to deflection, good as to range, one heavy gun, 1 mile SW of railroad bridge. Flashes observed but no bursts. Heavy slight flak one mile NW of railway bridge near Mahori Zabbeus. Heavy slight flak from mountain pass at 34 degrees 50 minutes N and 9 degrees 38 minutes E. Range poor, deflection good.

GROUND OBSERVATIONS: Intense dust, as from heavy traffic on road, at 1534 hours NE of Gafsa, heading toward Gafsa, at 34 degrees 55 minutes N and 9 degrees 15 minutes E.

One tank partially concealed at 34 degrees 49 minutes N and 8 degrees 58 minutes E.

Four trucks or tanks parked in grove at Sened.

Thirty to forty vehicles parked and dispersed about five miles SW of Maknassy.

ALTITUDE OF ATTACK: 4000 ft to 4400 ft.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

Wednesday, 3 February 1943 (continued)

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 38:

A/C No. 1 *aircraft & crew unidentified* A/C No. 2 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

A/C No. 3 *aircraft & crew unidentified* A/C No. 4 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

380th BS War Diary: (*No non-mission information*)

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 38:

Mission Report # 25

Date- February 3, 1943

Target- Railroad and Highway, 4 miles North of Maknassy. Squadron airplanes- seven

Surprise proved the main part of the attack today. We were over the target and had dropped our bombs before “Jerry” realized just what had happened. But it was the “luck of the Gods” that let him keep his bridges. The delayed action fuses failed to ignite the powder in the proper manner and the explosion hardly damaged the target, although the bombs were lying in the proper place.

We were just congratulating ourselves on getting away with something when we passed over the west side of town. Congratulations seemed to be a little premature when we were suddenly enveloped in flak.

Seven of the prettiest bursts you have ever seen, the type that would turn the average gunner green with envy, broke across the front of Capt. Cometh’s airplane. Lieut. Liverman contends at that moment he looked up and saw the keeper of the gate, St. Peter. He said the man with the long white beard leaned down and started to open the hatch, bidding him to climb out and come along, with the words, “Ernest, I want you.”

“I looked up, said Lieut. Liverman, “and pulled hard to close the hatch, stating, sorry Sir, Big Red is not quite ready.”

Wednesday, 3 February 1943 (continued)

“I breathed a sigh of relief,” he continued and looked back, “saying to myself that if that gunner had, had a crimp in his arm, we would have been hit dead center.”

All of our planes returned to the Base.

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified

P *Amick, Cecil D., 1Lt*
CP *Porter, Lloyd L., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Longrie, Kenneth R., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Meyer, Albert J., S/Sgt*
G *Huffman, Herbert (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified

P *Sacknoff, David A., 1Lt*
CP *Walcott, Albert R., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Links, Albert G., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Wesline, Richard L., T/Sgt*
G *Grace, John J., Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified

P *Cometh, Lawrence (NMI), Capt*
CP *Miller, James I., 2Lt*
N *Huffman, Arnie J., 2Lt*
B *Liverman, Ernest W. “Big Red”, 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Mount, Robert J., Pvt*
G *Melhus, Palmer C., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 7 aircraft unidentified

P *Barnwell, Charles M., Jr., 1Lt*
CP *Rich, Robert S., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Wiench, Alcuin A., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Ginn, James A., T/Sgt*
G *Lea, Clayton D., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

Draemel, Dean H., 1Lt
Sours, Robert J., 2Lt
Kanode, Robert C., 1Lt
Holmes, William G., 2Lt
None
Shambaugh, Robert M., T/Sgt
Williams, John A., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

Santos, Carroll A., Jr., 1Lt
Picklesimer, Marion L., 2Lt
None
Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt
None
Smith, Teddy L., S/Sgt
Redding, William D., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified

Lacy, Robert A., 1Lt
Thomas, Alan S., 2Lt
None
Kessler, Paul E., S/Sgt
None
Belmer, Charles M., Sgt
Lindsay, Fred (NMI), S/Sgt
None

Wednesday, 3 February 1943 (continued)

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 38:
OUED el LABEN BRIDGES, 5 MILES N. OF MAKNASSY

Group Mission # 38	Flight 18 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 21	Escort 12 P-38's
Take Off 14:00	Bomb Load: (3 x 1000)
Target 15:15	Bombs Dropped: 2(3 x 1000). 6000#
Down 16:00	

Total Time: 2 Hrs. 0 Min.

Weather: CAVU at target.

Remarks: Enemy tanks to N.E. being supplied over these roads and rail bridges. Flak: heavy and light, slight, inaccurate, with no damage. 2 (3 x 1000), 6000# bombs dropped near foundation of the bridges.

	A/C No. 41-13084 "Dis'n Did't" (J)	A/C No. 41-13073 "VAR ARIEN" (E)
P	<i>Martin, Robert W., 1Lt</i>	<i>Cox, Robert A., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Sindelar, Emil Edward, 2Lt</i>	<i>Szczygiel, Joseph F., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
B	<i>Schick, Raymond E., 2Lt</i>	<i>Green, William B., 1Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R	<i>Bush, Donald W., Sgt</i>	<i>Brink, Robert W., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Thomas, John P., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Windham, Duke Green, Jr., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"(Log 1:30 hours) Wednesday. Got paid and left for Algiers for a 7-day rest-cure. Stayed at the best hotel in Algiers and ate food that was old army grub but served by waiters which made it seem grand. Pickett and Eddy made Captain so we had four quarts of champagne to drink. This is really one beautiful city. There are around a hundred boats in the bay. Destroyers, mine sweepers, transports and all. Saw some W.A.A.Q.'s - had a talk with some of them. A good percentage of them are very pretty. But an officer can't date a private."

Eddy, Leonard A., Capt, pilot

Pickett, Perry D., Capt, bombardier, navigator

428th BS War Diary: Took off with 1000 pounders today. Objective was a bridge north of Maknassy vital to Nazi supply line. One flight dropped their bombs; bridge damaged but not destroyed.

Wednesday, 3 February 1943 (continued)

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 38: The day: February 3rd; the target: the railroad and highway bridge four miles North of Maknassy. Number of airplanes: 18.

Surprise was an element of today's attack. The bombing pattern was excellent but the bridges remained intact. Delayed fuses of the 1000 lb. bombs caused the bombs to blow up after they had buried themselves deep in the river bed. Though the target was bracketed by strings and some ricochet off the target, no damage could be discerned.

Flak began to burst after the turn-away. Had they seen the boys a little sooner the Axis guns might have improved their deflection sufficiently to make it unpleasant. As it was, all aircraft returned safely.

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified

P Walker, James P. "Chief" Maj
CP Gshwandtner, Frank J. "Gish", 1Lt
N Doolittle, Leonard N., 1Lt
B Herold, Armin F., Jr., 1Lt
E None
R Temple, Robert W., Sgt
G Stage, Albert A., S/Sgt
F None

A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified

P Beatty, John H., 1Lt, pilot
CP Wheeler, William A. K., "Gus", 2Lt
N None
B Lindeberg, Richard T. "Lindy", 2Lt
E None
R Mathis, Paul E., T/Sgt
G Kirkland, Robert Olin "Kirk", S/Sgt
F None

A/C No. 5 probably 41-13083 "Old 83"

P Loutrel, John McCluney, 1Lt
CP Smith, Merle E., 2Lt
N None
B Naworski, Edward F., S/Sgt
E None
R Bennett, Robert L., T/Sgt
G Phillips, William E., Pvt
F None

A/C No. 2 probably 41-13070 "Shanghi Lil"

Canham, Arthur E., 1Lt
Wilson, Kieth Gordon, 1Lt
Hartman, Richard J., 1Lt
Vestal, Marion S., 2Lt
None
Rebello, John E., Jr., T/Sgt
Parker, Perrie C., Sgt
None

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

Middleton, Laula M., 2Lt
Frost, Roland (NMI), 2Lt
None
Surbaugh, Steven G., S/Sgt
None
Ficeto, Bartholomeo T., S/Sgt
Dickey, Norris D. "Pop", S/Sgt
None

Thursday, 4 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): The 82nd Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 12th Bombardment Group (Medium) with B-25s transfers from Tmded El Chel, Libya to Berteaux, Algeria.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force): The North African Theater of Operations, US Army is established with Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower as commander. (Also see European Theater of Operations above.).

In Tunisia, B-17s hit Gabes Airfield and a landing ground west of the town. Weather prevents completion of a medium bomber mission against a landing ground further southwest. Fighters escort the bombers and C-47s and fly reconnaissance over the battle area.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 39:

Mission Report # 40, 4 February 43

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. NO. AND TYPE A/C: Eighteen B-25-C's.
3. DATE: 4/2/43
4. MISSION: Bombing. TARGET: Bordj Toual
5. TIME OFF: 1310 hours. TARGET: 1500 hours DOWN: 1635 hours.
6. WEATHER: Base to Tebessa, 4/10 coverage at 5000 ft; from Tebessa over the target, high cirrus. At target, 6/10 to 8/10 coverage at 5000 ft, visibility eight to ten miles. Haze also noted at target.
7. No. AND TYPE BOMBS DROPPED: 216 clusters fragmentation bombs carried. None dropped. All returned to Base.
8. OUR LOSSES: None.
ENEMY LOSSES: None.
9. RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS: Mission was unsuccessful because clouds obscured the target.

Thursday, 4 February 1943

AIRCRAFT OBSERVED: One ME-109 seen at 1500 hours at 33 degrees 40 minutes N and 10 degrees 03 minutes E, heading E.

One ME-110 seen at 1510 hours at 33 degrees 45 minutes N and 9 degrees 30 minutes E, heading E.

One four-engine plane, type and identity unknown, belly landing at 33 degrees 46 minutes N and 9 degrees 55 minutes E. No activity around plane.

GROUND OBSERVATIONS: Tracks of many vehicles crossing what appeared to be a dry lake bed at 32 degrees 28 minutes N and 9 degrees E. Forty or more vehicles parked on N slope of hill along latitude 33 degrees 38 minutes N and between 9 degrees 40 minutes and 9 degrees 55 minutes E. One aircraft on ground, looked like B-26, at 33 degrees 50 minutes N and 9 degrees 28 minutes E. No activity in vicinity. Heavy black smoke, source unknown, at 33 degrees 45 minutes N and 10 degrees 02 minutes E.

ALTITUDE OF ATTACK: 4000 TO 1000 ft.

FLAK: Two bursts of heavy flak from target area, deflection and range bad, firing through clouds.

FLIGHT LEADERS: 1st Lt. W.P. Crump; 1st Lt. R.W. Thorndike; 1st Lt. A.E. Canham; Capt. A.W. White; Capt. E.E. Batten; 1st Lt. D.H. Draemel.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 39:

A/C No. 1 *aircraft & crew unidentified* A/C No. 2 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

Thursday, 4 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 3 aircraft & crew unidentified

**P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F**

380th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 39:

Mission Report # 26

Date- February 4, 1943

Target- Dj Toual Airdrome.

Squadron airplanes- six

One complete flight was represented by the 380th today in the 18 ship formation that left the local base loaded to knock out any Nazi airplanes that might be resting their weary wings.

But - - fate again turned the tables on us and the weather had turned completely around and the airdrome was completely closed in. Back we came disappointed but certain that they would hear from us at a later date.

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified

P *Batten, Earl E., Capt*
CP *Shorsher, Fred A., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Sessler, Howard A., 1Lt*
E *None*
R *Dackiewicz, John A., Cpl*
G *Szczesniak, Alfred A., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

Loomis, Frederick F., 1Lt
Moir, David (NMI), Jr., 2Lt
None
Jastrzemski, Walter F., S/Sgt
None
Willis, Earl B., Pvt
Nichols, Edward H., Sgt
None

A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified

P *Amick, Cecil D., 1Lt*
CP *Porter, Lloyd L., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Longrie, Kenneth R., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Meyer, Albert J., S/Sgt*
G *Huffman, Herbert (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

Draemel, Dean H., 1Lt
Sours, Robert J., 2Lt
Kanode, Robert C., 1Lt
Holmes, William G., 2Lt
None
Shambaugh, Robert M., T/Sgt
Williams, John A., S/Sgt
None

Thursday, 4 February 1943 (continued)

<i>A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified</i>		<i>A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified</i>	
P	<i>Sacknoff, David A., 1Lt</i>		<i>Santos, Carroll A., Jr., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Walcott, Albert R., 2Lt</i>		<i>Picklesimer, Marion L., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Links, Albert G., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Wesline, Richard L., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Smith, Teddy L., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Grace, John J., Sgt</i>		<i>Redding, William D., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 39:

BJ TOUAL AIR DROME, 17 MILES SOUTH OF GABES

Group Mission # 39

Sqdrn. Mission # 22

Take Off 13:10

Target 15:00

Down 16:30

Total Time: 3 Hrs. 20 Min.

Weather: Ceiling 5,000 feet to 7,000 feet. Visibility 8 to 10 miles. Haze at the target.

Remarks: Bombing was to have been from 9,000 to 10,000 feet. Calling at the target was 5,000 to 7,000 feet, with 8/10 coverage, so no bombs were dropped. No flak, and no Enemy A/C were encountered.

A/C No. 41-13073 "VAR ARIEN" (C)		A/C No. 41-13084 "Dis'n Did't" (A)	
P	<i>Phillips, Carl A., 1Lt</i>		<i>Crump, Walter P. "Bitsy", 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Schrupp, Elwin F., 1Lt</i>		<i>Ferguson, Ivan Leonard, Maj, Commander</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>Gollnitz, Frederick C., 1Lt</i>
B	<i>Myers, John H., 2Lt</i>		<i>Wilson, Francis E., 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Nickelson, Royal C., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Larck, Buster A., T/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Kiel, William H., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Massengale, Jack T., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>

Thursday, 4 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 41-13062 "POTCH-A-GALOO" (B)

P *Linden, Eric O., 1Lt*
CP *Jackson, William C., 1Lt*
N *None*
B *Caron, John B., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *LaPorte, Frank R., S/Sgt*
G *Hughes, Albert (NMI), Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13061 "LIL' JOE" (D)

Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt
Lewis, Kenneth E., 1Lt
Green, William B., 1Lt
Schick, Raymond E., 2Lt
None
Boone, Edward W. W., S/Sgt
Molnar, William J., S/Sgt
None

**A/C No. 41-13102 "GREEN EYES"
(Pancho under CP window) (E)**

P *Martin, Robert W., 1Lt*
CP *Sindelar, Emil Edward, 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Daly, Donald J., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Bush, Donald W., Sgt*
G *Thomas, John P., S/Sgt*
F *None*

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"Thursday. There were three air alerts during the night. I didn't get up for any of them. In fact, I had a hard time getting up in the morning because of the terrific hangover I had. Oh what a big head. This rest camp is 27 miles from town. Very nice hotel. A resort. Lots of stuff to drink. Before we left town this evening, a old bomb blew up after setting around for a week. Gen. Doolittle was here today. Gave medals to our escort (P-38, 14th Fighter Group) boys who are going to the States by DC-3's tomorrow. Lucky them. All got 15 day leaves and promotions."

Doolittle, James Harold "Jimmy", Maj Gen, pilot, 12th AF, Commander

428th BS War Diary: Target was spared today because of low clouds.

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 39:** Bordj Toul airdrome near Gabes missed hell today because weather once again obscured the target area. 18 planes took off. 18 returned. Two bursts of flak through the clouds in the target area were fruitless for the Axis.

Thursday, 4 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 1 probably 41-13070 "Shanghi Lil"

P *Canham, Arthur E., 1Lt*
CP *Wilson, Kieth Gordon, 1Lt*
N *Hartman, Richard J., 1Lt*
B *Vestal, Marion S., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Rebello, John E., Jr., T/Sgt*
G *Parker, Perrie C., Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 3 probably 41-13083 "Old 83"

P *Loutrel, John McCluney, 1Lt*
CP *Smith, Merle E., 2Lt,*
N *None*
B *Naworski, Edward F., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Bennett, Robert L., T/Sgt*
G *Phillips, William E., Pvt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

Milius, Morris O., 1Lt
Harder, Frank A., 2Lt
None
Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt
None
Stilp, John P., T/Sgt
Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

Beatty, John H., 1Lt, pilot
Wheeler, William A. K., "Gus", 2Lt
None
Lindeberg, Richard T. "Lindy", 2Lt
None
Mathis, Paul E., T/Sgt
Kirkland, Robert Olin "Kirk", S/Sgt
None

Friday, 5 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): No Entry

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, bad weather cancels heavy and medium bomber missions. Fighters fly reconnaissance missions (strafing trucks near Jabal Ash Shamsi), local patrols and escort for C-47s.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

*"Friday. Friday, and what a day! After a good night's sleep we had our usual day of good music, fine food, and etc. This place is really okay even if its name is funny "Ain Taya". The name of the hotel is **Taruas**. This laying around may sound good to some people but I am growing tired of it already. I miss the brisk and hurry scurry of our camp. Walked down on the beach 50' from hotel. It is black due to the oil on the water from the tankers and such that have been sunk around here during this war. There are two landing boats wrecked near by."*

428th BS War Diary: Bad weather kept the boys grounded. 12th Bomb Group flew in with 14 B-25's; "Pink Elephants" arrived from the desert.

Saturday, 6 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): The 515th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 376th Bombardment Group (Heavy) with B-24s transfers from Abu Sueir, Egypt to Gambut, Libya.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, XII Bomber Command cancels missions because of weather. P-40s and P-39s fly reconnaissance and strafing missions between Sidi Bou Zid and Sfax. Spitfires escort transport and evacuation missions. The Luftwaffe attacks an Allied convoy between Oran and Algiers and badly damages some ships. The 308th and 309th Fighter Squadrons, 31st Fighter Group with Spitfire Mk Vs transfer from Tafaraoui, Algeria and La Senia, Algeria respectively to Thelepte, Tunisia.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"Saturday. Went into town to see an old American show "Escape." It was fair. (Cost 12 francs) Went to the barber shop and got the works. Really felt good to get rid of the dirt in my hair, and etc. S/S Taylor, our radio gunner, is going to be on a broadcast with Gen. Doolittle tomorrow. He expects to get his Air Medal award. The girls in Algiers are very nice looking. In fact, they have better looking legs (French legs) than the American gals. It is hard to sleep on a soft (really soft) bed after having the other type so long."

*Doolittle, James Harold "Jimmy", Maj Gen, pilot, 12th AF, Commander
Taylor, Milo K., S/Sgt, radio-gunner*

428th BS War Diary: Barbour chiseled some French tents from Telergma so we now have a day-room. Tried to get lights in all the pup tents but not enough juice available.

Barbour, Larry W., S/Sgt,

Sunday, 7 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, B-24s hit the harbor at Naples, scoring a direct hit on 1 vessel and hits on others.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Sardinia, over 50 B-17s and B-26s bomb Elmas Airfield and the seaplane base at Cagliari; P-38s provide escort.

In Tunisia, fighters and A-20s fly reconnaissance over large areas of eastern Tunisia; fighters strafe gun batteries in the Gafsa-Maknassy area HQ 31st Fighter Group transfers from La Senia, Algeria to Thelepte, Tunisia. The 307th Fighter Squadron with Spitfire Mk Vs, assigned to the 31st, transfers from Maison Blanche, Algeria to Thelepte. The 58th Fighter Squadron, 33rd Fighter Group with P-40s transfers from Thelepte, Tunisia to Telergma, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # XX:

Mission Report # 41, 7 February 43

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. NO. AND TYPE A/C: Twenty-two B-25-C's.
3. DATE: 7/2/43
4. MISSION: Bombing. TARGET: Elmas A/D, Sardinia.
5. TIME OFF: 1435 hours. DOWN: 1525 hours.
6. WEATHER: 2/10 to 3/10 cumulus.
7. None.
8. None.

Sunday, 7 February 1943 (continued)

9. RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS: Mission unsuccessful. Shortly after leaving Base, the lead plane was forced to drop out because of mechanical difficulties with upper turret. The lead ship of the second element took over, and after proceeding on course for thirty minutes could not locate or communicate with fighter escort. Actually, fighters were in the air but out of visual range, and all efforts to contact them by radio were unsuccessful. Bombers therefore returned to Base.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"Sunday. Still at Ain Taya and resting very well. Went to Algiers in the afternoon and stayed until late evening. There wasn't very much to do in town as the stores were closed. There was a big parade of French soldiers on their way to the front. Their fellow country men gave them a big send-off. For once, I have really seen people scared. The sky was clear and thus the jerries came. People ran to the shelters as if it were life, or death. Saw a girl that reminded me of a certain gal in the States." Nice.

428th BS War Diary: Planes took off for Elmas, Sardinia but faulty guns made them return. Swim and Lockhart were awarded the Purple Heart for injuries received in combat.

Lockhart, James H., S/Sgt, radio-gunner Swim, Lowell W., S/Sgt, bombardier-gunner

On February 7th, Sunday, after a mission attempt proved abortive, we had our first dress formation since we left the states. It was evident that we needed a lot of practice. A cleaning and pressing establishment here could make a fortune on Lt. "Gus" Wheeler alone.

Wheeler, William A. K., "Gus", 2Lt, pilot

The occasion for the formation was the awarding of the Purple Heart to S/Sgts Lockhart and Swim. S/Sgt Swim had been nicked in the hand on an early raid. S/Sgt Lockhart received a head injury when S/Sgt Duncan was killed.

Duncan, Billy M., S/Sgt, gunner

Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt, radio-gunner

Swim, Lowell W., S/Sgt, bombardier-gunner

Monday, 8 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, B-24s attack ferry installations at Messina.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-17s bomb the docks and shipping at Sousse; B-26s and B-25s bomb Gabes Airfield, also hitting the nearby marshalling yard. Two forces of A-20s attack a vehicle and troop concentration east of Faïd. Fighters escort the bomber missions, strafe the Sened-Maknassy area and the landing ground at Kebili, and fly routine reconnaissance and patrols. HQ 33rd Fighter Group transfers from Thelepte, Tunisia to Youks-les-Bains, Algeria for R&R. The group is short of pilots and has only 13 P-40Fs left after continuous combat since Nov 42. The group's 3 squadrons, the 58th, 59th and 60th Fighter Squadrons, all transfer this week. HQ 97th Bombardment Group (Heavy) and its 340th and 341st Bombardment Squadrons (Heavy) with B-17s transfer from Biska, Algeria to Chateau-du-Rhumel, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 40:

Mission Report # 42, 8 February 43

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. NO. AND TYPE A/C: Eighteen B-25-C's.
3. DATE: 8/2/43
4. MISSION: Bombing. TARGET: Gabes Airdrome.
5. TIME OFF: 1100 hours. TARGET: 1230 hours DOWN: 1425 hours.
6. WEATHER: En route out, CAVU with broken clouds at 7000 to 10,000 ft, slight haze. Over target, CAVU with slight haze. En route back, first half CAVU, second half scattered clouds, 6/10 coverage, at 6000 ft.
7. NO. AND TYPE BOMBS CARRIED: 216 clusters of fragmentation bombs carried over the target.
156 clusters of fragmentation bombs known to have been dropped at target.

Monday, 8 February 1943 (continued)

48 clusters of fragmentation bombs carried by Four B-25-C's which crashed after leaving target area.

12 clusters of fragmentation bombs which did Not release because of mechanical failure, returned to this Base.

8. OUR LOSSES: Four B-25-C's due to enemy aircraft action.
1. One at 33 degrees 58 minutes N and 9 degrees 53 minutes E. One member of the crew bailed out. The plane made a good crash-landing and there is a possibility the crew was safe.
 2. One at 34 degrees 07 minutes N and 9 degrees 34 minutes E. Plane made a good landing and it is believed the crew got out.
 3. One at 34 degrees N and 9 degrees 15 minutes E. This plane crashed in a controlled belly landing and then was strafed by an ME-109-E.
 4. One crashed and later exploded. Observation made by pilot of an escort plane. Crew believed safe.

ENEMY LOSSES: Four ME-109-E's shot down by B-25-C's.

1. One enemy aircraft shot down by Cpl ALBERT (*NMI*) HUGHES (*381st BS*), of Seattle, Washington, an upper-turret gunner. That this plane crashed is confirmed by Lt. JACKSON.
2. One enemy aircraft shot down by S/Sgt Robert M. BRUNNER (*379th BS*), of Dixon, California, an upper-turret gunner. This plane was seen to go into an uncontrolled dive in flames and hit the ground.
3. One enemy aircraft shot down by S/Sgt Loy G. MYERS (*428th BS*), of Hume, Ohio, an upper-turret gunner. Confirmed by Sgt Perrie C. Parker (*gunner, 428th BS*).
4. One enemy aircraft shot down by Sgt JOHN J. GRACE (*380th BS*), of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, an upper-turret gunner. Engine of plane was seen to be smoking and it crashed into ground. Confirmed by Lt. Albert R. Walcott (*pilot, 380th BS*).

Three more ME-109's were seen to crash. They were shot down by others and were not claimed by B-25-C's.

9. RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS: Target, the Gabes Airdrome, was well-covered with clusters of bombs. Axis of attack was from NE edge of Airdrome to SW edge. That entire area was covered by bursts from fragmentation bombs. A large fire, giving off heavy black smoke, was caused by a hit on SW corner of Airdrome. Fire was started in warehouse area in NE corner of Airdrome as a result of bomb hits. Hits were also observed in the marshalling yards N of Airdrome. Pilots report that smoke and dust covered the entire area of the Airdrome. One single-engine Aircraft was observed to be on fire at the Airdrome.

Monday, 8 February 1943 (continued)

ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY: At least 25 to 35 enemy fighter aircraft were observed. These aircraft attacked the bomber formation just as it reached the coast and before it had gotten to the target. The enemy fighters made a constant attack for about twenty minutes, leaving the formation at about 34 degrees N and 9 degrees E.

These enemy fighters had the following markings:

1. Yellow spinners, yellow wing tips, pink and salmon colored fuselages.
2. White spinners, white wing tips.
3. Tan and sand brown fuselages.
4. Blue fuselages, which at certain angles with the sun shining on them, appeared almost transparent.

ENEMY TACTICS: The enemy aircraft attacked from all angles and made belly attacks and side attacks. They would dive on the formation, go under and break off contact to the left, and dive from the tip and go under, peeling off into the sun. The enemy aircraft were the most aggressive seen by the bomber crew members thus far. They even climbed up through the formation from below. They continue to employ the decoy stunts to attract the attention of the gunners, as previously noted in a Mission Report.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ON THE GROUND: Ten to fifteen aircraft were observed parked on the NW and SW part of the Airdrome at Gabes. At El Hamma Airdrome, fifteen JU-52's were parked. It is believed that most of the fighters encountered came from the El Hamma Airdrome.

FLAK OBSERVATIONS: Heavy, intense, accurate flak from target area. It started from the batteries along the shore and continued until the target area was left behind. Accurate, heavy, intense flak from marshalling yards N of Airdrome. Light, intense flak from target area. Flak in target area is believed to have been of barrage type. Heavy and light flak from El Hamma Airdrome. Light, moderate flak at 39 degrees 55 minutes N and 9 degrees 45 minutes E. Light, moderate flak and machine-gun fire at 33 degrees 45 minutes N and 9 degrees 30 minutes E. Heavy flak at 34 degrees 25 minutes N and 9 degrees 50 minutes E.

MARINE AND GROUND OBSERVATIONS: One medium-size freighter, appeared to be moored, at the end of a newly completed road coming down to water's edge, at Cekhira. Six trucks going E. between Maknassy and Mezzouna. What appeared to be a bivouac area containing twenty to thirty tents at 34 degrees 12 minutes N and 9 degrees 30 minutes E, SW of Gabes Airdrome. About forty vehicles parked at 34 degrees 28 minutes N and 10 degrees E. Four trucks going N out of Gabes. The city of Gabes had the appearance of being swept by a forest fire.

ALTITUDE OF ATTACK: 10,200 ft to 12,000 ft.

Monday, 8 February 1943 (continued)

FLIGHT LEADERS: 1st Flight, Capt. Chester J. Helsabeck
2nd Flight, Capt. *John* T. Allan.
3rd Flight, 1st Lt. *Dean* H. Draemel.

10. PRESS DATA: S/Sgt ALBERT G. LINKS, 33, ASN 11040951, of 65 Montowese Street, Hartford, Connecticut, bombardier in a B-25-C, was struck by a piece of shrapnel just before the start of the bombing run. The wound was about two inches above the left knee and penetrated about two inches into the flesh. Despite the wound, Sgt Links stuck to his position, dropped all his bombs on the target, then instead of treating the wound, he seized a gun and fired at attacking enemy aircraft for about twenty minutes until the attack was broken off. Then he left the nose compartment and went back into the plane and bound the wound himself.

(See "ENEMY LOSSES" for names of men who shot down enemy planes)

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

SPECIAL COMMENT

It has been reported by crews of B-25-C's that they believe that radio silence was unnecessarily broken continuously to within ten minutes of target area by other ships of the coordinated attack. B-25-C's were briefed as to when to break radio silence, and crews report they did not use radio.

Inadequate fighter protection.

B-25-C's and B-26's require different tactics. A tactic good for one does not fit in with necessary tactics for the other. It is believed that both types operate best independently.

LIST OF CREW MEMBERS

(The exact fate of these crew members is not known by this Group at the present time. This is to be considered only a list of the personnel in the four crashed planes and not a fatality report.)

PLANE NO. 41-13073 ("*VAR ARIEN*" 381st BS)

COX, ROBERT A., 1st Lt., pilot, ASN 0-790523, of Fox, Virginia.

SZCZYGIEL, JOSEPH F., 2nd Lt., co-pilot, ASN 0-728124, of 7483 Prairie Ave.,
Detroit, Michigan.

Monday, 8 February 1943 (continued)

McHARGE, JAMES H., T/Sgt, bombardier, ASN 14053499, of 21 Cumberland Ave, Asheville, North Carolina.

WINDHAM, DUKE G., *Jr.*, S/Sgt, Gunner, ASN 14121107, of 361 East McLemore Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

BRINK, ROBERT W., S/Sgt, radio operator, ASN 35352439, of 5119 Washington Street, Michigan City, Indiana.

PLANE NO. 41-13084 (*"Dis'n Did't" 381st BS*)

CRUMP, WALTER P., 1st Lt., pilot, ASN 0-427308, of Irving, Texas.

FROELICHER, PETER R., 2nd Lt., co-pilot, ASN 0-791686, of Wilson Point, South Norwalk, Connecticut.

GOLLNITZ, FREDERICK C., 2nd Lt., navigator, ASN 0-790952, R.F.D. No. 3, Fredonia, New York.

MASSENGALE, JACK T., S/Sgt, gunner, ASN 18053202, of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, R.F.D. No. 2, Box 221.

LARCK, BUSTER A., T/Sgt, radio operator, ASN 06988296, of Ward, West Virginia.

PLANE NO. 41-13044 (*380th BS*)

BARNWELL, CHARLES M., Jr., 1st Lt., pilot, ASN 0-789773, of 901 Oakdale Road, Atlanta, Georgia.

BROWN, ROBERT M., 2nd Lt., co-pilot, ASN 0-728055, of East 1728 Seventeenth Ave., Spokane, Washington.

WIENCH, ALCUIN A., 2nd Lt., bombardier, ASN 0-728528, of Dickinson, North Dakota.

LEA, CLAYTON D., S/Sgt, Gunner, ASN 18068323, Box 761, Santa Maria, Calif.

GINN, JAMES A., T/Sgt, radio operator, ASN 20846363, Box 44, Granbury, Texas.

PLANE NO. 41-13042 (*380th BS*)

LACY, ROBERT A., 1st Lt., pilot, ASN 0-790359, of Scottsburg, Va.

THOMAS, ALAN S., 2nd Lt., co-pilot, ASN 0-728127, of Portland, Oregon, Box 1618.

McCAIG, DAVID E., S/Sgt, bombardier, ASN 18053789, of 1409 S. Blackwelder Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

BELMER, CHARLES M., S/Sgt, radio operator, ASN 32290534, 19 Fort Amherst Road, Glens Falls, N.Y.

LINDSAY, FRED (NMI), S/Sgt, gunner, ASN 19065998, of 990 East Walnut St., Pasadena, California.

(The above list of crew members is furnished at the request of A-2 Section, 7th Fighter Wing)

Monday, 8 February 1943 (continued)

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 40:

	A/C No. 1 <i>aircraft unidentified</i> (lead ship)	A/C No. 2 <i>aircraft unidentified</i>
P	<i>Allan, John T., Capt</i>	
CP	<i>Beachum, Graham C., 2Lt</i>	
N	<i>Pound, William R., Jr., Capt</i>	
B	<i>Rulien, Donovan W., 1Lt</i>	
E	<i>None</i>	
R	<i>Marple, Louis F., S/Sgt</i>	
G	<i>Pagano, Salvatore A., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Brunner, Robert M., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>	
	A/C No. 3 <i>aircraft unidentified</i>	
P		
CP		
N		
B		
E		
R		
G		
F		

380th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 40:

Mission Report # 27

Date- February 8, 1943

Target- Gabes Airdrome.

Squadron airplanes- six

Eighteen airplanes left today to wreak vengeance on the “hottest” target in lower Tunisia; the pride of the Afrika Korps, the Gabes Airdrome. This time something was wrong and they were waiting for us. As we circled North of town, heading out over the water to start our bomb run, we could see fighters taking off to intercept us. Flak began to surround us even before we reached the target.

Lieut. Kanode stated that they had such a warning on us that they had time to send to Bizerte for an extra flak battery and send to town to bring the fighter pilots back by truck.

Flak or no flak, in we went, straight into the heart of the drome. Our bombs covered the field well and small fires could be seen starting as we pulled away. The sky was black with fighters. Flak was every place. First blood went to Sgt. J.J. Grace when he caught a ME-109 in his sights.

Monday, 8 February 1943 (continued)

Lieut. Sacknoff starting his bomb run could not figure out what had happened when the bomb bay doors had not opened. Little did he know that his bombardier S/Sgt. A.D. Links had been knocked out by a flak scrap. It was not until he landed that he found out that his radio operator T/Sgt. Wesline had also been wounded, but, he continued to stay on the job.

Disaster also struck the Squadron today. The airplanes piloted by Lieuts. Barnwell and Lacy went down under the guns of Nazi fighters. Missing in action is their heading, as men of their caliber can still take it and come back.

No fighter escort was found today until we reached the safe landing line, but then it was not needed. All of our planes received some damage with Lieut. Sacknoff's showing between 400 and 500 holes. The jar in landing, the result of a flat tire jarred the shrapnel from Sgt. Links' left leg, but no complaint from him.

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified

P *Draemel, Dean H., 1Lt*
CP *Sours, Robert J., 2Lt*
N *Kanode, Robert C., 1Lt*
B *Holmes, William G., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Shambaugh, Robert M., T/Sgt*
G *Williams, John A., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified

P *Draemel, Dean H., 1Lt*
CP *Sours, Robert J., 2Lt*
N *Kanode, Robert C., 1Lt*
B *Holmes, William G., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Shambaugh, Robert M., T/Sgt*
G *Williams, John A., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified

P *Santos, Carroll A., Jr., 1Lt*
CP *Picklesimer, Marion L., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Lively, Jake S., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Smith, Teddy L., S/Sgt*
G *Redding, William D., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

Sacknoff, David A., 1Lt
Walcott, Albert R., 2Lt
None
Links, Albert G., S/Sgt
None
Wesline, Richard L., T/Sgt
Grace, John J., Sgt
None

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

Sacknoff, David A., 1Lt
Walcott, Albert R., 2Lt
None
Links, Albert G., S/Sgt
None
Wesline, Richard L., T/Sgt
Grace, John J., Sgt
None

A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified

Batten, Earl E., Capt
Shorsher, Fred A., 2Lt
None
Sessler, Howard A., 1Lt
None
Dackiewicz, John A., Cpl
Szczesniak, Alfred A., S/Sgt
None

Monday, 8 February 1943 (continued)

	A/C No. 7 41-13042 (MACR-? - shot down by flak) **	A/C No. 8 41-13044 (MACR-? - shot down by flak) **
P	<i>Lacy, Robert A., 1Lt</i>	<i>Barnwell, Charles M., Jr., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Thomas, Alan S., 2Lt</i>	<i>Brown, Robert M., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
B	<i>McCaig, David E., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Wiensch, Alcuin A., 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R	<i>Belmer, Charles M., Sgt</i>	<i>Ginn, James A., T/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Lindsay, Fred (NMI), S/Sgt</i>	<i>Lea, Clayton D., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

**** from Casualty Report:** All of the above officers and enlisted men have been reported as PRISONERS OF WAR and are confined in a German Prison Camp, reported to be located somewhere in Italy. (With the exception of S/Sgt. D.E. McCaig on whom there is no information)

380th BS: Extracts from Missing Air Crew Report # ?: (MACR not available)

A/C No. 41-13042 (MACR-? - shot down by flak)

P	<i>Lacy, Robert A., 1Lt - MIA, POW, RMC</i>
CP	<i>Thomas, Alan S., 2Lt - MIA, POW, RMC</i>
N	<i>None</i>
B	<i>McCaig, David E., S/Sgt - MIA, POW, RMC</i>
E	<i>None</i>
R	<i>Belmer, Charles M., Sgt - MIA, POW, RMC</i>
G	<i>Lindsay, Fred (NMI), S/Sgt - MIA, POW, RMC</i>
F	<i>None</i>

380th BS: Extracts from Missing Air Crew Report # ?: (MACR not available)

A/C No. 41-13044 (MACR-? - shot down by flak)

P	<i>Barnwell, Charles M., Jr., 1Lt - MIA, POW, RMC</i>
CP	<i>Brown, Robert M., 2Lt - MIA, POW, RMC</i>
N	<i>None</i>
B	<i>Wiensch, Alcuin A., 2Lt - MIA, POW, RMC</i>
E	<i>None</i>
R	<i>Ginn, James A., T/Sgt - MIA, POW, RMC</i>
G	<i>Lea, Clayton D., S/Sgt - MIA, POW, RMC</i>
F	<i>None</i>

Monday, 8 February 1943 (continued)

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

**381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 40:
GABES AIR DROME**

Group Mission # 40	Flight 18 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 23	Escort 18 P-38's
Take Off 11:00	Bomb Load: (13 x 120) Frags.
Target 12:30	Bombs Dropped: 3(12 x 120). 4,360#
Down 14:25	

Total Time: 3 Hrs. 25 Min.

Weather: CAVU.

Remarks: Approximately (204 x 120), or 24,480# of frag bombs were dropped in the target area by the flight, causing fires and much destruction. Seven or more ME-109-E's and F's were shot down, one by Sgt Hughes. Lt. Jackson observed this ME-109-E go down and crash N.W. of the target.

Flak: Heavy and light, very intense and accurate was encountered in the target area. It caused much damage to our aircraft. 25-30 Enemy A/C attacked, diving and climbing through our formation.

The mission was coordinated with 16 B-26's. Lt. Linden's ship was riddled with machine gun, cannon and flak holes. He made an excellent crash landing at Berteaux. Four of our A/C, including those of Lt. Crump and Lt. Cox failed to return.

A/C No. 41-13073 "VAR ARIEN" (M)
(MACR-14584 - shot down)

P *Cox, Robert A., 1Lt*
CP *Szczygiel, Joseph F., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *McHarge, James Hayes, T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Brink, Robert W., S/Sgt*
G *Windham, Duke Green, Jr., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13084 "Dis'n Did't"
(MACR-? - shot down) (K)

Crump, Walter P. "Bitsy", 1Lt
Froelicher, Peter R., 2Lt
Gollnitz, Frederick C., 1Lt
Wilson, Francis E., 2Lt
None
Larck, Buster A., T/Sgt
Massengale, Jack T., S/Sgt
None

**A/C No. 41-13062 "POTCH-A-
GALOOP" (crashed landed at Berteaux)**
(L)

P *Linden, Eric O., 1Lt*
CP *Jackson, William C., 1Lt*
N *None*
B *Caron, John B., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *LaPorte, Frank R., S/Sgt*
G *Hughes, Albert (NMI), Sgt*
F *None*

Monday, 8 February 1943 (continued)

381st BS: Extracts from Missing Air Crew Report # ?: (*MACR not available*)

A/C No. 41-13084 "Dis'n Did't" (MACR-? - shot down) (K)

P *Crump, Walter P. "Bitsy", 1Lt - MIA*
CP *Froelicher, Peter R., 2Lt - MIA*
N *Gollnitz, Frederick C., 1Lt - MIA*
B *Wilson, Francis E., 2Lt - KIA*
E *None*
R *Larck, Buster A., T/Sgt - MIA*
G *Massengale, Jack T., S/Sgt - MIA*
F *None*

381st BS: Extracts from Missing Air Crew Report # 14584:

A/C No. 41-13073 "VAR ARIEN" (M) (MACR-14584 - shot down)

P *Cox, Robert A., 1Lt - DED*
CP *Szczygiel, Joseph F., 2Lt - DED*
N *None*
B *McHarge, James Hayes, T/Sgt - DED*
E *None*
R *Brink, Robert W., S/Sgt - DED*
G *Windham, Duke Green, Jr., S/Sgt - DED*
F *None*

4 June 1945

Records this Headquarters indicate above mentioned personnel KIA, 8 February 1943, as result of plane crash. Place last sighted: 33° 58' N., 9° 53' E. (Tunisia). MACR # 14584.

Co-ordinates given in this report as to the site where the aircraft was last seen are only approximate as a number of aircraft went down at this time and none were positively identified as to the exact spot each went down. No search was made at this time because the aircraft went down in enemy territory. No information other than given in this report is available at this base.

381st BS Special Account:

"GABES"

Mission Narrative by Lt. Eric O. Linden - Pilot

The "Gabes Mission" proved to be the first major set-back for the 381st Squadron and our Group. It was the Squadron's 23rd mission and the Groups' 40th.

Monday, 8 February 1943 (continued)

We, being briefed on the Gabes airdrome, set out to add another “Sunday punch” to the Jerries. Prior to this raid we had lost no men and only one ship. Consequently this was just another raid to us.

This Gabes mission was different to all of us in that we were to use “B-26” tactics instead of our own “hit and run” method.

Eighteen B-25’s took off at 11:00 hours escorted by 18 P-38’s. This being a coordinating attack with B-26’s we followed them to the target. Enroute 4 P-38’s and 3-B-26’s returned to their base due to mechanical difficulties. Our approach to the target was made at 11,000 feet. A full 20 minutes before we were over the target we could see Rommel’s fighters; of the famous “Yellow-Nose Squadron”, we found out later; stirring up streaks of dust on the desert as they took off to meet our attack. There were between 30 and 50 Jerries to greet us and they were quite unwelcome. Considering that we had only 14 P-38’s as escort for our 33 bombers, we had little defense except our own guns. From this point I will relate my own personal experience. We were flying in “POTCH-A-GALOOOP” received a direct hit in the bomb bay. Because of this we had to salvo the 12 racks of our fragmentation bombs. We also lost our hydraulic system due to this hit. As we left the target Lt. Crump’s ship was also badly hit. He made a steep right bank and “peeled off” from the formation with Lt. Cox going along with him. At this time I was above “Bitsy” and he and Lt. Cox passed under our ship. It was the last time I saw either ship. I held my position on Capt. Allen’s flight and turned out to be “tail end Charlie”. All hell broke loose as one fighter after another made passes at “POTCH-A-GALOOOP”. During these attacks we lost our air speed indicators, emergency landing mechanism, and the lower turret was put out of commission. One Jerry paid the price for this damage by coming within range of S/Sgt. Hughes’ guns. A few seconds later these guns became inoperative too.

Allan, John T., Capt, pilot, 379th BS
Cox, Robert A., 1Lt, pilot

Crump, Walter P. “Bitsy”, 1Lt, pilot
Hughes, Albert (NMI), Sgt, gunner

One scare and close call was when, on the way home, a flak fragment shattered my left window but failed to penetrate the glass. By now we knew we had lost two of our other planes, piloted by our friends in the 380th Squadron, Lt. Lacy and Lt. Barnwell.

Barnwell, Charles M., Jr., 1Lt, pilot, 380th BS
380th BS

Lacy, Robert A., 1Lt, pilot,

Upon reaching the field, we radioed our difficulties to Capt. Allan, in the lead ship. He acted as our air speed indicator while we attempted to lower our landing gear manually--but our wheels just wouldn’t lock down--and again as we made our approach. At about 20 feet we leveled out and cut all switches. The next I know we were out of our ships and away in a hell of a hurry, fearing the ship might catch fire. The most pleasing news was that none of the crew had been hurt at all. That mission was our 14th and “POTCH-A-GALOOOP’S” last.

Allan, John T., Capt, pilot, 379th BS

Monday, 8 February 1943 (continued)

Much credit for the ship's safe return is due T/Sgt. Porter and his maintenance crew.

Porter, Ellis L., T/Sgt, engineering, crew chief

A last note in honor of the first Officers and Enlisted Men of the Squadron to be reported as missing in action:

Crump, Walter P. "Bitsy", 1Lt	P	Cox, Robert A., 1Lt	P
Froelicher, Peter R., 2Lt	CP	Szczygiel, Joseph F., 2Lt	CP
Wilson, Francis E., 2Lt	B	McHarge, James H., T/Sgt	B
Gollnitz, Frederick C., 1Lt	N	Windham, Duke G., Jr, S/Sgt	G
Massengale, Jack T., S/Sgt	G	Brink, Robert W., S/Sgt	R
Larck, Buster A., T/Sgt	R		

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"Monday. Back into town again. Went to Maison Blanche to see about the plane we brought down with us. They have straightened the tail that was bent due to pressure at 380 mph as we usually hit coming off the target. Taylor got his award from Gen. Doolittle. He was on a broadcast that went to the States. Saw the picture "Ruffles" in town. Very old picture but helps forget the war. Roamed all over Algiers today. What a place. Went to a French C.O. house - really a treat. Beautiful."

*Doolittle, James Harold "Jimmy", Maj Gen, pilot, 12th AF, Commander
Taylor, Milo K., S/Sgt, radio-gunner*

428th BS War Diary: Airdrome at Gabes was bombed with no loss to the squadron but 4 ships were lost from the Group; 4 ships and 3 fighters over the target. Gunner Myers chalked up his first victory when he downed an ME-109. "Naughty but Nice" was shown at the movies.

Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt, gunner

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 40: The Gabes Airdrome raid of February eighth was a costly, painful fracas for the group. The 428th returned undamaged, though we lost four crews of 18 and five airplanes.

The crews had just been briefed to hit El Aouina though the weather report predicted poor bombing conditions. As they were about to leave, an order from higher echelon directed the formation to follow the B-26 group at Telergma who had been briefed for the target.

Their tactics of climbing from takeoff was not to our liking. Once in the target area they clover-leafed and approached the target from the sea. A meager escort of P-38's were clustered off the left wing and ahead, necessarily engaged in protecting themselves. As our formation swung to the right over the sea Northeast of Gabes, S/Sgt Loy G. Myers of the 428th shot down the first ME-109 to come close. The enemy fighters could be seen taking off long before the bombers came close to the target.

Monday, 8 February 1943 (continued)

The target itself was well covered with fragmentation bombs. Three fires were ignited. The whole drome was covered by dust and smoke. Heavy, intense, accurate flak came from the target area. There was hardly a ship that wasn't riddled. Lt. Sacknoff of the 380th had better than 300 holes in his ship. Miraculously, of the crews that returned, only one had flak injuries, and they were not serious.

As soon as the formation left the target area the twenty to twenty-five ME-109's who had made contact in the bomb run started in earnest to attack. They did lazy eights to their heart's content. The 381st lost two crews and so did the 380th. Four returning gunners had claims for destroyed ME-109's. It was a hard blow all things considered.

Sacknoff, David A., 1Lt, pilot, 380th BS

<p>A/C No. 1 probably 41-13077 "The Reluctant Dragon" (later "Old Patch")</p> <p>P <i>Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt</i></p> <p>CP <i>Cunningham, Robert L., 2Lt</i></p> <p>N <i>Norvell, Richard T., 1Lt</i></p> <p>B <i>Upchurch, Jerry E., 1Lt</i></p> <p>E <i>None</i></p> <p>R <i>Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt</i></p> <p>G <i>Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt</i></p> <p>F <i>Walker, James P. "Chief" Capt, Commander (observer)</i></p>	<p>A/C No. 2 probably 41-13070 "Shanghi Lil"</p> <p><i>Canham, Arthur E., 1Lt</i></p> <p><i>Wilson, Kieth Gordon, 1Lt</i></p> <p><i>Hartman, Richard J., 1Lt</i></p> <p><i>Vestal, Marion S., 2Lt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Rebello, John E., Jr., T/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>Parker, Perrie C., Sgt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p>
<p>A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified - may be "Skunk Hunter"</p> <p>P <i>Marsh, Edward D., 1Lt</i></p> <p>CP <i>Stack, James F., 2Lt</i></p> <p>N <i>None</i></p> <p>B <i>McDonald, Donald E. "Mac", Sgt</i></p> <p>E <i>None</i></p> <p>R <i>Bosworth, William H., T/Sgt</i></p> <p>G <i>Payne, Charles C., Sgt</i></p> <p>F <i>None</i></p>	<p>A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified</p> <p><i>Middleton, Laula M., 2Lt</i></p> <p><i>Frost, Roland (NMI), 2Lt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Surbaugh, Steven G., S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Ficeto, Bartholomeo T., S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>Dickey, Norris D. "Pop", S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p>
<p>A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified</p> <p>P <i>Milius, Morris O., 1Lt</i></p> <p>CP <i>Harder, Frank A., 2Lt</i></p> <p>N <i>None</i></p> <p>B <i>Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt</i></p> <p>E <i>None</i></p> <p>R <i>Stilp, John P., T/Sgt</i></p> <p>G <i>Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt</i></p> <p>F <i>None</i></p>	<p>A/C No. 6 probably 41-13083 "Old 83"</p> <p><i>Loutrel, John McCluney, 1Lt</i></p> <p><i>Smith, Merle E., 2Lt,</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Swim, Lowell W., S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Bennett, Robert L., T/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>Phillips, William E., Pvt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p>

Tuesday, 9 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Crete, B-25s bomb several airfields. HQ 98th Bombardment Group (Heavy) transfers from Fayid, Egypt to Benina, Libya.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-17s bomb Kairouan Airfield. Fighters strafe AA and machineguns and trucks in the Faid Pass, buildings near Mezzouna, trucks in the Station de Sened area, and fly escort and reconnaissance missions.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"Tuesday. Bought \$300 worth of war bonds. It is impossible to get money orders. Went to Algiers during the afternoon, as usual. Had a grand time roaming around. Bought some more pipes. Wow I have a very good collection -- they are same briar as Kay woodies in the States. Found a French soldier that had been slugged. He was knocked out cold and bleeding badly. He was taken care of by the O.D. Was in the garage when Gen. Doolittle's car came in. Someone took a shot at it but Doolittle wasn't riding in it. Lucky for him because the slug would have caught him."

Doolittle, James Harold "Jimmy", Maj Gen, pilot, 12th AF, Commander

428th BS War Diary: All's quiet with the weather turning colder.

Wednesday, 10 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Sicily, B-24s sent to attack Palermo are forced to abort due to bad weather. They jettison their bombs or return to base with them. One aircraft scores a direct hit on a Sicilian highway.

In Libya, rainfall delays the British Eighth Army assault on the Mareth Line positions at Ben Gardane. HQ 376th Bombardment Group (Heavy) and its 512th, 513th and 514th Bombardment Squadrons (Heavy) with B-24s transfer from Abu Sueir, Egypt to Gambut, Libya.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In the Mediterranean, B-25s attack shipping between Tunisia and Sicily, claiming 1 vessel sunk and another badly damaged.

In Tunisia, weather cancels heavy and medium bomber missions. P-39s and Spitfires of the XII Air Support Command strafe gun batteries, machinegun nests, vehicles and troops in the Maknassy-Station de Sened-Bou Hamran area. The 59th Fighter Squadron, 33rd Fighter Group with P-40s transfers from Thelepte, Tunisia to Youks-les-Bains, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 41:

Mission Report # 43, 10 February 43

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. NO. AND TYPE A/C: Nine B-25-C's.
3. DATE: 10/2/43
4. MISSION: Sea Search. TARGET: Shipping.
5. TIME OFF: 1035 hours. INITIAL POINT: 1145 hours DOWN: 1725 hours.
6. WEATHER: En route to coast, ceiling 6000 ft, visibility eight miles. Over water, ceiling 15,000 ft, 4/10 coverage, visibility fifteen miles. En route back, weather poor at Bone and turned S to avoid it. One plane made Base, one plane at Paddington, two crews at Canrobert, five crews at Biskra, weather very poor, rain and snow flurries.

Wednesday, 10 February 1943 (continued)

7. NO. AND TYPE BOMBS DROPPED: 51 X 500-lb bombs, with 4 to 5-second delay fuses dropped. 3 x 500 lb bombs returned.
8. None.
9. RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS: Sighted four barges at 37 degrees 30 minutes N and 10 degrees 53 minutes E. Barges had masts about 30 feet high mounting machine-guns, and were identified as probably being Seibel Ferries. The barges were attacked and three barges were sunk, the fourth damaged and observed to be listing when last seen. Men, barrels, baskets and various supplies were observed in water after the attack. Thirty to fifty JU-52's sighted about ten miles distant, at 1221 hours, 37 degrees 20 minutes N and 12 degrees E. As soon as enemy aircraft saw B-25-C's and escorts they went to the deck.

ALTITUDE OF ATTACK: 200 ft.

FLIGHT LEADER: Capt. Allan.

OBSERVER: Major General Doolittle.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 41:

A/C No. 1 *aircraft unidentified* (lead ship)

P *Allan, John T., Capt*
CP *Doolittle, James Harold "Jimmy", Maj Gen, 12th AF Commander*
N *Pound, William R., Jr., Capt*
B *Rulien, Donovan W., 1Lt*
E *None*
R *Marple, Louis F., S/Sgt*
G *Pagano, Salvatore A., S/Sgt*
F *None*

Wednesday, 10 February 1943 (continued)

380th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 41:

Mission Report # 28

Date- February 10, 1943

Target- Sea Search.

Squadron airplanes- two

Following our disaster at Gabes, two planes joined with four others from the Group on another salt water mission. The Squadron was also highly honored with Major General J.H. Doolittle, riding in the lead ship.

Flak barges proved our target and 500 pound bombs sent two of them to the bottom. Lieut. Amick was hit with a cannon shell in the right wing, breaking the spar.

But flak was a small part of the trouble that greeted us. The weather closed in tight before we returned and Berteaux could not be found. Lieut. Loomis found Canrobert and landed safely there. Lieut. Amick finally arrived at Biskra, and with the field being situated in the desert, started his approach too soon and almost landed a mile from the field. A quick pull-up though, helped him to arrive safely.

Two days later the boys returned to the Base, safe and sound.

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified

P *Loomis, Frederick F., 1Lt*
CP *Moir, David (NMI), Jr., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Schisler, Robert P., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Willis, Earl B., Pvt*
G *Nichols, Edward H., Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

Amick, Cecil D., 1Lt
Porter, Lloyd L., 2Lt
None
Longrie, Kenneth R., S/Sgt
None
Meyer, Albert J., S/Sgt
Huffman, Herbert (NMI), S/Sgt
None

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 41:

SEA SEARCH

Group Mission # 41

Flight 9 B-25's

Sqdrn. Mission # 24

Escort P-38's

Take Off 10:35

Bomb Load: (6 x 500)

Down 15:30

Bombs Dropped: 2(6 x 500). 6000#

Total Time: 2 Hrs. 55 Min.

Weather: Enroute and over water, visibility 8 to 15 miles. Enroute back, weather very poor, with rain and snow flurries.

Remarks: 2(6 x 500) bombs were dropped on four large barges carrying men and equipment from Sicily. Three sank, one probably sank. Lt. Phillips made two runs, making five near misses and one direct hit. Lt. Martin's ship made six near misses, and strafed crew.

Wednesday, 10 February 1943 (continued)

Light flak and machine gun fire from these barges damaged some of our other ships. No enemy aircraft encountered.

Maj. Gen. James H. Doolittle flew as Co-Pilot of Capt. Allan's ship (379th. Bomb Sq.)

The flight landed at Biskra because of unfavorable weather conditions.

A/C No. 41-13102 "GREEN EYES" (Pancho under CP window) (D)		A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE" / "ROYAL FLUSH" (E)	
P	<i>Martin, Robert W., 1Lt</i>		<i>Phillips, Carl A., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Sindelar, Emil Edward, 2Lt</i>		<i>Schrupp, Elwin F., 1Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Daly, Donald J., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Myers, John H., 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Bush, Donald W., Sgt</i>		<i>Nickelson, Royal C., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Thomas, John P., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Kiel, William H., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"Wednesday. This is my last day here. Tomorrow, it will be back to the old grind again - eating out of mess kits, and living hell on earth. If I were a soldier of fortune, I wouldn't go back for any amount. But as my status so exists, I will go back. Got 250 bucks worth of money orders to send home. Saw "Alexander's Ray Time Band" here at the hotel. It was good enough though I have seen it many, many times before. Doolittle is riding co-pilot on a B-26 these days. They are some of the boys that went on the Japan raid."

Doolittle, James Harold "Jimmy", Maj Gen, pilot, 12th AF, Commander

428th BS War Diary: They took off on the "milk run" and spotted a convoy of Barges headed inland. Results: 3 barges sunk and 1 probable. General Doolittle went along. Planes grounded at Biskra when bad weather set in. General Doolittle skimmed the R.R. tracks and came in. It started to snow and rain.

Doolittle, James Harold "Jimmy", Maj Gen, pilot, 12th AF, Commander

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : The day of February 10th marked an emphasis on a new species of tactics in sea search. General Doolittle rode in the lead ship (379th BS ship) of a highly successful low level sea search. Of four barges (Siebel Ferries) sighted all were damaged or sunk with no loss to us. Only light flak of moderate intensity was experienced, and the damage we sustained was negligible.

Doolittle, James Harold "Jimmy", Maj Gen, pilot, 12th AF, Commander

Wednesday, 10 February 1943 (continued)

The return of the nine ships seemed more of a feat. Only three of the nine returned. Rain squalls, snow, and ceiling zero characterized much of the weather on the return trip. Our crews were strung from Paddington near the front down to Biskra. All returned within two days.

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified

P *Gshwandtner, Frank J. "Gish", 1Lt*
CP *Williams, Edwin W., 1Lt*
N *Doolittle, Leonard N., 1Lt,*
B *Herold, Armin F., Jr., 1Lt*
E *None*
R *Temple, Robert W., Sgt*
G *Stage, Albert A., S/Sgt*
F *None*

Thursday, 11 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Crete, RAF Liberators under operational control of the IX Bomber Command are sent against Heraklion Airfield during the night of 10/11 Feb. Severe weather causes them to abort near the south coast of Crete. The 415th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 98th Bombardment Group (Heavy) with B-24s transfers from Tobruk, Libya to Benina, Libya.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force): Bad weather cancels all heavy and medium bomber missions.

In Tunisia, A-20s hit Station de Sened. Fighters escort light bombers and transports, and fly reconnaissance and patrols. A detachment of the 111th Observation Squadron, 68th Observation Group based at Oujda, French Morocco with A-20s begins operating from La Senia, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*
"Thursday. The weather was "0 - 0" so we couldn't go home. I really would like to get back and get the rest of my raids over with. And then, I am hoping for some mail when I get back. This vacation has been wonderful but now I have had so much rest that the waves beating against the shores below my window, keep me awake. I spent the afternoon in Algiers as usual. Talked to some Waacs. Wonderful to talk to American gals. Lots of convoys to see on the sea. They have barrage balloons over them. Really odd. Hoping we go home tomorrow, I close."

428th BS War Diary: The weather man hit us with everything today - snow, rain, hail and what not. Versaw and Tressler were drowned out as was Jack. Tents were blown over and slit trenches filled with water. All planes grounded.

Jack, Robert C., Sgt, gunner

Tressler, Blair B., Sgt,

Versaw, Robert E., Sgt, gunner

Friday, 12 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): No Entry

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, heavy and medium bomber missions are cancelled due to weather. A-20s attack gun installations west of Station de Sened. Fighters escort A-20s and C-47s, and fly routine patrols. The 347th Fighter Squadron, 350th Fighter Group with P-39s and P-400s transfers from Oujda, French Morocco to La Senia, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"Friday. Went out to Maison Blanche to find out that the booster pumps were out. So we couldn't go back to dear old New London (Berteaux). That meant the usual afternoon in town. Lots of reporters here for the steak dinner. They got material on each of us to send back to the home town papers. Really nice people. Bought a pipe in town. They really are hard to get. Worth 10 times their value when home in the States. I hope we get off tomorrow."

428th BS War Diary: Weather shaped up beautifully today with the sun coming through. Snow covered the mountain tops though.

Saturday, 13 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, B-24s bomb the Naples area and Crotone Airfield and the city area under storm conditions.

In Crete, RAF Liberators under operational control of the IX Bomber Command attack Heraklion Airfield during the late afternoon and early evening. One Liberator hits the Kastelli-Pediada Airfield on the return trip.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-26s bomb El Aouina Airfield. Fighters escort the B-26s, strafe tanks near Station de Sened, and destroy several trucks and staff cars in the Faid area. The 59th Fighter Squadron, 33rd Fighter Group with P-40s transfers from Thelepte, Tunisia to Youks-les-Bains, Algeria. The 414th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 97th Bombardment Group (Heavy) with B-17s transfers from Biskra, Algeria to Chateaudun-du-Rhumel, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 42:

Mission Report # 44, 13 February 1943

TELEPHONE MISSION REPORT

(To be in Narrative Form)

DATE: 13 Feb 1943

1. **UNIT** 310th Bomb Gp **FLIGHT LEADER:** Maj Hoover
2. At 1245 4 B-25's **took off to:** Sea Sweep Shipping
TIME **NO. A/C** **TYPE A/C** **MISSION** **TARGET**
- returned** **dropped** **bombs on target**
 early **NO & TYPE** **at**
 NO. A/C **returned** **TIME**
 NO. A/C
- from , 4 **returned at** 1800 .
 ALTITUDE **NO. A/C** **TIME**
3. **RESULTS:** No shipping sighted.

Saturday, 13 February 1943 (continued)

4. OBS: including Flak and encounters, our losses, Photos, etc.:

Enemy a/c at 1500 hours, 37°20' N, 11°40' E.
About 35 JU-52s - 3 ME-323s heading 45°, flying at 200'.

5. WEATHER ENROUTE: Enroute CAVU over water 800' ceiling. 9/10 coverage,
Visibility 3 miles. Haze and fog all over.

OVER TARGET:

6. PRESS DATA:

Planes Destroyed: 1 ME 323: Sgt *Albert* F. Dallaire; Lowell, Mass. (*379th BS*)

1 JU-52: S/Sgt *Donald* J. Daly; Inkster, Mich. (*381st BS*)

(Joint Claim) 1 JU-52: S/Sgt *John* P. Thomas; Johnstown, Pa. (*381st BS*), and
S/Sgt Robert M. Brunner; Dixon, Calif. (*379th BS*)
200' Patrol

Capt O'Brien Unit S-2.

(taken by Maj CTB 132005 Feb '43)

NOTE: Under 6, give claims of E/AC destruction including full name, serial number and home address of claimant.

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 42:

	<i>A/C No. 1 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 2 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
P	<i>Hoover, Travis (NMI), Maj, Commander</i>	
CP		
N		
B		
E		
R		
G	<i>Brunner, Robert M., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Dallaire, Albert F., Sgt</i>
F		

Saturday, 13 February 1943 (continued)

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 42:
(380th BS did not participate)

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 42:
SEA SEARCH

Group Mission # 42	Flight 4 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 25	Escort 18 P-38's
Take Off 12:35	Bombs Dropped: None
Down 17:45	

Total Time: 5 Hrs. 10 Min.

Weather: Enroute CAVU. Over sea, visibility 3 miles, with haze and fog.

Remarks: 30-50 JU-52's and ME-323's were encountered off Tunis at 14:20. Three were shot down, one JU-52 by S/Sgt. Daly, and another by S/Sgt. Thomas. Many other Enemy A/C were damaged, one of them by Lt. Phillips. This was confirmed by Lt. Martin and Sgt. Bush. 2(6 x 500) bombs were returned to the base. Machine gun fire from the Enemy A/C did no damage to our A/C.

A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE" / "ROYAL FLUSH" (C)		A/C No. 41-13102 "GREEN EYES" (Pancho under CP window) (D)	
P	<i>Phillips, Carl A., 1Lt</i>		<i>Martin, Robert W., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Schrupp, Elwin F., 1Lt</i>		<i>Sindelar, Emil Edward, 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Myers, John H., 1Lt</i>		<i>Daly, Donald J., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Nickelson, Royal C., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Bush, Donald W., Sgt</i>
G	<i>Kiel, William H., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Thomas, John P., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"Saturday. Plane still not ready so we had to stay for the dance. Gals outnumbered the boys 2 to 1. Rode horse back, play tennis, ping-pong, cards. Really had a day of loads of fun. Lots of reporters are here again. All they do is ask lots of silly questions. Met a very wonderful French gal. She had studied in England and Paris --- thus could speak very good English. Some of the crew got very drunk. What a day. Most happened when I was in town."

Saturday, 13 February 1943 (continued)

428th BS War Diary: All's quiet except when a Pink Elephant buzzed the orderly tent too damn close.

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 42:
(428th BS did not participate)

Sunday, 14 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): No Entry

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In the Mediterranean, B-25s on a shipping strike return with their bombs when no vessels are sighted.

In Tunisia, all heavy and medium bomber missions are cancelled by bad weather. Fighters strafe vehicles and gun emplacements in the El Guettar-Sened-Maknassy areas, and hit tanks and trucks near Sisi Saad. A-20s bomb tanks in the Faid Pass, trucks near Maknassy and southwest of Faid, the town of Maknassy, and railroad yards at Station de Sened. Enemy ground forces, both armored and infantry begin a drive, supported by artillery and dive bombers, against Allied forces east of Sidi Bou Zid. HQ 350th Fighter Group transfers from Oujda, French Morocco to Oran, Algeria. The group's 345th and 346th Fighter Squadrons with P-39s and P-400s transfer from Oujda to La Senia, Algeria. The 94th Fighter Squadron, 1st Fighter Group with P-38s transfers from Biskra, Tunisia to Chateaudun-du-Rhumel, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 43:

Mission Report # 45, 14 February 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. At 1300 6 B-25-C's took off to Sea Search shipping. None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

early. None dropped None bombs on target at from
No. A/C No & Type Time Altitude

6 returned at 1705
No A/C Time
3. RESULTS: No shipping sighted.
4. OBS: including Flak and encounters, our losses, Photos, Etc:
1540 hours at 37 degrees 18 minutes N and 10 degrees 15 minutes E what appeared to be two vessels, 1 a destroyer, 1 merchant vessel, apparently anchored. (Note) These may be rocks that have been reported before as vessels. Only one crew reported this observation.

Sunday, 14 February 1943 (continued)

5. WEATHER EN ROUTE: 5/10 TO 7/10 coverage at 4000 ft, visibility 4 miles. Top of coverage 6000 ft above coverage CAVU.
OVER TARGET: CAVU
BACK: Clearing about 40 miles in from coast, visibility lifted to 8 miles.
6. 6 sorties flown 14/2/43

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 43:

A/C No. 1 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

**P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F**

380th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 43:

Mission Report # 29

Date- February 14, 1943

Target- Sea Search.

Squadron airplanes- two

Today's mission, composed of six B-25's and a trip over the Mediterranean, proved to be nothing more than just that. Not a thing was sighted and the boys rode merrily along. The weather was fine and the sky as blue as the water, but it seemed that friend "Jerry" had decided to keep his shipping at home for a few days.

The ride proved slightly monotonous after awhile but all the ships returned safe and sound.

Sunday, 14 February 1943 (continued)

<i>A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified</i>
P <i>Draemel, Dean H., 1Lt</i>	<i>Santos, Carroll A., Jr., 1Lt</i>
CP <i>Sours, Robert J., 2Lt</i>	<i>Picklesimer, Marion L., 2Lt</i>
N <i>Kanode, Robert C., 1Lt</i>	<i>None</i>
B <i>Holmes, William G., 2Lt</i>	<i>Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt</i>
E <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R <i>Shambaugh, Robert M., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Smith, Teddy L., S/Sgt</i>
G <i>Williams, John A., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Redding, William D., S/Sgt</i>
F <i>Hill, Lt (observer)</i>	<i>None</i>

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 43:

SEA SEARCH

Group Mission # 43	Flight 6 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 26	Escort 24 P-38's
Take Off 13:00	Bombs Dropped: None
Down 17:00	
Total Time: 4 Hrs. 0 Min.	

Weather: Visibility 4 miles enroute. CAVU at target.

Remarks: Saw nothing----did nothing.

<i>A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE" / "ROYAL FLUSH" (C)</i>	<i>A/C No. 41-13102 "GREEN EYES" (Pancho under CP window) (B)</i>
P <i>VanDivort, Richard (NMI), 1Lt</i>	<i>Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt</i>
CP <i>Wightman, Henry B. "Hank", 1Lt</i>	<i>Lewis, Kenneth E., 1Lt</i>
N <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
B <i>Smith, Willie A., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Daly, Donald J., S/Sgt</i>
E <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R <i>Chaffins, Ray (NMI), S/Sgt</i>	<i>Boone, Edward W. W., S/Sgt</i>
G <i>Nelson, Forest S., Sgt</i>	<i>Molnar, William J., S/Sgt</i>
F <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"Sunday. Katz made 1st Lt. I guess I will never get mine. It was worded incorrectly so it bounced. Put in again though. Spent the afternoon in Algiers again being we couldn't take off due to bad weather. The gal (Feb. 13) was very nice and we had a grand afternoon. She is a Championship swimmer and diver in Paris and France. She has 36 gold medals. Returned to the hotel in time for supper and to see Gary Cooper in the "Westerner." Heard that the B-26's and B-25's have lost a bunch of planes. Rommel is really getting rough."

Katzenbach, Nicholas D. "Katz", 1Lt, navigator

Rommel, Erwin Johannes Eugen "Desert Fox", Generalfeldmarschall, Afrika Korps

Sunday, 14 February 1943 (continued)

428th BS War Diary: 6 planes accompanied by 24 fighters went on patrol duty but nothing sighted. "Rebecca" was shown on the screen today.

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 43: After four days of really bad weather things cleared up sufficiently to permit operations again. The news reports seemed to indicate that the Axis made good use of this weather.

Six bombers were alerted to find shipping, in the bay of Tunis. Armed naval vessels were seen hove to in the bay. No attack was made once again. All aircraft returned safely.

A/C No. 1 probably 41-13077 "The Reluctant Dragon" (later "Old Patch")

P *Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt*
CP *Cunningham, Robert L., 2Lt*
N *Norvell, Richard T., 1Lt*
B *Upchurch, Jerry E., 1Lt*
E *None*
R *Richardson, Warren F., T/Sgt*
G *Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt*
F *None*

Monday, 15 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): The Desert Air Task Force (DATF) is established with Brigadier General Aubrey C Strickland as Commanding General. Whereas Desert Air Task Force HQ, organized on 22 Oct 42, controlled US Army Mid East Air Force (USAMEAF) tactical operations in the Western Desert, this new organization, with HQ at Tripoli, Libya, supervises, operationally and administratively, all Ninth Air Force units west of, and including, Marble Arch. In addition, General Strickland is commander of US troops in the area. In Italy, B-24s attack the harbor at Naples, scoring direct hits on 2 vessels.

In Libya, British Army ground forces resume operations toward the Mareth Line as weather improves. Colonel Hugo P Rush succeeds Brigadier General Patrick W Timberlake as Commanding Officer of IX Bomber Command, which transfers from Ismailia, Egypt to Bengasi, Libya.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Sicily, B-17s hit the harbor and shipping at Palermo.

In Tunisia, B-25s and B-26s attack Kairouan Airfield. Fighters support Allied ground forces being pushed back from the Faid-Sidi Bou Zid area to positions at Sbeitla, Kasserine and Feriana. Enemy troops, vehicles, gun positions, and tanks are repeatedly attacked. Fighters hit similar targets in the Gafsa-Bou Hamran area. Because of the German advance in Tunisia, the forward air base at Sbeitla, Tunisia is evacuated. The 97th Bombardment Squadron (Light), 47th Bombardment Group (Light) with A-20s transfers from Thelepte, Tunisia to Youks-les-Bains, Algeria due to the German assault.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

Monday, 15 February 1943 (continued)

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"(Log 1:30 hours) Monday. Finally got off. I flew. Lost the escape hatch on take off - and it was a cold trip home. Crump, Wilson, Froelicher, Cox, Szczygiel (classmate from Visalia) were shot down over Gabes on February 9th. Linden and Jackson made a crash landing. 380th lost two planes. The pink jobs (B-25) from Libya traveled to Medenine to lose a plane. A B-26 came in for a crash landing. All the crew bailed out except for the pilot. We could see them coming down on their chutes. B-26' lost three planes this A.M. Total of 7 for today.

Cox, Robert A., 1Lt, pilot

Froelicher, Peter R., 2Lt, pilot

Linden, Eric O., 1Lt, pilot

Wilson, Francis E., 2Lt, bombardier

Crump, Walter P. "Bitsy", 1Lt, pilot

Jackson, William C., 1Lt, pilot

Szczygiel, Joseph F., 2Lt, pilot

428th BS War Diary: Kairouan Airdrome got it today. Bombs dropped on runways and dispersal areas. 3 fighters shot down by our escort.

Tuesday, 16 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Crete, RAF Liberators under operational control of the IX Bomber Command bomb Heraklion Airfield during the night of 16/17 Feb.

In Tunisia, the British Eighth Army's 7 Armored Division drives into Ben Gardane, an outpost of the Mareth Line. The 83rd and 434th Bombardment Squadrons (Medium), 12th Bombardment Group (Medium) with B-25s transfer from Gambut, Libya to Castel Benito, Libya. The 345th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 98th Bombardment Group (Heavy) with B-24s transfers from Tobruk, Libya to Benina, Libya.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In the Mediterranean, B-25s dispatched on a shipping mission abort due to weather.

In Tunisia, all heavy and medium bomber operations are cancelled due to weather. A-20s, in support of hard-pressed Allied ground forces, bomb gun positions west of Sidi Bou Zid. Fighters fly repeated strafing missions against troops and vehicles in the Gafsa area. The 85th Bombardment Squadron (Light), 47th Bombardment Group (Light) with A-20s transfers from Thelepte, Tunisia to Youks-les-Bains, Algeria due to the German assault.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 44:

Mission Report # 47, 16 February 1943

- 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
- At 1000 6 B-25-C's took off to Sea Search shipping. None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

early. None dropped No bombs on target at from
No. A/C No & Type Time Altitude

6 returned at 1205
No A/C Time
- RESULTS: No shipping sighted. Returned early due to bad weather.

Tuesday, 16 February 1943 (continued)

4. OBS: None.
5. WEATHER EN ROUTE: To coast 10/10 coverage at 5,000 feet, visibility eight miles.
OVER WATER: 10/10 coverage at 4,500 feet, showers visibility nil. Visibility out of showers 4 or 5 miles.
BACK: Ceiling at top of mountains and scattered rain showers.

6. PRESS DATA: None

Six (6) sorties flown 16/2/43.

Flight Leader: Capt. Allan
Co-Pilot: Major General Doolittle.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 44:

A/C No. 1 *aircraft & crew unidentified* A/C No. 2 *aircraft & crew unidentified*
(flight leader)

P *Allan, John T., Capt*
CP *Doolittle, James Harold "Jimmy", Maj*
Gen, 12th AF, Commander

N
B
E
R *Marple, Louis F., T/Sgt*
G *Pagano, Salvatore A., S/Sgt*
F

380th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 44:
(380th BS did not participate)

Tuesday, 16 February 1943 (continued)

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 44:

SEA SEARCH

Group Mission # 44 Flight 6 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 27 Escort 15 P-38's
Take Off 10:00 Bombs Dropped: None
Down 12:05
Total Time: 2 Hrs. 05 Min.

Weather: Very poor visibility, scattered showers.

Remarks: No flak, no Huns, no bombs. A/C did not make entire sweep because of bad weather. Maj. Gen. James H. Doolittle flew in the lead ship.

A/C No. 41-13075 "SHEENA"(C)		A/C No. 41-13052 "TABOO" (F)	
P	<i>Atkinson, Fred M., 1Lt</i>		<i>VanDivort, Richard (NMI), 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Hartley, John R., 2Lt</i>		<i>Wightman, Henry B. "Hank", 1Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Green, William B., Capt</i>		<i>Smith, Willie A., T/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Blaschko, Lambert J., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Chaffins, Ray (NMI), S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Smith, James F., Sgt</i>		<i>Nelson, Forest S., Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
A/C No. 41-13102 "GREEN EYES"		A/C No. 41-13061 "LIL' JOE" (E)	
	(Pancho under CP window) (D)		
P	<i>Eddy, Leonard A., Capt</i>		<i>Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt</i>		<i>Lewis, Kenneth E., 1Lt</i>
N	<i>Katzenbach, Nicholas D. "Katz", 1Lt</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Pickett, Perry D., Capt</i>		<i>Daly, Donald J., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Taylor, Milo K., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Boone, Edward W. W., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Schave, Henry Lloyd, S/Sgt</i>		<i>Molnar, William J., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>

381st BS: War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot

"(Log 2:15 hours) Tuesday. Another patrol mission. Really was rough, as we had rain most the trip and had to return early. General Doolittle flew co-pilot in the lead ship. Eddy led the 2nd element. Received some very nice packages from the States. They finally opened the "Officers Bar" here this evening. Really okay as it gives the boys a chance to blow off some of their "steam." Slept all afternoon because I wasn't feeling very well. I guess the trip was too much work today. Read the good old Toledo Blade most of the evening."

*Doolittle, James Harold "Jimmy", Maj Gen, pilot, 12th AF, Commander
Eddy, Leonard A., Capt, pilot*

Tuesday, 16 February 1943 (continued)

428th BS War Diary: \$15,000 worth of money orders returned when P.O. ran out of blanks. Crew returned from vacation. Eschert joined Naworski in hospital with bad cold.

Eschert, Herman E., T/Sgt, communications *Naworski, Edward F., S/Sgt, gunner*

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 44:

(428th BS did not participate)

Wednesday, 17 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): No Entry

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force): The Twelfth Air Force and other organizations of the Allied Air Force are transferred to the North African Air Force (NAAF) which supplants the Allied Air Force. NAAF, in turn, becomes part of the Mediterranean Air Command (MAC), a new air command which comes into existence on this date with RAF Air Chief Marshall Arthur Tedder as commander. MAC also includes the RAF Middle East Air Command (later RAF, Middle East) and the RAF Malta Air Command (later RAF, Malta). The Commanding General of NAAF is General Carl Spaatz, USAAF.

In Sardinia, over 40 B-17s bomb Elmas Airfield; B-25s and B-26s hit the Villacidro and Decimomannu Airfields. In Tunisia, fighters escort bombers and support ground forces in the Sbeitla-Kasserine-Feriana area. The fighters, along with A-20s, attack and destroy numerous tanks, trucks and other vehicles moving against hard-pressed British First Army forces. The two airfields at Thelepte, with 124 operational aircraft on the field, are abandoned because of the German advance. Eighteen unflyable aircraft are burned after 60,000 gallons (227,100 liters) of aviation fuel are poured on them. HQ 31st Fighter Group transfers from Thelepte, Tunisia to Youks-les-Bains, Algeria. The group's 307th, 308th and 309th Fighter Squadrons with Spitfire Mk Vs transfer from Thelepte to Tebessa, Algeria. HQ 81st Fighter Group and its 91st and 92nd Fighter Squadrons with P-39s transfer from Thelepte, Tunisia to Le Kouif Airfield, Algeria. The 60th Fighter Squadron, 33rd Fighter Group with P-40s transfers from Youks-les-Bains, Algeria to Telergma, Algeria. The 71st Fighter Squadron, 1st Fighter Group with P-38s transfers from Biskra, Algeria to Chateaudun-du-Rhumel, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 45:

Mission Report # 48, 17 February 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.

2. At 1310 12 B-25-C's took off to Bomb Villacidro. None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

early. 9 dropped 636 X 20 fragmentation at primary target at Villacidro at
No. A/C No & Type bombs Target

1445. 3 dropped 216 X 20 frags at 1453 at Decimomannu.
Time No. A/C No. & Type bombs Time Opportunity T.

Wednesday, 17 February 1943

3. RESULTS: At primary target bombs were dropped in the barracks area and the entire SE side of the airdrome. Others were unable to observe the results due to coverage, but it is believed that bombs all dropped in the target area. Three planes dropped bombs at opportunity target; from the description it is believed to be Decimomannu airdrome. The A/D was covered with 40 to 60 aircraft, believed to be two engine planes, parked in straight lines around the west, north and east side of A/D. Bombs were observed to walk across the NE side of the airdrome and a building was observed to blow up from a bomb hit. Bombs fell in the parking area on the NE side and clusters of bombs fell thirty yards in front of fifteen parked planes on the east side of the A/D. It is believed that many aircraft were destroyed.
4. OBS: No aircraft were observed in the air at the primary target nor on the ground. After leaving primary target two single engine aircraft were seen, they disappeared and did not attack. At the opportunity target from 40 to 60 two engine aircraft believed to be JU-52's and bombers were parked wing tip to wing tip, on west, north and east sides of A/D. No dispersal of any kind and no revetments. Three enemy aircraft were seen in the air at the opportunity target, made no attack. At Elmas seaplanes base 20 to 25 sea planes were observed. At the Cagliari A/D there were 20 planes parked.

MARINE OBS: One eight boom freighter, appeared heavily loaded, anchored at 39 degrees 12 min N 9 degrees 05 min E, lighters seen going to shore from the vessel. One medium sized freighter at 39 degrees N 9 degrees 05 min E, going north.

FLAK: Slight and heavy flak encountered at primary target-inaccurate bursts at 10,000 ft. Flak fired from the city of Cagliari, Elmas seaplane base and mole. It appeared to be merely over the town and seaplane area and did not come close to the planes. Light flak from a light ship at 38 degrees 52 min N 8 degrees 45 min E.

GROUND OBS: Twenty trucks at 39 degrees 23 min N 8 degrees 58 min E. Power station or factory SW of town of St. Gouvin Noureale at 39 degrees 33 min N 8 degrees 47 min E.

5. WEATHER EN ROUTE: To coast scattered showers with ceiling at 4000 ft, coverage 6/10 visibility 7 miles.
TARGET: Over primary target 8/10 to 10/10 coverage at 6000 ft, visibility nil. At opportunity target better than at primary.
6. PRESS DATA: None

Altitude of attack at both airdromes 8,500 ft to 10,200 ft.

Wednesday, 17 February 1943 (continued)

Twelve (12) sorties flown 17/2/43.

Flight Leader: Capt. Gshwandtner
Capt. Helsabeck.
Capt. Cometh.
Capt. Batten.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 45:
(379th BS did not participate)

380th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 45:

Mission Report # 30

Date- February 17, 1943

Target- Villacidro Airdrome, Sardinia

Squadron airplanes- four

The “bombardier’s dream”, a trip over known enemy territory, where you know that everything you hit is hurting the enemy, was the mission for today. One of Mussolini’s finest airdromes, the Villacidro Airbase, on the western side of Sardinia was the target.

Mother Nature helped to defend the enemy territory, by putting up a thick cloud layer, but we were not to be daunted, dropping our bombs on the “Estimated time of arrival.” No results could be seen.

Since a few of the boys had not dropped their bombs, we decided to come back over the heart of enemy territory to see what kind of an opportunity target we might find. The first proved to be a flock of sheep that dispersed in quick fashion after the flexible .50 in the hands of Lieut. Liverman sprayed among them. Lieut. Sessler placed his trademark down the center of a street and then attempted to carve his initials in the front door of a house with machine gun bullets. Just south of Cagliari we saw two large merchant vessels sitting at anchor but our bombs for their destruction were not of the right type. A small fishing shack, just off the coast began to dance in the water as each plane gave it a buzz and a burst of fire. Seaplanes anchored in the bay were also shot up while the regular airdrome became the target of some strafing by Lieut. Huffman.

The 12 planes in our formation received some flak but it was slight and no scars were left on us. All of our planes returned safely.

Wednesday, 17 February 1943 (continued)

	A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)		A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified
P	<i>Cometh, Lawrence (NMI), Capt</i>		<i>Sacknoff, David A., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Miller, James I., 2Lt</i>		<i>Walcott, Albert R., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>Huffman, Arnie J., 2Lt</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Liverman, Ernest W. "Big Red", 2Lt</i>		<i>Links, Albert G., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Mount, Robert J., Pvt</i>		<i>Wesline, Richard L., T/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Melhus, Palmer C., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Grace, John J., Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
	A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)		A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified
P	<i>Batten, Earl E., Capt</i>		<i>Loomis, Frederick F., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Shorsher, Fred A., 2Lt</i>		<i>Moir, David (NMI), Jr., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Sessler, Howard A., 1Lt</i>		<i>Schisler, Robert P., 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Dackiewicz, John A., Cpl</i>		<i>Willis, Earl B., Pvt</i>
G	<i>Szczesniak, Alfred A., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Nichols, Edward H., Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>Roth, John A., Maj, HQ 82 FG (observer)</i>

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 45:

VILLA CIDRO A/D, SARDINIA

Group Mission # 45

Flight 12 B-25's

Sqdrn. Mission # 28

Escort 15 P-38's

Take Off 13:10

Bomb Load: (72 x 20) Frag.

Target 14:45

Bombs Dropped: 2(72 x 20). 2880#

Down 16:15

Total Time: 3 Hrs. 15 Min.

Weather: Enroute, visibility 7 miles. Zero at target. Visibility at opportunity target better.

Remarks: Frag. bombs were dropped on an opportunity target, believed to be A/D. They were well placed among the planes on the field, blowing up a building which must have contained explosives.

Flak: Only distant barrage over Cagliari. No enemy fighters. First photo taken by group turned out beautifully.

Wednesday, 17 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 41-13086 (J)		A/C No. 41-13090 (M)	
P	<i>Kearns, Archibald G., 1Lt</i>		<i>Martin, Robert W., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Rouch, Melvin R., 1Lt</i>		<i>Sindelar, Emil Edward, 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Grossi, Frank L., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Schick, Raymond E., 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Elder, Donald W., Cpl</i>		<i>Bush, Donald W., Sgt</i>
G	<i>Moberg, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt</i>		<i>Thomas, John P., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>McClurg, Millard C., M/Sgt</i>

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"Wednesday. Had to be on "alert" all the day long. We were waiting to go on a sea patrol but bomber command didn't request us to go. A rather dull day in all. There wasn't much to do as one can't leave his quarters when on "alert." When the alert was over, I went out to fly the plane but they had it taken apart so I couldn't go. Alex was going to go with us. Food is still very lousy here. Shave and Taylor paid me what they owed me so I have more money to send home when I get the money orders."

*Alexander, William T. "Alex", 1Lt, pilot Schave, Henry Lloyd, S/Sgt, turret-gunner
Taylor, Milo K., S/Sgt, radio-gunner*

428th BS War Diary: Brother Jenkins went on his first mission today as photographer. Target was Villacidro Airport, Sardinia. Boys claim they really raised hell; place was cluttered with JU-52's and fighters. Lt Wilson admitted to hospital.

*Jenkins, Howard L. "Larry", S/Sgt, photographer
Wilson, Kieth Gordon, 2Lt, pilot*

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 45: On February 17th, we bombed our first target on Axis soil proper, Villacidro Airdrome in Sardinia. Twelve planes loaded with Frags took off at 1310 hours.

The primary target was pretty well cloud obscured. However, nine aircraft were believed to have achieved excellent results on the drome. They bombed through a hole in the clouds. The lead three saved their bombs and dropped them on Decimomannu airdrome. Forty to sixty aircraft were parked in show parade formation. One string fell amongst these parked aircraft, and another string caused an explosion in the adjacent hangar area.

On the way home slight heavy and light flak was encountered from the city of Cagliari. A few scattered bursts were ineffective at the target. All aircraft returned unscathed.

Wednesday, 17 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)		A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified	
P	<i>Gshwandtner, Frank J. "Gish", 1Lt</i>		<i>Middleton, Laula M., 2Lt</i>
CP	<i>Williams, Edwin W., 2Lt</i>		<i>Frost, Roland (NMI), 2Lt</i>
N	<i>Doolittle, Leonard N., 1Lt</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Herold, Armin F., Jr., 2Lt</i>		<i>Surbaugh, Steven G., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Temple, Robert W., Sgt</i>		<i>Ficeto, Bartholomeo T., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Stage, Albert A., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Dickey, Norris D. "Pop", S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>Jenkins, Howard L. "Larry", S/Sgt</i>
	A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified		A/C No. 4 probably 41-13083 "Old 83"
P	<i>Milius, Morris O., 1Lt</i>		<i>Loutrel, John McCluney, 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Harder, Frank A., 2Lt</i>		<i>Smith, Merle E., 2Lt,</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Swim, Lowell W., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>None listed - likely the bombardier</i>		<i>None listed - likely the bombardier</i>
G	<i>Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Phillips, William E., Pvt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
	A/C No. 5 probably 41-13077 "The Reluctant Dragon" (later "Old Patch") (flight leader)		A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified - may be "Skunk Hunter"
P	<i>Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt</i>		<i>Marsh, Edward D., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Cunningham, Robert L., 2Lt</i>		<i>Stack, James F., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>Norvell, Richard T., 1Lt</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Upchurch, Jerry E., 2Lt</i>		<i>McDonald, Donald E. "Mac", Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Richardson, Warren F., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Bosworth, William H., T/Sgt</i>
G	<i>None listed</i>		<i>None listed - likely the bombardier</i>
F	<i>Walker, James P. "Chief" Capt, pilot Commander (observer)</i>		<i>None</i>

Thursday, 18 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): No Entry

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force): HQ North African Air Force (NAAF) is set up under General Carl Spaatz, USAAF, and the Twelfth Air Force becomes a paper outfit. Six principal subordinate commands are specified, i.e.: North African Air Support Command (NAASC), North African Coastal Air Force (NACAF), North African Photographic Reconnaissance Wing (NAPRW), North African Strategic Air Force (NASAF), North African Training Command (NATC), Twelfth Air Force Units assigned to NAAF described above are: NAASC: XII Air Support Command [33rd and 81st Fighter Groups and 47th Bombardment Group (Light)], NACAF: XII Fighter Command (31st, 52nd and 350th Fighter Groups), NAPRW: 3rd Photographic Group, NASAF: XII Bomber Command [97th and 301st Bombardment Groups (Heavy); 17th, 310th and 319th Bombardment Groups (Medium); 1st, 14th and 82nd Fighter Groups; and the 68th Observation Group], NATC: 15th Bombardment Squadron (Light).

In Algeria, weather cancels heavy and medium bomber operations.

In Tunisia, fighters provide direct support for the British First Army in the Sbeitla-Kasserine-Feriana areas. HQ 1st Fighter Group and its 27th Fighter Squadron P-38s transfers from Biskra, Algeria to Chateaudun-du-Rhumel, Algeria. The 342nd Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 97th Bombardment Group (Heavy) with B-17s transfers from Biskra, Algeria to Chateaudun-du-Rhumel, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"Thursday. Just another one of those days. Not much to do as the weather was rather rotten. Saw Joan Bennett in "Girl Trouble" in the evening. It was lousy as the projector ran too fast so as no one could understand them as to what was said. It was really funny sitting among the cows seeing a show. I had to move a cow in order to get a place to sit. The newly opened officers club is going great guns these days. It is nice to be able to get something to drink."

428th BS War Diary: Weather kept ships grounded. Joan Bennett in "Girl Trouble" was shown at the movies. Broke up Group Mess today.

Friday, 19 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-25s bomb the Gabes western area through heavy clouds.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Algeria, weather prevents heavy and medium bomber operations. In Tunisia, fighters and A-20s of the XII Air Support Command are grounded and unable to support ground forces as the enemy opens an attack on Kasserine with infantry and tanks supported by artillery. The 93rd Fighter Squadron, 81st Fighter Group with P-39s transfers from Port Lyautey, French Morocco to Berteaux, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*
"Friday. Visibility down to 2 miles and wind (surface) at 35 mph. No missions of course. We now have mess with the 428th now. Should be a much better set up. We bought 900 eggs today being that the meals are so rotten around here. We lost 85 out of 100 tanks yesterday. What a mess. We have even lost some of our advance pursuit fields. The story is really changing over here. We were on alert all day. Many planes came thru from the East with injured men. Rough."

428th BS War Diary: The weather man threw a howling wind at us today that tried to tear up the area. All planes grounded.

Saturday, 20 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Crete, RAF Liberators, under operational control of the IX Bomber Command, bomb Heraklion and Kastelli/Pediada Airfields during the night of 19/20 Feb. **In Italy**, B-24s bomb Crotona, Naples, Amantea, Palmi, Nicotera and Rosarno.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force): Weather again severely limits operations.

In Tunisia, a handful of P-39s strafe trucks and half-tracks in the Kasserine area as the enemy breaks through the Kasserine Pass and thrusts north and west toward Thala and Tebessa. HQ 33rd Fighter Group transfers from Youks-les-Bains, Algeria to Telerghma, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"Saturday. Nothing much to do all day except playing dice, cards, and etc. I didn't fair too good in the dice game. It rained all day. This place is really a mud puddle now. The enemy is only 90 miles away now. At the present date we are losing the war. There isn't any mail coming thru these days because of the need of materials up front. They are being flown in by air. Some transports went over in 500' ceiling weather. They really deserve loads of credit --- they are doing a good job."

428th BS War Diary: A few of the boys came back from town pretty well lit-up which caused a series of "chewing" with the 1/Sgt. Hrycenko, Stewart, and Scott returned from town after staying overnight.

Hrycenko, Max (NMI), Cpl
Scott, James C., Pvt

Johnston, Melvin R., Sgt, 1st Sgt
Stewart, William W., Cpl

Sunday, 21 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): The North African Tactical Air Force assumes operational control of the Western Desert Air Force; tactical groups remain administratively assigned to the Ninth Air Force.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-25s hit the railroad yards at Gafsa. Weather foils 3 attempts by P-39s and Spitfires to furnish support to ground forces battling the German drive north and west of the Kasserine Pass. Only 2 P-39s are able to reach the enemy and strafe tanks and trucks. HQ 31st Fighter Group transfers from Tebessa, Algeria to Youks-les-Bains, Algeria. The 308th Fighter Squadron assigned to the group transfers its Spitfire Mk Vs from Tebessa to Canrobert, Algeria. The 86th and 97th Bombardment Squadrons (Light), 47th Bombardment Group (Light) with A-20s transfer from Youks-les-Bains, Algeria to Canrobert, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 46:

Mission Report # 49, 21 February 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. At 1100 6 B-25-C's took off to Sea Search Shipping. None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

early. None dropped None Bombs on target at _____ from _____.
No. A/C No & Type Time Altitude

6 returned at 1453.
No. A/C Time
3. RESULTS: No shipping sighted, no bombs dropped all bombs returned to base.
4. OBS: Enemy Aircraft. Sighted one JU-52 or HE-177 at 37 degrees 35 min N, 10 degrees 32 min E, attacked by two P-38's of escort, enemy aircraft and 2 P-38's were shot down. P-38's appeared to be hit by cannon fire. Lead ship radioed position where fighters hit water to Air Sea Rescue Station at 1320 hours and received confirmation of message sent, position given as 37 degrees 33 min N, 10 degrees 37 min E. Lead ship dropped life raft to personnel swimming in water. Two crews report what they thought was a submarine periscope but it appeared to be painted red and white and a swirl about one hundred feet to west of reported object.

Sunday, 21 February 1943 (continued)

5. WEATHER: En Route--over land to coast 8/10 to 9/10 coverage at 1000 ft, visibility 1 to 2 miles.
OVER WATER: Close to land 8/10 to 9/10 coverage at 1000 ft, visibility 5 to 6 miles. East of 9 degrees 20 min E cloud coverage broke up and became CAVU.

6. PRESS DATA: None

Altitude of patrol: 200 ft.
Flight Leader: Capt. Allan.
Six (6) sorties flown 21/2/43.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 47:

Mission Report # 51, 21 February 1943 *(written/dated 22 Feb 43)*

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. At 1205 6 B-25-C's took off to Sea Search Shipping. 1 returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C
- early. 5 dropped 28 X 500 lb dem. Bombs on target at 1420 from 150 ft.
No. A/C No & Type Time Altitude
- 3 returned at 1430.
No. A/C Time
3. RESULTS: Mission was a complete success. Tanker estimated at 10,000 tons was observed to be on fire from direct hits from three planes of the lead element. Immense amount of flames and smoke went high into the air, and tanker was observed to be sinking fast when last observed by crews. Two planes in the second element made a pass over a cruiser, a vessel much larger than the two escorting destroyers. Two direct hits were observed on this vessel and three bombs hit in the water on attacking side of vessel. Cruiser when hit on the side keeled over on side, and bombs from second ship on attack hit at the stern and stern appeared to go up into the air and when last seen the stern was partly under water with black smoke pouring from amid-ships. Observing crew members report that cruiser was hit on the side and stern and was sinking at the stern.

Sunday, 21 February 1943 (continued)

4. OBS: At 1420 hours at 37 degrees 55 min N, 11 degrees 58 min E four enemy vessels were sighted, two destroyers, one cruiser and one tanker headed toward Bizerte. Later two destroyers at 37 degrees 44 min N, 11 degrees 10 min E were seen heading toward convoy about 15 miles distance. At 1440 hours at 37 degrees 40 min N, 10 degrees 50 min E four torpedo boats heading east.

Aircraft observed: One JU-88 or HE-177 at 37 degrees 58 min N, 12 degrees E, did not attack formation, shot down by P-38. One Arado seaplane at 37 degrees 50 min N, 12 degrees E did not attack formation, last seen going smoking after attack by P-38's.

Flak: Intense heavy and light flak from target and escorts.

5. WEATHER: To Coast-ceiling 2000 ft, 8/10 coverage and ground haze, visibility limited.

Over Water-haze one mile out to sea, visibility 8 miles, ceiling unlimited to coast on return. Weather closed in and four B-25-C's landed at Bone.

6. PRESS DATA: None

Flight Leader: 1st Element

Capt. White, Pilot

Lt. Col. Hinman, Observer

Lt. Leask, Pilot (*hand written correction changed Lt Amick to Lt Leask*)

Lt. Middleton, Pilot

2nd Element

Lt. Canham, Pilot

Lt. Milius, Pilot

Five (5) sorties flown 21/2/43.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

379th BS War Diary: February 21, 1943 was a day of great excitement. A large enemy tanker was reported as having left Sicily in the morning and we were to intercept it before it reached Tunisia. Two sea search missions were alerted.

Sunday, 21 February 1943 (continued)

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 46: Major Hoover, Capt. Allan and Lt. C. W. Smith were in the first flight sent out in the morning. One JU-88 or HE-177 was intercepted and shot down. The freighter was not seen.

A/C No. 1 *aircraft unidentified*

A/C No. 2 *aircraft unidentified* (Lead ship)

<p>P <i>Hoover, Travis (NMI), Maj, Commander</i></p> <p>CP <i>Allred, Alfred N., 1Lt</i></p> <p>N <i>Johnson, Laverne B., 2Lt</i></p> <p>B <i>Ross, Howard J., 2Lt</i></p> <p>E <i>None</i></p> <p>R <i>Burket, William C., S/Sgt</i></p> <p>G <i>Peery, Donald D., S/Sgt</i></p> <p>F <i>None</i></p>	<p><i>Allan, John T., Capt</i></p> <p><i>Beachum, Graham C., 2Lt</i></p> <p><i>Pound, William R., Jr., Capt</i></p> <p><i>Rulien, Donovan W., 1Lt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Marple, Louis F., S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>Pagano, Salvatore A., S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p>
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A/C No. 3 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

P *Smith, Charles W., 1Lt*

CP

N *None*

B

E *None*

R

G

F *None*

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 47: The 2nd flight ran “smack” into it. Lt. Col Hinman and Capt. White lead this flight. Lt. Leask was also with them. The freighter was hit and destroyed. One escorting cruiser was hit and damaged, 1 corvette was sunk and 3-5 JU-88’s were shot down. Capt White got back to Bone on one motor, Lt. Milius (428th Bomb Sq) was shot into the water, but he and his crew were picked up safely by the British Air Sea Rescue Service after being on their life raft for 20 hours.

Hinman, Harvey H., Lt Col, HQ 310th BG

Milius, Morris O., 1Lt, pilot, 428th BS

A/C No. 1 *41-13097 crew unidentified*
(Lead ship)(single engine - crashed at Tingley Field at Bone) (flight leader)

A/C No. 2 *aircraft unidentified* (flight leader)

<p>P <i>White, Alpheus Wray, Jr., Capt</i></p> <p>CP <i>Hinman, Harvey H., Lt Col, HQ 310th BG</i></p> <p>N <i>Sessler, Howard A., 1Lt, 380th BS</i></p> <p>B</p> <p>E <i>None</i></p> <p>R</p> <p>G</p> <p>F <i>None</i></p>	<p><i>Leask, Bertram J., 2Lt</i></p> <p><i>Lesonik, Leo (NMI), 2Lt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Ross, Howard J., 2Lt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Chase, Henry H., T/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>Kida, Stanley J., S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p>
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Sunday, 21 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 3 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

P

CP

N *None*

B

E *None*

R

G

F *None*

380th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 46:**
(380th BS did not participate)

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 47:**
(380th BS did not participate)

Mission Report # 31

Date- February 21, 1943

Target- Sea Search

Squadron airplanes- none

N- Lieut. H.A. Sessler, played an important role in the lead ship *(41-13097)*, piloted by Capt. Alpheus W. White of the 379th Squadron.

Sessler, Howard A., 1Lt

White, Alpheus Wray, Jr., Capt, pilot, 379th BS

It was a "must" target and grim determination was on the face of all the men as they climbed aboard the airplanes. The German Panzer divisions had just broken through at Kasserine and we had been given the difficult job of stopping them by knocking out their supplies.

The target, the largest tanker in the Italian fleet, disguised as a merchantman was somewhere out on the sea, headed for Bizerte with a large supply of gasoline for the tanks of Rommel.

We found him and three direct hits from an altitude of 200 feet, left him in flames; 10,000 tons of flames. A cruiser accompanying it was left on its side. Our escort of P-38's also had a good day. An Arado seaplane, a Junkers 88 and a Heinkel 177 fell under their blazing guns. One of our planes also went down from the heaviest flak we had ever seen coming from a ship.

Another convoy was seen heading southward but our bombs were gone and a difficult job had been accomplished. Lieut. Sessler had another experience, when the landing gear on Capt. White's airplane failed to respond after the heavy dose of flak had smeared it and but two wheels would come down, and extra pumping proved to no avail and the result was a forced landing and a cracked up airplane at Tingley Field, at Bone. The next day found the crew back safe and sound at Berteaux, after a long ride in an open truck.

Sessler, Howard A., 1Lt

White, Alpheus Wray, Jr., Capt, pilot, 379th BS

Sunday, 21 February 1943 (continued)

Praise for a job well done came from all directions, but the finest came from Major General Carl A. Spaatz, our commander-in-chief, when he stated that the victory at Kasserine Pass, was the result of this bombing. Rommel was beaten mainly because he had no gasoline to run his tanks.

Spaatz, Carl Andrew "Tooey", Maj Gen, Commander, Strategic Air Forces

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 46:
SEA SEARCH

Group Mission # 46	Flight 6 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 29	Escort 14 P-38's
Take Off 11:00	Bombs Dropped: None
Down 15:05	

Total Time: 4 Hrs. 5 Min.

Weather: Visibility 1 to 9 miles. CAVU en route back to base.

Remarks: No shipping sighted. All bombs returned. The P-38's attacked what appeared to be a JU-52 or HE-177, on patrol duty, and shot it down at the cost of two of their own ships. This action took place at 37D 30' - 10D 38' E. Having dropped a life raft to the German crew in the water, the flight returned to its base.

A/C No. 41-13052 "TABOO" (F)

P *VanDivort, Richard (NMI), 1Lt*
CP *Wightman, Henry B. "Hank", 1Lt*
N *None*
B *Smith, Willie A., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Chaffins, Ray (NMI), S/Sgt*
G *Nelson, Forest S., Sgt*
F *None*

**A/C No. 41-13102 "GREEN EYES"
(Pancho under CP window) (D)**

Eddy, Leonard A., Capt
Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt
Katzenbach, Nicholas D. "Katz", 1Lt
Pickett, Perry D., Capt
None
Taylor, Milo K., S/Sgt
Kiel, William H., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 41-13061 "LIL' JOE" (E)

P *Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt*
CP *Lewis, Kenneth E., 1Lt*
N *None*
B *Daly, Donald J., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Nickelson, Royal C., T/Sgt*
G *Molnar, William J., S/Sgt*
F *None*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 47:
(381st BS did not participate)

Sunday, 21 February 1943 (continued)

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*

"(Log 5:00 hours) Sunday. A Sea Patrol. And what a job --- had to fly at 11,000' part of the way. And over an overcast! We ran into a JU-88. The P-38's lost two planes and the enemy lost one JU-88. Not very good for our side. Only got four hours sleep due to the air raid alerts, and such disturbances during the night. The second patrol sank a tanker (German's largest) and a destroyer. Several B-25's are missing yet, including Col. Hinman. Our patrol would have had a chance at the convoy if it hadn't been for the JU-88."

Hinman, Harvey H., Lt. Col, pilot, HQ 310th BG Deputy Commander

428th BS War Diary: A field day at sea! A 10,000 ton tanker disguised as a freighter was spotted off the coast accompanied by three other ships. When the flight pulled away a cruiser had been sunk and the tanker was left a blazing inferno with flames shooting as high as 300 feet. It is believed Lt. Canham and crew sunk the cruiser. P-38's got a JU-88 and a torpedo plane. Lt. Milius crashed into the Mediterranean off the coast of Bone. The whole crew, S/Sgts Foley, Myers, Stilp and Lt. Harder, were rescued by a British Sea Patrol. Rest of planes landed at Bone for the night.

Canham, Arthur E., 1Lt, pilot

Harder, Frank A., 2Lt, pilot

Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt, gunner

Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt, gunner

Milius, Morris O., 1Lt, pilot

Stilp, John P., S/Sgt, radio-gunner

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 46: Things looked pretty ominous this morning, the 21st of February. The Germans were driving through Kasserine pass. We were on alert to move within an hour if necessary. Somehow, we could sense that it wasn't as bad as all that, but we knew it was bad, and that our forces weren't nearly as strong as we wanted to believe.

At 1100 the first of the six plane search missions took off, looking for shipping. The briefing took an ominous tone for the orders were literally to do or die. The Axis was desperately short of gas and sinking the tanker that had been reported in the Mediterranean would go a long way toward decreasing Axis pressure on our ground troops.

The sea search was not fruitful. An HE-177 on reconnaissance was intercepted by the P-38's and dispatched, but not until its tail cannon had downed two of our fighters. In their eagerness they must have mistaken it for an HE-111. It was losses like this that hurt the most. One of the downed fighters made a good landing and we dropped him a life raft.

Sunday, 21 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 1 *aircraft unidentified*

P *Gshwandtner, Frank J. "Gish", 1Lt*
CP *Williams, Edwin W., 2Lt*
N *Doolittle, Leonard N., 1Lt*
B *Truelove, Denver V., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Temple, Robert W., Sgt*
G *Stage, Albert A., S/Sgt*
F *None*

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 47: By noon more definite reports had arrived concerning this Axis fuel shipment. Six planes were alerted for a mission down the gun barrels. One was forced to return because of mechanical failures.

The tanker was seen sinking when last seen, the superstructure a raging inferno. It was reported to be of at least 10,000 tons. Lt. Canham and Milius of the 428th proceeded over an escorting cruiser, one of the four naval escort and left it with part of the stern below water. The mission was a phenomenal success.

At least two aircraft of the convoy's air cover were destroyed by the escort and S/Sgt Myers of the squadron downed a JU-88 on the bomb run. The flak, both light and heavy, and the machine gun fire was very intense and at point blank range it couldn't help but be very accurate. Lt Milius, whose aircraft was badly damaged was forced to make a water landing thirty miles North of Cape Serrat. The fate of the crew was in doubt for two days.

Captain White's aircraft was a complete washout. It was crash landed at Bone, a total wreck.

A/C No. 1 *probably 41-13070 "Shanghi Lil"* (flight leader) A/C No. 2 *aircraft unidentified* (flight leader)

P <i>Canham, Arthur E., 1Lt</i>	<i>Middleton, Laula M., 2Lt</i>
CP <i>Wilson, Kieth Gordon, 1Lt</i>	<i>Frost, Roland (NMI), 2Lt</i>
N <i>Hartman, Richard J., 1Lt</i>	<i>None</i>
B <i>Vestal, Marion S., 2Lt</i>	<i>Surbaugh, Steven G., S/Sgt</i>
E <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R <i>Rebello, John E., Jr., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Ficeto, Bartholomeo T., S/Sgt</i>
G <i>Parker, Perrie C., Sgt</i>	<i>Dickey, Norris D. "Pop", S/Sgt</i>
F <i>None</i>	

Sunday, 21 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 3 *aircraft unidentified* (flight
leader)

P *Milius, Morris O., 1Lt*
CP *Harder, Frank A., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Stilp, John P., T/Sgt*
G *Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt*
F *None*

Monday, 22 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): HQ 376th Bombardment Group (Heavy) transfers from Gambut, Libya to Soluch, Libya.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, A-20s of the 47th Bombardment Group (Light) and fighters, flying close support to Allied ground forces, aid in repulsing Field Marshall Rommel's drive toward Thala and Tebessa. The 47th flies 11 missions and bomb at minimum altitude; 1 A-20 is lost after being hit by 3 Bf 109s; several aircraft sustain wing damage from ripping antennae off German tanks and trucks. At 1915 hours local the enemy begins a general withdrawal toward Kasserine. B-17s bomb the Kasserine Pass while B-25s hit the nearby bridge and escorting P-38s strafe retreating troops. Other B-25s hit the railway yards at Gafsa. P-39s of the 154th Observation Squadron, 68th Observation Group fly 17 attack-reconnaissance sorties over the Kasserine area destroying 3 tanks and damaging 10 trucks while losing 1 aircraft. HQ 81st Fighter Group and its 91st and 92nd Fighter Squadrons with P-39s transfer from Le Kouif Airfield, Algeria to Youks-les-Bains, Algeria. The 307th and 309th Fighter Squadrons, 31st Fighter Group with Spitfire Mk Vs transfer from Tebessa, Algeria to Youks-les-Bains, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 48:

Mission Report # 52, 22 February 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. At 1010 6 B-25-C's took off to Sea Search Shipping. None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

early. 3 dropped 15 X 500 Dem. Bombs on target at 1148 from 150 ft .
No. A/C No & Type Time Altitude

returned at 1453. 3 salvaged 18 X 500 Dem. Bombs in sea.
Time No. A/C
3. RESULTS: Two freighters escorted by three destroyers and one flak barge attacked by B-25-C's. The largest freighter which was over 500 feet in length was sunk. After bombs struck the vessel it began to sink immediately at 1148 hours at 37 degrees 35 min N, 11 degrees E. After turn the freighter was observed going down with steam and smoke coming out of water.

Monday, 22 February 1943 (continued)

4. OBS: Enemy Aircraft. Two freighters escorted by two destroyers and one flak barge sighted at 1148 hours at 37 degrees 35 min N, 11 degrees E. Seven to eleven JU-88's, 5 to six ME-110's, and one FW-190, and one ME-210 in target area. Intense heavy and light flak and machine gun fire from target and escort.

OWN LOSSES: One (1) B-25-C crashed into sea after bombing run at approximately 37 degrees 35 min N, 11 degrees E at 1148 hours.

ENEMY LOSSES: One freighter sunk. One ME-210 and one FW-190 destroyed.

5. WEATHER: En Route: 4/10 to 6/10 coverage at 6000 ft, visibility 10 miles.
Over Sea: CAVU with slight haze.
Back: Broken clouds at 2500 ft.
6. PRESS DATA: S/Sgt. Herbert Huffman, 35266306 (380th BS), Hansford, W. Va., shot down one FW-190. Plane hit water nose first. S/Sgt. Palmer C. Melhus, 39386330 (380th BS), 2611 N.E. Rodney Ave., Portland Ore., fired about 400 rounds into ME-210, plane burst into flames and crashed into the sea.

Flight Leader: Capt. Cometh
Maj. Wilder

Six (6) sorties flown 22/2/43.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 49:

Mission Report # 54, 22 February 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. At 1555 9 B-25-C's took off to Bomb Troop concentration NW Kasserine.
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target
- 1 returned early. 8 dropped None bombs on target at _____.
No. A/C No. A/C No & Type Time
- Target not reached due to weather. 8 returned at 1750.
No. A/C Time

Monday, 22 February 1943 (continued)

- 3. RESULTS: Target area found to be completely closed in by thick clouds. No approach could be found so formation returned to base.
- 4. OBS: None
- 5. WEATHER: En Route- 8/10 to 9/10 coverage at 5000 ft, visibility, 5 miles.
Target: Not reached. 10 to 15 miles from target ceiling lowered to 1500 ft with rain and 10/10 coverage, visibility 1 to 5 miles.
Back: Same as on way out except that ceiling was generally lower.
- 6. PRESS DATA: None

Flight Leader: Capt. Helsabeck.
Eight (8) sorties flown 22/2/43.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 48:**
(379th BS did not participate)

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 49:**

A/C No. 1 *aircraft & crew unidentified* A/C No. 2 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

A/C No. 3 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

Monday, 22 February 1943 (continued)

380th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 48:

Mission Report # 32

Date- February 22, 1943

Target- Sea Search.

Squadron airplanes- five

Our frequent trips over water once again paid dividends and low-level bombing of a 500 foot freighter was deadly accurate enough to send it straight to the bottom. Despite the intense protection afforded it by two destroyers, one flak barge and an airplane cover of eight JU-88's and six ME-110's, we drove home and down she went.

S/Sgt Herbert Huffman drew first blood with a lone FW-190 that had been hanging on the outside of the battle. S/Sgt. Palmer Melhus also added to his score with a ME-210, the first of this type to fall beneath the guns of a member of this Group.

All of our planes returned safely, calling it a job well done.

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (Lead ship)		A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified	
P	<i>Cometh, Lawrence (NMI), Capt</i>		<i>Amick, Cecil D., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Miller, James I., 2Lt</i>		<i>Porter, Lloyd L., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>Huffman, Arnie J., 2Lt</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Liverman, Ernest W. "Big Red", 2Lt</i>		<i>Longrie, Kenneth R., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Mount, Robert J., Pvt</i>		<i>Meyer, Albert J., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Melhus, Palmer C., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Huffman, Herbert (NMI), S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>Wilder, Rodney R. "Hoss", Maj, Commander (observer)</i>		<i>None</i>
A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified		A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified	
P	<i>Draemel, Dean H., 1Lt</i>		<i>Santos, Carroll A., Jr., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Sours, Robert J., 2Lt</i>		<i>Picklesimer, Marion L., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>Kanode, Robert C., 1Lt</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Holmes, William G., 2Lt</i>		<i>Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Shambaugh, Robert M., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Smith, Teddy L., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Williams, John A., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Redding, William D., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>Erb, Arthur K., Pvt</i>
A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified			
P	<i>Sacknoff, David A., 1Lt</i>		
CP	<i>Walcott, Albert R., 2Lt</i>		
N	<i>None</i>		
B	<i>Links, Albert G., S/Sgt</i>		
E	<i>None</i>		
R	<i>Wesline, Richard L., T/Sgt</i>		
G	<i>Grace, John J., Sgt</i>		
F	<i>None</i>		

Monday, 22 February 1943 (continued)

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 49:
(380th BS did not participate)

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 48:

SEA SEARCH

Group Mission # 48	Flight 6 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 30	Escort P-38's
Take Off 10:10	Bomb Load: (6 x 500)
Target 11:48	Bombs Dropped: 1 (6 x 500). 3000#
Down 13:50	

Total Time: 3 Hrs. 40 Min.

Weather: Visibility 10 miles overland. CAVU over sea.

Remarks: Six 500# bombs dropped on large freighter, which sank within three minutes. This vessel was one of two of a convoy off Tunis, which was escorted by a flak barge and two destroyers together with 10 JU-88's, 6 ME-210's and 1 FW-190.

The flak was intense and the enemy fighters flew thru their own flak, from the escort vessels. One ME-210 and one FW-190 were shot down by our planes.

1st Lt. F.M. Atkinson's ship failed to return.

A/C No. 41-13075 "SHEENA"

(MACR-16373 - shot down by) (C)

P *Atkinson, Fred M., 1Lt*
CP *Hartley, John R., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Green, William B., Capt*
E *None*
R *Blaschko, Lambert J., S/Sgt*
G *Smith, James F., Sgt*
F *McClurg, Millard C., M/Sgt*

381st BS: Extracts from Missing Air Crew Report # 16373:

A/C No. 41-13075 "SHEENA" (MACR-16373 - shot down by) (C)

P *Atkinson, Fred M., 1Lt – MIA, POW, RMC*
CP *Hartley, John R., 2Lt – MIA, POW, RMC*
N *None*
B *Green, William B., Capt – MIA, KIA*
E *None*
R *Blaschko, Lambert J., S/Sgt – MIA, KIA*
G *Smith, James F., Sgt – MIA, KIA*
F *McClurg, Millard C., M/Sgt – MIA, KIA*

Monday, 22 February 1943 (continued)

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 49:

ROAD JUNCTION N.W. OF KASSERINE

Group Mission # 49 Flight 9 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 31 Escort 4 Spitfires
Take Off 16:00 Bomb Load: (6 x 500)
Down 18:00 Bombs Dropped: None

Total Time: 2 Hrs. 0 Min.

Weather: Visibility 1 to 5 miles. Zero at target.

Remarks: 500# bombs carried. None dropped, due to solid overcast obscuring target area. No enemy fighters. No flak.

A/C No. 41-13090 (E)

P *Martin, Robert W., 1Lt*
CP *Sindelar, Emil Edward, 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Schick, Raymond E., 1Lt*
E *None*
R *Bush, Donald W., Sgt*
G *Thomas, John P., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13102 "GREEN EYES" (Pancho under CP window) (G)

P *Eddy, Leonard A., Capt*
CP *Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt*
N *Katzenbach, Nicholas D. "Katz", 1Lt*
B *Pickett, Perry D., Capt*
E *None*
R *Taylor, Milo K., S/Sgt*
G *Schave, Henry Lloyd, S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13061 "LIL' JOE" (J)

Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt
Lewis, Kenneth E., 1Lt
None
Daly, Donald J., T/Sgt
None
Nickelson, Royal C., T/Sgt
Molnar, William J., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 41-13052 "TABOO" (H)

VanDivort, Richard (NMI), 1Lt
Wightman, Henry B. "Hank", 1Lt
None
Myers, John H., 1Lt
None
Elder, Donald W., Cpl
Nelson, Forest S., Sgt
None

381st BS: War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot
"Today ---- Atkinson, Hartley and Greene shot down on a sea sweep."
Atkinson, Fred M., 1Lt, pilot
Hartley, John R., 2Lt, pilot
Green, William B., Capt, navigator, bombardier

428th BS War Diary: Word came through that the boys in the sea weren't rescued after all. When the rescue crew arrived there was nobody there. It is believed they drifted to safety. Had two daylight alerts and one at midnight.

Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt, gunner
Milius, Morris O., 1Lt, pilot
Stilp, John P., S/Sgt, radio-gunner

Harder, Frank A., 2Lt, pilot
Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt, gunner

Monday, 22 February 1943 (continued)

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 48:
(428th BS did not participate)

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 49: Of the three missions run from Berteaux on the twenty-second, Captain Helsabeck led one of the two over Kasserine pass. Eight aircraft proceeded to the target area only to find a nine-tenths cloud coverage, a 500-foot ceiling, and showers in the target area. Dejectedly, they returned with their bombs for they knew that troop concentration was to cause much damage. Weather had been one of the curses of February operation.

A/C No. 1 *probably 41-13077* “The
Reluctant Dragon” (later “Old Patch”)
(Lead ship)

P *Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt*
CP *Cunningham, Robert L., 2Lt*
N *Norvell, Richard T., 1Lt*
B *Truelove, Denver V., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt*
G *Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 *aircraft unidentified*

Gshwandtner, Frank J. "Gish", 1Lt
Williams, Edwin W., 2Lt
Doolittle, Leonard N., 2Lt
Herold, Armin F., Jr., 2Lt
None
Temple, Robert W., Sgt
Stage, Albert A., S/Sgt
None

Tuesday, 23 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): In Italy, B-24s attack the Messina ferry slip, scoring direct hits and leaving the target area burning.

In Tunisia, B-25s hit Arram in the Mareth Line during the late evening.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In the Mediterranean, B-25s attack shipping north of Cap Bon, claiming 1 vessel sunk.

In Tunisia, B-17s bomb Kairouan Airfield and hit troops retreating through the Kasserine Pass. B-25s and B-26s hit the Kasserine Pass and the bridge nearby. A-20s and fighters also attack retreating columns in the Kasserine area. The 3rd Air Defense Wing arrives at Oran, Algeria to control air defense units in the Oran area as part of the North African Coastal Air Force. HQ 99th Bombardment Group (Heavy), a B-17 unit, arrives at Navarin, Algeria from the US.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 50:

Mission Report # 56, 23 February 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.

2. At 1100 6 B-25-C's took off to Sea Search Shipping. None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

early. None dropped None Bombs on target at from .
No. A/C No & Type Time Altitude

. 3 returned at 1410. 1 returned at 1705.
No. A/C Time

3. RESULTS: No shipping sighted. 30x500lb. bombs returned to base.

4. OBS: None.

One escort plane crashed into water, cause unknown. Bombers dropped life rafts and life vests. One bomber left formation to contact Air Sea Rescue Station. Coordinates of place of landing in sea 37° 20' N, 9° 5' E at 1205 hours. Telephoned to A-3 Nutmeg at 1450 hours, to A-2 Newport 1455 hours.

Tuesday, 23 February 1943

5. WEATHER: En Route to coast 5/10 coverage at 3000' to 5000', visibility 6 to 8 miles.

Over water, ceiling unlimited, visibility restricted to 6 miles due to haze.

Coast to Base, 7/10 coverage at 3500', visibility 8 miles.

6. PRESS DATA: None.

Altitude of patrol: 200'.

Flight Leader: Capt. Helsabeck

Six (6) sorties flown 23/2/43.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 51:

Mission Report # 58, 23 February 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.

2. At 1400 6 B-25-C's took off to Sea Search Shipping. None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

early. 6 dropped 26 X 500 Dem. bombs on target at 1555 from 200 ft .
No. A/C No & Type Time Altitude

. 3 returned at 1745.
No. A/C Time

3. RESULTS: Bombers sighted approximately 13 barges at 37 degrees 42 min N, 11 degrees 33 min E at 1555 hours. Bombers made attack and five barges were sunk and others damaged. Fighters report that bombs quartered the target. Attack was made in the face of intense fire from 20 mm. cannon and machine gun fire.
4. OBS: Thirteen barges sighted at 37 degrees 42 min N, 11 degrees 33 min E at 1555 hours. Barges were heavily loaded with trucks, supplies and barrels. Barges appeared to be built up in the center in a turret, and intense fire was coming from all over the barges. About 65 miles west of the position given of the target and on the horizon smoke from what appeared to be a steamer headed in the direction of Bizerte. At 1540 hours at 37 degrees 35 min N, 10 degrees 35 min E many barrels, drums, planks and much debris including many life rafts were scattered over a wide area.

Tuesday, 23 February 1943

Enemy A/C - One unidentified plane at 1545 hours, and one unidentified plane at 1550 hours. At target area 5 planes were seen-- one JU-88, one FW-190, one ME-109 and two single engine aircraft that were unable to be identified. Escort- P-38's gave good protection.

OWN LOSSES: Three B-25-C's, shot down by flak. First B-25-C was hit directly over target, wing hit water and nosed in, an uncontrolled landing. Second B-25-C, burning in lift engine and went into the sea in an apparently controlled landing. Third B-25-C, made a good landing. Fighters report that crew was seen standing on a wing.

5. WEATHER: TO COAST: 8/10 to 9/10 coverage at 6000 ft, visibility 6 miles.
OVERWATER: Ceiling unlimited, visibility 10 miles, showers and overcast on leg north of Bizerte.
COAST TO BASE: Same as way out.
6. PRESS DATA: None.

Altitude of patrol: 200'.
Flight Leader: Capt. Eddy
Major Ferguson
Capt. Allan

Six (6) sorties flown 23/2/43.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

379th BS War Diary: On February 23, 1943 ten enemy flak barges were intercepted off the Aegadi Islands and from 3 to 5 of these were sunk. Out of a flight of six ships 3 planes from the Group were shot into the sea. It was on this mission that Major Ferguson of the 381st Bomb Squadron was lost.

Ferguson, Ivan Leonard, Maj, pilot, Commander, 381st BS

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 50:

(379th BS did not participate)

Tuesday, 23 February 1943 (continued)

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 51:

<i>A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)</i>	<i>A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified</i>
P <i>Allan, John T., Capt</i>	<i>Leask, Bertram J., 2Lt</i>
CP <i>Beachum, Graham C., 2Lt</i>	<i>Lesonik, Leo (NMI), 2Lt</i>
N <i>Pound, William R., Jr., Capt</i>	<i>None</i>
B <i>Rulien, Donovan W., 1Lt</i>	<i>Ross, Howard J., 2Lt</i>
E <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R <i>Marple, Louis F., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Chase, Henry H., T/Sgt</i>
G <i>Pagano, Salvatore A., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Kida, Stanley J., S/Sgt</i>
F <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified</i>	
P <i>Hamilton, Robert M. "Ham", 1Lt</i>	
CP <i>Grant, Isaac E., 2Lt</i>	
N <i>None</i>	
B <i>Pettibon, Woodrow W., S/Sgt</i>	
E <i>None</i>	
R <i>Haskell, Harris M., S/Sgt</i>	
G <i>Brunner, Robert M., S/Sgt</i>	
F <i>None</i>	

380th BS War Diary: (No non-mission information)

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 50:

Mission Report # 33

Date- February 23, 1943

Target- Sea Search.

Squadron airplanes- one

Our Squadron represented one-sixth of this mission, still out looking for boats. The trip proved to be nothing more than a ride as nothing was sighted.

One of the P-38's escorting us went down in the drink, but the cause is not known. We stayed around long enough to drop him a life raft and to see that he climbed in it. He was later reported as being rescued.

All of our planes returned safely.

<i>A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified</i>	
P <i>Batten, Earl E., Capt</i>	
CP <i>Shorsher, Fred A., 2Lt</i>	
N <i>None</i>	
B <i>Sessler, Howard A., 1Lt</i>	
E <i>None</i>	
R <i>Dackiewicz, John A., Cpl</i>	
G <i>Szczesniak, Alfred A., S/Sgt</i>	
F <i>None</i>	

Tuesday, 23 February 1943 (continued)

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 51:

Mission Report # 34

Date- February 23, 1943

Target- Sea Search.

Squadron airplanes- one

Twice in the same day we represented one-sixth of a mission, both times sea searches. On the way out we began to realize that something was due to happen, when we first spotted barrels, drums of oil, the bottom of a boat and other debris floating around on the water.

The expected was not long in arriving as we spotted 13 flak barges, making the trip south. At low level we went over them and five went down, with trucks and other equipment that had been on them scattered about through the water. The flak was intense but of the light variety. Damage was done to the remaining barges.

Three of our airplanes went down that afternoon, one of them lieut. Loomis and his crew. The crew of one plane could be seen standing on the wing after it had started to settle in the water. Who it was we do not know. Missing in action is their classification.

A/C No. 41-13069 (MACR-14582 -
shot down by AAA) **

P *Loomis, Frederick F., 1Lt*
CP *Moir, David (NMI), Jr., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Schisler, Robert P., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Willis, Earl B., Pvt*
G *Nichols, Edward H., Sgt*
F *Erb, Arthur K., Pvt*

** *from Casualty Report:* With the exception of Pvt. E.B. Willis, the radio operator on the ship, all the members of the crew have been reported as PRISONERS OF WAR, and are being held in confinement at a German Prison Camp.

380th BS: Extracts from Missing Air Crew Report # 14582:

4 June 1945

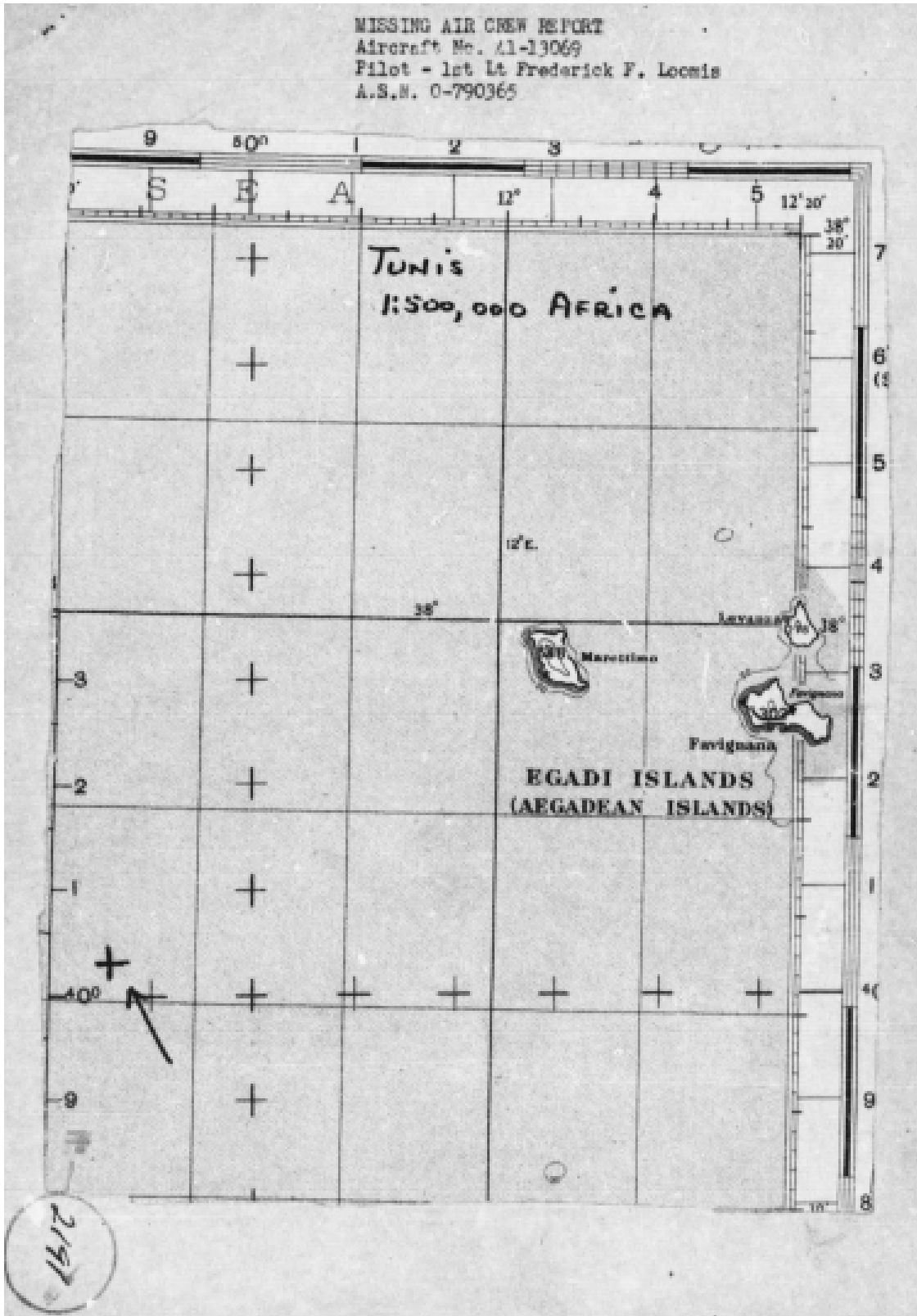
No one who participated in this mission is available for a statement concerning the crash landing made by Lt. Loomis. Intelligence reports of the action on that particular day are confused and provide no specific or reliable information.

A/C No. 41-13069 (MACR-14582 - shot down by AAA)

P *Loomis, Frederick F., 1Lt - MIA, POW, RMC, EUS, RTD*
CP *Moir, David (NMI), Jr., 2Lt - MIA, POW, RMC, EUS, RTD*
N *None*
B *Schisler, Robert P., 2Lt - MIA, POW, RMC, EUS, RTD*
E *None*
R *Willis, Earl B., Pvt - MIA, POW, RMC, EUS, RTD*
G *Nichols, Edward H., Sgt - MIA, POW, RMC, EUS, RTD*
F *Erb, Arthur K., Pvt - MIA, POW, RMC, EUS, RTD*

Tuesday, 23 February 1943 (continued)

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT
Aircraft No. 41-13069
Pilot - 1st Lt Frederick F. Loomis
A.S.N. O-790365



Tuesday, 23 February 1943 (continued)

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 50:

SEA SEARCH

Group Mission # 50	Flight 6 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 32	Escort 15 P-38's
Take Off 10:15	Bomb Load: (5 x 300)
Down 14:00	Bombs Dropped: None
Total Time: 3 Hrs. 05 Min.	

Weather: Visibility 6 to 8 miles.

Remarks: No shipping sighted. No enemy fighters. No flak. All Bombs returned. One P-38 went down at sea; the formation circled and saw pilot safely aboard life raft which was dropped from one of the Bombers. They also notified the British Air-Sea Rescue Service of his position.

A/C No. 41-13052 "TABOO" (F)

P *Phillips, Carl A., 1Lt*
CP *Schrupp, Elwin F., 1Lt*
N *None*
B *Myers, John H., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Nickelson, Royal C., T/Sgt*
G *Kiel, William H., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13061 "LIL' JOE" (E)

Linden, Eric O., 1Lt
Jackson, William C., 1Lt
None
Caron, John B., T/Sgt
None
LaPorte, Frank R., T/Sgt
Hughes, Albert (NMI), S/Sgt
None

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 51:

SEA SEARCH

Group Mission # 51	Flight 6 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 33	Escort 18 P-38's
Take Off 14:00	Bomb Load: (6 x 500)
Target 15:15	Bombs Dropped: 2 (4 x 500). 4000#
Down 17:45	
Total Time: 3 Hrs. 45 Min.	

Weather: Visibility 6 to 10 miles.

Remarks: Thirteen Seibel Ferries loaded with trucks, boxes and barrels were attacked at 37D 42' N-33D 00' E. These large barges are well armed with machine guns and A/A. Five were sunk and several others damaged. They were escorted by two ME-109's and two Macchi 200's.

The flak from all 13 barges was concentrated upon our first element; which included the 2 381st A/C, and all three B-25's crash landed into the sea.

One crew was observed to have succeeded in climbing out on the wing.

Tuesday, 23 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 41-13090 (MACR-? - shot down by AAA) (C)

P *Martin, Robert W., 1Lt*
CP *Sindelar, Emil Edward, 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Schick, Raymond E., 1Lt*
E *None*
R *Bush, Donald W., Sgt*
G *Thomas, John P., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13102 "GREEN EYES" (Pancho under CP window) (MACR-? - shot down by AAA) (A) (flight leader)

Eddy, Leonard A., Capt
Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt
Katzenbach, Nicholas D. "Katz", 1Lt
Pickett, Perry D., Capt
None
Taylor, Milo K., S/Sgt
Schave, Henry Lloyd, S/Sgt
Ferguson, Ivan Leonard, Maj, Commander (observer)

381st BS: Extracts from Missing Air Crew Report # ?: *(MACR not available)*

A/C No. 41-13090 (MACR-? - shot down by AAA) (C)

P *Martin, Robert W., 1Lt - MIA*
CP *Sindelar, Emil Edward, 2Lt - MIA*
N *None*
B *Schick, Raymond E., 1Lt - MIA*
E *None*
R *Bush, Donald W., Sgt - KIA*
G *Thomas, John P., S/Sgt - MIA*
F *None*

381st BS: Extracts from Missing Air Crew Report # ?: *(MACR not available)*

A/C No. 41-13102 "GREEN EYES" (Pancho under CP window) (MACR-? - shot down by AAA) (A)

P *Eddy, Leonard A., Capt - MIA, POW, RMC*
CP *Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt - MIA, POW, RMC*
N *Katzenbach, Nicholas D. "Katz", 1Lt - MIA*
B *Pickett, Perry D., Capt - MIA, POW, RMC*
E *None*
R *Taylor, Milo K., S/Sgt - MIA, POW, RMC*
G *Schave, Henry Lloyd, S/Sgt - MIA, POW, RMC*
F *Ferguson, Ivan Leonard, Maj, Commander (observer) - MIA, POW, RMC*

381st BS: War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot
"(Log 2:30 hours) Hit 22 ship convoy. My ship "Green Eyes" (41-13102) shot down. Also two other kites."

Tuesday, 23 February 1943 (continued)

428th BS War Diary: The sea rovers were picked up today after 21 hours afloat on a raft. A British Sea Rescue party found them floating in the Mediterranean and took them into Bone. Lts. Milius and Harder and S/Sgt Stilp returned to the Base. Foley and Myers were taken to the hospital for treatment. Planes went on another sea search but no luck.

Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt, gunner

Harder, Frank A., 2Lt, pilot

Milius, Morris O., 1Lt, pilot

Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt, gunner

Stilp, John P., S/Sgt, radio-gunner

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 50: On the 22nd, Lt. Atkinson and his crew were lost (381st) after another successful sea search. Though the crews may have been assigned to different squadrons, the differences ended there. Cadet classmates, bunk mates, fellow fliers, a loss to one was a loss felt as keenly by all. The flying officers of the 381st occupied one side of the upstairs room in the administration building, the 428th, the other. Three of their seven were missing now. The next day raised the total to five of seven. When was it to be their turn, the 428th wondered. The hearts of the men were beginning to melt. In all seriousness the flying men would approach one or other of the ground personnel, entreating them that they be certain that these letters, that pile of francs, those pictures, get home. There wasn't any "if" implied. It was "when". Such were the minds of these men. To the bystander it was heartbreaking.

Atkinson, Fred M., 1Lt, pilot, 381st BS

The morning of the 23rd found the situation more critical than ever. Three of our planes went on the first of two low level sea searches. Once again no shipping was observed.

One of the escorting P-38's was forced to land in the water for unknown reasons. Life vests and two rafts were dropped. Captain Helsabeck landed at Bone to speed air-sea rescue aid.

A/C No. 1 probably 41-13077 "The Reluctant Dragon" (later "Old Patch")

A/C No. 2 probably 41-13083 "Old 83"

P *Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt*

Loutrel, John McCluney, 1Lt

CP *Cunningham, Robert L., 2Lt*

Smith, Merle E., 2Lt,

N *Colvin, Jay W., Jr., 1Lt*

None

B *Upchurch, Jerry E., 1Lt*

Swim, Lowell W., S/Sgt

E *None*

None

R *Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt*

Bennett, Robert L., T/Sgt

G *Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt*

Phillips, William E., Pvt

F *Walker, James P. "Chief" Capt,
Commander (observer)*

None

Tuesday, 23 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 3 *aircraft unidentified - may be*
"Skunk Hunter"

P *Marsh, Edward D., 1Lt*
CP *Stack, James F., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *McDonald, Donald E. "Mac", Sgt*
E *None*
R *Bosworth, William H., T/Sgt*
G *Payne, Charles C., Sgt*
F *None*

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 51:

(428th BS did not participate)

In the second sea search the 381st lost two more crews--those commanded by Lt. Martin and Capt. Eddy. Major Ferguson, C.O. of the 381st, was riding with Capt. Eddy. Lt. Loomis and his crew of the 380th was also lost.

Eddy, Leonard A., Capt, pilot, 381st BS

Ferguson, Ivan Leonard, Maj, pilot, Commander, 381st BS

Loomis, Frederick F., 1Lt, pilot, 380th BS

Martin, Robert W., 1Lt, pilot, 381st BS

One of the returning three planes would never be fit to fly again. When was this to end? When was the 428th luck to fail us?

Twelve planes of the 12th Bomb Group did a fine job at Kasserine Pass. They'd been working on ground support targets for a week. Attached to the 12th Air Force from the Ninth, they were wise in the ways of making living conditions in the field most bearable. They helped us a lot. A swell bunch of boys.

Wednesday, 24 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): No Entry

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In the Mediterranean, B-25s sink several barges northeast of Cap Bon.

In Tunisia, B-17s bomb Kairouan Airfield. B-26s and B-17s bomb enemy columns in Kasserine Pass and hit the town of Kasserine, while B-25s attack highway traffic near Sbeitla. A-20s and fighters hit motor transport in a wide area around Kasserine and Sbeitla. HQ 81st Fighter Group and its 91st and 92nd Fighter Squadrons with P-39s transfer from Youks-les-Bains, Algeria to Le Kouif Airfield, Algeria reversing a move made last Wednesday. The 154th Observation Squadron, 68th Observation Group with A-20s transfers from Oujda, French Morocco to join its detachment at Youks-les-Bains, Algeria. Prior to WWII, the 154th was an Arkansas National Guard unit.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS: *War Diary of: Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 2Lt, pilot*
"Captured 4:30 PM. the 24th of Feb. 1943."

428th BS War Diary: All's quiet today. Combat crews given a rest.

Thursday, 25 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, B-24s bomb Naples harbor and Crotone during the night of 24/25 Feb.

In Tunisia, B-25s attack motor transport on the Arram road. The 512th, 513th and 514th Bombardment Squadrons (Heavy), 376th Bombardment Group (Heavy) with B-24s transfer from Gambut, Libya to Soluch, Libya.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-17s bomb El Aouina Airfield. Fighters and A-20s hit troops and military traffic in the Thala-Kasserine-Sbeitla areas and along the Gafsa-Feriana road. Other fighters carry out widespread reconnaissance and patrol missions. British First Army and US troops of the II Corps occupy Kasserine Pass. HQ 31st Fighter Group and its 307th Fighter Squadron with Spitfire Mk Vs transfer from Youks-les-Bains, Algeria to Kalaa Djerda, Tunisia. The 308th Fighter Squadron also with Spitfire Mk Vs transfers from Canrobert, Algeria to Kalaa Djerda.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

428th BS War Diary: They attempted a practice bombing mission today but bad weather set in too fast. Had fresh eggs for breakfast and fresh beef for supper. What no stew?

Friday, 26 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, P-40s carry out fighter-bomber missions as ground forces maintain pressure on the enemy along the coast and on the Gabes road. B-25s attack roads and motor transport in the Arram area during the night of 26/27 Feb. General Bernard L. Montgomery sets 20 Mar as D-Day for an attack on the Mareth Line. The 328th, 330th and 409th Bombardment Squadrons (Heavy), 93rd Bombardment Group (Heavy) cease operations from Gambut, Libya with B-24s and return to their base at Hardwick, England.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force): Lieutenant General James H. Doolittle assumes command of the XII Bomber Command.

In Tunisia, B-17s, with P-38 escort, attack the docks and shipping at Bizerte after RAF Wellingtons hit the same target the previous night. Fighters hit trucks in the Pinchon-Ousseltia area and fly numerous reconnaissance missions. Colonel-General Jurgen von Arnim's 5th Panzer Army opens an offensive on a broad front toward Bedja and Medjez el Bab. The 309th Fighter Squadron, 31st Fighter Group with Spitfire Mk Vs transfers from Youks-les-Bain, Algeria to Kalaa Djerda, Tunisia.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

428th BS War Diary: Foley and Myers returned from the hospital. Both pretty well banged up.

Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt, gunner

Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt, gunner

Saturday, 27 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, P-40s fly top cover, strafing, and fighter-bomber missions against positions along the Mareth Line. The 515th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 376th Bombardment Group (Heavy) with B-24s transfers from Gambut, Libya to Soluch, Libya.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Sardinia, B-17s bomb the Cagliari area and ships north of Capo d'Orlando.

In Tunisia, RAF Wellingtons hit Bizerte. Fighters fly sweeps and reconnaissance, attacking ground forces at points along the battleline, including the Medjez el Bab area where the enemy advance is being halted. The 37th Fighter Squadron, 55th Fighter Group with P-38s arrives at La Senia, Algeria from the U.S. This squadron will become the third squadron of the 14th Fighter Group when it is reassigned to the 14th on 1 Mar. The 85th Bombardment Squadron (Light), 47th Bombardment Group (Light) with A-20s transfers from Youks-les-Bains, Algeria to Canrobert, Algeria. A detachment of the 111th Observation Squadron, 68th Observation Group with A-20s ceases operating from La Senia, Algeria and returns to its base at Oujda, French Morocco. Prior to WWII, the 111th was a Texas National Guard unit.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

428th BS War Diary: The officers took it out on the enlisted men by nosing them out in a tight ball game.

Sunday, 28 February 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): No Entry

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, fighters and fighter-bombers hit troops, tanks, and motor transport along the Tunisian battleline southwest of Maleur, at Sidi Nsir near Pont-du-Fhas, northeast of Bedja, and in the Goubellat area. The 17th Bombardment Group (Medium) sends 9 B-26s to destroy the La Hencha Bridge between Gabes and Sfax. Their escort is jumped by Bf 109s and the bombers turn back. HQ 325th Fighter Group and its 317th and 318th Fighter Squadrons with P-40Fs arrive at Tafaraoui, Algeria from the U.S. The 48th Fighter Squadron, 14th Fighter Group with P-38s transfers from Berteaux, Algeria to Mediouna, French Morocco for R&R.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 52:

Mission Report # 62, 28 February 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.
2. At 1320 15 B-25-C's took off to bomb RR and Highway bridges at La Hencha
Time No. A/C Type A/C Target

18 x 1000 45 sec delay
None returned early. 15 dropped 36 x 500 45 sec delay 216 x 20 frag bombs
No. A/C No & Type

on targets at 1450 from 750 to 100 ft. 15 returned at 1630.
Time Altitude No A/C Time

3. RESULTS: Railroad bridge is definitely out as a result of this bombing. Hits were observed at both ends of bridge, several bombs went right through bridge and exploded underneath. This target was well covered with bombs and due to 45 second delay pilots were unable to say whether bridge is standing or not but smoke and heavy debris came from target. No direct hits observed on the highway bridge, one hit observed in road just at its junction with north end of bridge. Other bombs fell in immediate area. Much smoke and debris from explosions. Flak positions reported in target data, one empty other two were covered by frag bombs and silenced. More complete observations at target were impossible due to distance from target and height. Bombs dropped on bridges had 45 second delay fuses. No prior damage visible on target run.

Sunday, 28 February 1943

4. OBS: Enemy Aircraft--two ME-109's and two JU-87's seen at target area, did not attack.

Flak--ground fire from grove of trees, grove also contained 7 to 10 2½ ton trucks at 35 degrees 5 min N, 10 degrees 40 min E. Machine gun fire from orchard south of RR bridge. Five M/G emplacements in a field south of RR bridge. Eight flashes of 20 mm flak, moderate, accurate from N end of highway bridge.

Ground--one pink tank on road just W of target firing at formation. At 35 degrees 33 min N, 10 degrees 35 min E light flak from highway. Concentration of tents, eight or ten motor vehicles, some troops and Arabs at 35 deg 7 min N, 10 deg 42 min E. Sixty foot steel derrick and equipment painted red, 3 miles SE of Hadjeb el Aioun. Several trucks, scattered, heading S. Single engine A/C on fire surrounded by 30 to 50 uniformed men wearing red hats at 35 deg 3 min N, 10 deg 38 min E. Eight tanks and one half-track headed south at 35 deg 18 min N, 10 deg 2 min E. Radio tower six miles E of Hadjeb el Aioun at 35 deg 24 min N, 9 deg 33 min E. Pilots report that all small bridges along road were torn up E of Kasserine.

5. WEATHER: Out--3/10 cumulus at 6000 ft, visibility 8 to 10 miles.

Target--7/10 cumulus at 4000 ft, visibility 8 to 10 miles.

Back--same as out.

6. PRESS DATA: None.

Flight leaders: Capt. Allan
 Capt. Gshwandtner.
 Lt. Canham
Observer Lt. Col. Kellogg

Fifteen (15) sorties flown 28/2/43.

GORDON C. LOCKE,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

Sunday, 28 February 1943 (continued)

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 52:

A/C No. 1 *aircraft & crew unidentified* A/C No. 2 *aircraft & crew unidentified*
(flight leader)

P *Allan, John T., Capt*

CP

N

B

E

R *Marple, Louis F., T/Sgt*

G *Pagano, Salvatore A., S/Sgt*

F

A/C No. 3 *aircraft & crew unidentified* A/C No. 4 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

P

CP

N

B

E

R

G

F

380th BS War Diary: (*No non-mission information*)

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 52:

Mission Report # 35

Date- February 28, 1943

Target- La Hencha Railroad and Highway Bridges.

Squadron airplanes- four

Something entirely new in bombing tactics was tried by us today. Two elements were sent out, the first flying high to knock out the flak batteries while the remainder went in on the deck to knock out the bridges.

The plan worked fine, except for a new flak battery that was located in the woods. Just as we went in to drop our bombs, flying at an altitude of about 75 feet, a piece of flak knocked out Lieut. Amick's right engine. This did not daunt him and in he went and delivered the goods. Bombs were seen to drop around and through the bridges.

As we made our turn to start home, smoke fire and debris could be seen coming up from the target. A Plymouth staff car, which had probably been captured, was sitting by the edge of the road, and when nose guns began to pepper him, an officer crawled from it and slid for a ditch. The car is probably of little use at the present time.

All of our airplanes returned safely, with Lieut. Amick bringing up the tail end, and given good protection by the remaining planes.

Sunday, 28 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified

P *Draemel, Dean H., 1Lt*
CP *Sours, Robert J., 2Lt*
N *Kanode, Robert C., 1Lt*
B *Holmes, William G., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Shambaugh, Robert M., T/Sgt*
G *Williams, John A., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified

P *Amick, Cecil D., 1Lt*
CP *Porter, Lloyd L., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Longrie, Kenneth R., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Meyer, Albert J., S/Sgt*
G *Huffman, Herbert (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *Kellogg, R. M., Lt Col (observer)*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

Santos, Carroll A., Jr., 1Lt
Picklesimer, Marion L., 2Lt
None
Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt
None
Smith, Teddy L., S/Sgt
Redding, William D., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

Batten, Earl E., Capt
Shorsher, Fred A., 2Lt
None
Sessler, Howard A., 1Lt
None
Dackiewicz, John A., Cpl
Szczesniak, Alfred A., S/Sgt
None

381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 52:
LA HENCHA R.R. AND ROAD BRIDGES.

Group Mission # 51	Flight 15 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 34	Escort 16 P-38's
Take Off 13:20	Bomb Load: (3 x 1000) and (72 x 20)
Target 14:50	Bombs Dropped: 3(3 x 1000) and (72 x 20)
Down 16:15	

Total Time: 2 Hrs. 55 Min.

Weather: Visibility 8 to 10 miles.

Remarks: Heavy bombs had 4 second delayed fuses, so results were uncertain, though believed good. Eight ME-109's attacked, but the P-38's drove them off. Flak: Light, intense, accurate, also M/G. One ship's engine was set on Fire, but it returned safely.

1000# Bomb Formation - 6 B-25's *(3 from 381st BS)*

A/C No. 41-13086 (C)

P *Kearns, Archibald G., 1Lt*
CP *Rouch, Melvin R., 1Lt*
N *None*
B *Grossi, Frank L., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Elder, Donald W., Cpl*
G *Moberg, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13061 "LIL' JOE" (F)

Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt
Lewis, Kenneth E., 1Lt
None
Daly, Donald J., T/Sgt
None
Krasovec, William F., S/Sgt
Molnar, William J., S/Sgt
None

Sunday, 28 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE" / "ROYAL FLUSH" (E)

P *Linden, Eric O., 1Lt*
CP *Jackson, William C., 1Lt*
N *None*
B *Caron, John B., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *LaPorte, Frank R., T/Sgt*
G *Hughes, Albert (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

500# Bomb Formation - 6 A/C - No 381st. A/C

Frag Bomb Formation - 3 B-25's (*1 from 381st BS*)

A/C No. 41-13052 "TABOO" (C)

P *VanDivort, Richard (NMI), 1Lt*
CP *Wightman, Henry B. "Hank", 1Lt*
N *None*
B *Myers, John H., 1Lt*
E *None*
R *Chaffins, Ray (NMI), T/Sgt*
G *Nelson, Forest S., S/Sgt*
F *None*

428th BS War Diary: Pay day today. Bridge at La Hencha was blown the hell off the map. Rear detachment flew in and P.F.C. Forzano had the distinct honor and privilege of burning the old duty roster. Ahem--- the enlisted men beat the officers 6 to 5.

Forzano, Natale R., PFC

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 52:** It wasn't til the 28th that, after a much needed respite to gather scattered spirits into a fighting unit once again, there was another mission. The target was the bridges at La Hencha.

The bridge was definitely hit by delayed action 500 and 1000 lb. bombs. Both ends were hit and two more were seen to crash through the superstructure before exploding. Two flak batteries at the bridge were silenced. The bombs were dropped at altitudes from fifty to one hundred and fifty feet.

Slight light flak from the target area was ineffective. Anti-aircraft fire from a grove en route was similarly inaccurate. A great day.

Sunday, 28 February 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)	A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified
P <i>Gshwandtner, Frank J. "Gish", 1Lt</i>	<i>Middleton, Laula M., 2Lt</i>
CP <i>Williams, Edwin W., 2Lt</i>	<i>Frost, Roland (NMI), 2Lt</i>
N <i>Doolittle, Leonard N., 2Lt</i>	<i>None</i>
B <i>Truelove, Denver Vernon, 1Lt,</i>	<i>Surbaugh, Steven G., S/Sgt</i>
E <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R <i>Mathis, Paul E., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Ficeto, Bartholomeo T., S/Sgt</i>
G <i>Stage, Albert A., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Dickey, Norris D. "Pop", S/Sgt</i>
F <i>Walker, James P. "Chief" Capt, pilot</i>	<i>Jenkins, Howard L. "Larry", T/Sgt</i>
<i>Commander (observer)</i>	
A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified - may be "Skunk Hunter"	A/C No. 4 probably 41-13077 "The Reluctant Dragon" (later "Old Patch")
P <i>Marsh, Edward D., 1Lt</i>	<i>Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt</i>
CP <i>Stack, James F., 2Lt</i>	<i>Cunningham, Robert L., 2Lt</i>
N <i>None</i>	<i>Colvin, Jay W., Jr., 1Lt</i>
B <i>McDonald, Donald E. "Mac", Sgt</i>	<i>Upchurch, Jerry E., 1Lt</i>
E <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R <i>Bosworth, William H., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt</i>
G <i>Payne, Charles C., Sgt</i>	<i>Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt</i>
F <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
A/C No. 5 probably 41-13070 "Shanghi Lil" (flight leader)	
P <i>Canham, Arthur E., 1Lt</i>	
CP <i>Holley, James Taylor, 2Lt, pilot</i>	
N <i>Hartman, Richard J., 1Lt</i>	
B <i>Vestal, Marion S., 2Lt</i>	
E <i>None</i>	
R <i>Rebello, John E., Jr., T/Sgt</i>	
G <i>Langford, Alvin I., S/Sgt</i>	
F <i>None</i>	

February 1943

HQ 310th BG War Diary: Additional Information for February 1943: None

379th BS War Diary: Additional Information for February 1943:

Bombardment Squadron (M)
310th Bombardment Group
Berteaux, Algeria

March 1, 1943

SUBJECT: Squadron History for February.

TO : Headquarters, 310th Bomb Gp (M).

The 310th Bomb Group flew on 18 missions during this month. Targets at Sfax el Maou, Maknassy, Bordj Toual, Gabes, and Kasserine were successfully and effectively attacked. Group planes attacked objectives in Sardinia for the first time. Eleven of the missions were sea search. Again the planes and crews of the 379th took an active and gallant part in nearly all of these missions. Of the 18 Group missions our squadron participated in all but 4; of a total of 52 Group missions we have taken part in 44, or approximately 84% of the total raid.

On January 20, 1943 Major Travis Hoover and 1st Lt. *Alfred N. Allred* and crew flying in a flight of six B-25's intercepted and sank an enemy tanker. Other members of the 379th crew were:

Lt. Howard J. Ross (B)
Lt. Laverne B., Johnson (N)
S/Sgt. Donald D. Peery (G)
S/Sgt. William C. Burket (RG)

On February 2, 1943 Lt. Allred and crew were shot down by enemy flak while on route to target--Sfax el Maou A/D. The plane made an excellent crash landing and members of the crew were seen to get out and run away from the plane before it was destroyed by fire. Crew members were:

1st Lt. Alfred N. Allred (P)
2nd Lt. Harvey A. Doss (CP)
1st Lt. Edward Kennedy (N)
S/Sgt. Donald D Peery (G)
S/Sgt. Herbert E. Ballard (B)
S/Sgt. William C. Burket (RG)

February 1943 (continued)

February 21, 1943 was a day of great excitement. A large enemy tanker was reported as having left Sicily in the morning and we were to intercept it before it reached Tunisia. Two sea search missions were alerted. Major Hoover, Capt. Allan and Lt. C. W. Smith were in the first flight sent out in the morning. One JU-88 or HE-177 was intercepted and shot down. The freighter was not seen. The 2nd flight ran “smak” into it. Lt. Col Hinman and Capt. White lead this flight. Lt. Leask was also with them. The freighter was hit and destroyed. One escorting cruiser was hit and damaged, 1 corvette was sunk and 3-5 JU-88's were shot down. Capt White got back to Bone on one motor, Lt. Milius (428th Bomb Sq) was shot into the water, but he and his crew were picked up safely by the British Air Sea Rescue Service after being on their life raft for 20 hours.

On February 23, 1943 ten enemy flak barges were intercepted off the Aegadi Islands and from 3 to 5 of these were sunk. Out of a flight of six ships 3 planes from the Group were shot into the sea. It was on this mission that Major Ferguson of the 381st Bomb Squadron was lost. The crews of the 379th were as follows:

Capt. John T. Allan (P)
Capt. William R. Pound Jr. (N)
1st Lt. Donovan W. Rulien (B)
2nd Lt. Graham C. Beachum (CP)
S/Sgt. Louis F. Marple (RG)
S/Sgt. Salvatore A. Pagano (G)

2nd Lt. Bertram J. Leask (P)
2nd Lt. Leo Lesonik (CP)
2nd Lt. Howard J. Ross (B)
T/Sgt. Henry H. Chase (RG)
S/Sgt. Stanley J. Kida (G)

1st Lt. Robert M. Hamilton (P)
2nd Lt. Isaac E. Grant (CP)
S/Sgt. Woodrow W. Pettibon (B)
S/Sgt. Robert M. Brunner (G)
S/Sgt. Harris M. Haskell (RG)

These crew members with those who intercepted the freighter on February 21, 1943 received a special commendation from General Cannon, C.C. 12th B.C. and Col. Hunter, C.O. 310th Bomb Group. These men also received special citation for their excellent and courageous work.

379th aerial gunners who now have enemy A/C to their credit are S/Sgt Albert Dallaire, S/Sgt Robert Brunner, S/Sgt Fred Hecks, S/Sgt Lester Kitzerow, and S/Sgt Joseph Rabinowitz.

February 1943 (continued)

Enlisted personnel in combat crews receiving their wings this month were:

Robert M. Brunner, <i>S/Sgt, gunner</i>	Harris M. Haskell, <i>S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>
Lester A. Kitzero, <i>S/Sgt, gunner</i>	Thomas Valentic, Jr., <i>S/Sgt, gunner</i>
Fred F. Hecks, <i>S/Sgt, gunner</i>	Walter I. Sundstrom, <i>Sgt, gunner</i>
Rudy Sekermestrovich, <i>S/Sgt, gunner</i>	Herbert E. Ballard, <i>S/Sgt, bombardier</i>
Albert F. Dallaire, <i>S/Sgt, gunner</i>	Donald D. Peery, <i>S/Sgt, gunner</i>
Joseph Rabinowitz, <i>S/Sgt, gunner</i>	Mathew P. Deluca, <i>S/Sgt, gunner</i>
Stanley J. Kida, <i>S/Sgt, gunner</i>	Merrell W. Long, <i>S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>
Salvatore A. Pagano, <i>S/Sgt, gunner</i>	Harrison J. Hodnett, <i>S/Sgt, bombardier</i>
Lewis F. Marple, <i>T/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>	William C. Burket, <i>S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>
Woodrow W. Pettibon, <i>S/Sgt, bombardier</i>	William H. Hiers, <i>Sgt, gunner</i>
Norman B. March, <i>Sgt, gunner</i>	

General James Doolittle, Commanding General 12th A.F. accompanied our boys on two of their missions. "Uncle Jim" flew with Capt. Allan.

Allan, John T., Capt, pilot

Doolittle, James Harold "Jimmy", pilot, Maj Gen, pilot, 12th AF Commander

Number 1 squadron of the 310th B.G. was proud to learn that Capt. White was placed in command of the 381st B.S., Feb 25th.

White, Alpheus Wray, Jr., Capt, pilot

Capt. Allan and crew have the greatest number of missions and sorties at the end of this month. Their total is 23. Others of this squadron are fast accumulating their number of trips over strongly defended enemy territory.

Allan, John T., Capt, pilot

At present we have been free from enemy bombings. There have been numerous alerts, but no actual raids. The German ground forces, led by the famous 21st Panzer Division struck at the American lines thru Faid Pass and Gafsa and for several days their rapid advance westward concerned us all. However, on Feb 25th they were stopped just West of Kasserine Pass and South of Thalia and retreated toward the original line of Faid and Gafsa.

The 12th B.G. from Egypt, Advanced Air Echelon, was attached to this group of combat missions. They handled themselves well and gained the admiration of the entire 310th.

Officers receiving promotions were:

Capt. John T., Allan, Pilot

Capt. George R. Houk, Adjutant.

At the end of this month the 379th had two serviceable A/C left for combat duty.

February 1943 (continued)

The following table shows the comparative number of combat hours, number of missions, number of sorties, average number of sorties per mission, and the average length per mission:

<u>Sqdn.</u>	<u>Combat Hours</u>	<u>No. Missions</u>	<u>No. Sorties</u>	<u>Av. No. Sorties Per mission</u>	<u>Av. Length per mission</u>
379	365:55	45	109	2.42	3:21
380	498:15	36	149	4.13	3:20
381	492:05	35	141	4.03	3:29
428	654:55	39	162	4.15	4:01
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Group	2008:10	57	161	9.84	3:34

It is noted in this table that the 379th has been on more missions up to this time than the other squadrons of the group.

A series of Gp lectures were started on February 18th by order of Col. Hunter. These lectures were given to prepare our present officer personnel for command positions should new groups be activated. Talks on Military Courtesy, Leadership, Command, Discipline and Personnel were given by Capt. Walker, C.O. of the 428th B.S. and Lt. Karosen, Gp. Asst. Adjutant.

Hunter, Anthony G., Col, pilot, 310th BG Commander

Karosen, Leon (NMI), 2Lt, Asst Adjutant, HQ 310th BG

Walker, James P. "Chief" Capt, pilot Commander, 428th BS

Up to this time seventy-two combat crew members from the Group have been lost in action. 12 died in a crash landing at Presque Island, Maine. These 12 were from our squadron. 15 of this total are from the 379th Squadron reported as "missing in action".

Thus ends another month.

RUPERT A. NOCK
1st Lt., AC
379th Intelligence Off.

February 1943 (continued)

380th BS War Diary: Additional Information for February 1943: None

CASUALTY
SECTION

380th Bombardment Sq.
310th Bombardment Gp.

8 February 1943

On the above date while participating in an operational mission to Gabes Airdrome, the following men are reported as missing in action:

Pilot- Lieut. *Robert* A. Lacy
Co-Pilot- Lieut. *Alan* S. Thomas
Bombardier- S/Sgt. *David* E. McCaig
Radio Operator- Sgt. *Charles* M. Belmer
Aerial Gunner- Sgt. *Fred (NMI)* Lindsay

Pilot- Lieut. *Charles* M. Barnwell *Jr.*
Co-Pilot- Lieut. *Robert* M. Brown
Bombardier- Lieut. *Alcuin* A. Wiench
Radio Operator- T/Sgt. *James* A. Ginn
Aerial Gunner - S/Sgt. *Clayton* D. Lea

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

All of the above officers and enlisted men have been reported as PRISONERS OF WAR and are confined in a German Prison Camp, reported to be located somewhere in Italy. (With the exception of S/Sgt. D.E. McCaig on whom there is no information)

CASUALTY
SECTION

380th Bombardment Sq.
310th Bombardment Gp.

23 February 1943

On the above date while participating in an operational mission over the Sicilian Straits, the following men are reported as missing in action:

February 1943 (continued)

Pilot- Lieut. *Frederick* F. Loomis
Co-Pilot- Lieut. *David (NMI) Moir Jr.*
Bombardier- Lieut. *Robert* P. Schisler
R-Pvt. *Earl* B. Willis
Gunner- S/Sgt. *Edward* H. Nichols
Photographer- Pvt. *Arthur* K. Erb

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

With the exception of Pvt. E.B. Willis, the radio operator on the ship, all the members of the crew have been reported as PRISONERS OF WAR, and are being held in confinement at a German Prison Camp.

February 1943 (continued)

381st BS War Diary: Additional Information for February 1943:

At the beginning of February, an Officers' Club was established in two of the smaller rooms of the Headquarters Building. Facilities for serving beer and whiskey were installed. Sheet metal workers labored for several days in one of the rooms, constructing a bar from odds and ends of metal. In the other of the two rooms, chairs were improvised from the metal reinforcements used in packing the tail fins of bombs. In the evenings following the Grand Opening, the Officers gathered there in force. Usually they furnished their own amusement, but sometimes they were able to find entertainment in the person of Enlisted Men with string instruments or accordions. On these occasions, the sound of their voices rang clear and loud across the fields, wafting the melodies of such songs as "The Beer Barrel Polka", or "Sweet Adeline", as the occasion demanded.

About 5 February 43, two photographers from Life Magazine appeared at the Base, and during the next few days, proceeded to shoot everything in sight with their cameras --- the chow line; the Arabs; the Buildings; tents; and personnel. Their favorite subject was the Group's personnel, and their favorite backgrounds for these pictures were the capitals and pedestals of ancient stone columns, a collection of which stood in the courtyard in front of Headquarters Building.

Movies having become available, Lt. Gilbert Ballance, the P.X. Officer, arranged to show them in the covered area way between the two courtyards, where the Group Mess was located. The first picture to be shown was "I Married an Angel", with Jeanette McDonald and Nelson Eddy. It was a grand success. The area way was packed. All entrances had been covered with canvas to conceal light, the mess equipment had been put out of the way, and tables and benches had been moved in to be used as seats. That night, three performances in all were given to three enthusiastic and closely packed audiences and an announcement was made to the effect that henceforth pictures would be shown twice weekly.

Ballance, Gilbert S., 2Lt, P.X. Officer, HQ 310th BG

On 10 February, two events of major importance occurred. First, the Group Commander, Lt. Col. Hunter, changed his insignia of rank for the Eagles of a Full Colonel, and second, it snowed. A few days previously, the weather had taken a turn for the worse. Each day the temperature dropped, until noon on the tenth, when fluffy white flakes of snow began to sift down from a slate gray sky. And it was cold. When the snow stopped falling a steady wind began to blow, making it seem even colder. The cooks pulled a real boner that day --- after weeks of having served hot tea for lunch, they decided, for reasons which could best be understood by an Infinite Deity, to serve cold lemonade at an hour when the storm was at its height.

Hunter, Anthony G., Col, pilot, 310th BG Commander

February 1943 (continued)

After several days the weather lifted again. Quite often on clear nights, the Air Raid Bell would sound, sending everyone scurrying for his slit trench. One night, an enemy plane dropped some flares about 10 miles to the East, in the vicinity of the B-17 field. It then spent quite a few minutes circling Berteaux before departing. On another night, the 428th area was buzzed by a plane which is believed to have been a German pursuit ship. No bombs were dropped during either of these alerts.

Officer promotions in February elevated 1st Lts. Alexander, Eddy, Green and Pickett to the rank of Captain, while 2nd Lts. Collins, Gollnitz, Katzenbach, Myers and Schick became 1st Lts. Promotions of Enlisted Men produced 1 M/Sgt., 7 T/Sgts., 7 S/Sgts., 9 Sgts., 8 Cpls. and 8 PFC's.

Alexander, William T. "Alex", Capt, pilot

Collins, Vincent A., 1Lt, navigator

Eddy, Leonard A., Capt, pilot

Gollnitz, Frederick C., 1Lt, navigator, bombardier

Green, William B., Capt, navigator, bombardier

Katzenbach, Nicholas D. "Katz", 1Lt, navigator

Myers, John H., 1Lt, bombardier

Pickett, Perry D., Capt, bombardier, navigator

Schick, Raymond E., 1Lt, bombardier, navigator

More of the Air Echelon straggled in from England. On the 13th, Lts. Kearns and Rouch, with 4 Enlisted Men, and on the 27th, Lts. Marlow and Wert with five Enlisted Men.

Kearns, Archibald G., 1Lt, pilot

Rouch, Melvin R., 1Lt, pilot

Marlow, Jack F., 2Lt, pilot

Wert, Donald S., 1Lt, pilot

The Squadron had been engaging in missions quite frequently without having had any serious accidents since the Squadron was formed. On 8 February 43, two planes, piloted by Lts. Cox and Crump were the first 381st planes to be brought down by enemy action. On that day, the mission to Gabes Airdrome, a reputedly hot target, included three 381st planes. Of these, Lt. Linden's plane was the only one of the three to return. Then, in rapid succession, the Squadron lost three more ships and crews on low Sea Sweeps. Lt. Atkinson and his crew failed to return on February 22nd and the following day Capt. Eddy, Lt. Martin and their crews crash landed into the sea. Major Ferguson flew as Observer, Lt. Katzenbach as Navigator and Capt. Pickett as Bombardier with Capt. Eddy. Thus, the 381st lost its Squadron Commander, its flight leader, its Squadron Navigator and Squadron Bombardier. During the nine months while in command of the 381st, Major Ferguson had witnessed its evolution from an unwieldy conglomeration of rookies into a fighting force strong enough to deal telling blows against a clever and vigorous enemy.

Atkinson, Fred M., Capt, pilot

Crump, Walter P. "Bitsy", 1Lt, pilot

Ferguson, Ivan Leonard, Maj, pilot, Commander

Cox, Robert A., 1Lt, pilot

Eddy, Leonard A., Capt, pilot

February 1943 (continued)

Katzenbach, Nicholas D. "Katz", 1Lt, navigator

Linden, Eric O., 1Lt, pilot

Martin, Robert W., 1Lt, pilot

Pickett, Perry D., Capt, bombardier, navigator

Major Ivan Leonard Ferguson was born at Merced Falls, California on 2 August 18. Facts concerning his career prior to joining the Army are not available. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Air Corps Reserve on 12 July 41. Prior to commanding the 381st, he spent two months as an Airplane Commander on submarine patrol flying out of Jacksonville and Miami Florida. He was promoted to the rank of 1st Lt. on 1 March 42, and assumed command of the 381st when he arrived at Columbia Army Air Base on 20 June 42.

Ferguson, Ivan Leonard, Maj, pilot, Commander

Captain Alpheus Wray White was appointed Squadron Commander of the 381st on 23 February 43. Capt. White graduated from North Carolina State College in June 1937, with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, and entered the United States Military Academy at West Point. He graduated in 1941 with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. On 1 March 42, he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. Entering the 310th as Squadron Commander of the 379th Squadron on 15 June 42, he became a Captain on 12 August 42.

White, Alpheus Wray, Jr., Capt, pilot, Commander

The first detachment of the Group's Rear Echelon arrived via C-47 on 28 February and additional detachments arrived on the two following days. In all, the 381st personnel numbered three Officers and seventy-five Enlisted Men who were under the command of 2nd Lt. Oliver E. Fayard, Jr. They had been having a high old time of it on the beach at Casablanca, where they had been stationed since January 26, 1943, when they disembarked from the convoy which had brought them to Africa. After the Ground Echelon's departure from Greenville, the Rear Echelon had been transferred to Camp Kilmer at New Brunswick, New Jersey, about thirty miles from New York City. Inasmuch as they were there over the holidays, and passes were liberally given, conclusions can very easily be drawn as to what kind of a time they had. Their arrival at Berteaux brought the Squadron's personnel together for the first time in six months.

Fayard, Oliver E., Jr., 2Lt, bombardier, Acting Commander

Enemy planes shot down in February are as follows: S/Sgt. Donald J. Daly is credited with one JU-52, S/Sgt. Quentin W. Thomas, One JU-52, and Sgt. Albert Hughes, one ME-109-E. Sixteen missions by the 381st delivered 37,760 pounds of bombs to the Axis during February.

Daly, Donald J., S/Sgt, bombardier-gunner

Hughes, Albert (NMI), Sgt, gunner

Thomas, Quentin W., S/Sgt, radio-gunner

February 1943 (continued)

McHARGE POEM, "MY PILOT", SENT TO HIS MOTHER ASHEVILLE MAN AND HIS SKIPPER MISSING IN NORTH AFRICA

A poem written by T/Sgt. James H. McHarge, reported missing in action on the North African front, was sent to his mother, Mrs. J.H. McHarge of 21 Cumberland Ave, by Mrs. A.R. Cox of Fox, Virginia, whose son, Lieutenant Robert Cox, was reported missing at the same time as Sergeant McHarge.

Sergeant McHarge wrote the poem "My Pilot", as a tribute to Lieutenant Cox, pilot of the B-25 bomber on which Sergeant McHarge was bombardier. Their plane failed to return from a mission last February 8.

Sergeant McHarge volunteered for service in the Army on December 8, 1941 and trained at Sheppard Field, Texas; Santa Monica, California; Walterboro, South Carolina and Columbia, South Carolina before going overseas in November 1942. He was a graduate of Lee Edwards High School in 1937 and at the time he entered the Service, was employed at Harry's Motor Inn.

My Pilot

Yes, he's the leader of the crew
It's up to him to get us through
If all goes well, we each get back
We rush to Intelligence to joke and wisecrack.

Yet off by himself, looking very grim
Is my pilot who flew the ship they couldn't trim
He says nothing to none of the rest
If we hadn't got back, he'd still done his best.

The crew, like myself, has never realized
Or been responsible for six other lives
If Fate must have it, and one must get shot
God, let it be me, but save my Pilot.

381st BS: Extracts from Missing Air Crew Report # 14584:

A/C No. 41-13073 "VAR ARIEN" (M) (MACR-14584 - shot down)

P *Cox, Robert A., 1Lt - DED*
CP *Szczygiel, Joseph F., 2Lt - DED*
N *None*
B *McHarge, James Hayes, T/Sgt - DED*
E *None*
R *Brink, Robert W., S/Sgt - DED*
G *Windham, Duke Green, Jr., S/Sgt - DED*
F *None*

February 1943 (continued)

428th BS War Diary: Additional Information for February 1943: Again on February 28th we were ordered to break camp and told that we were heading toward the front. We were up before daylight, packed, breakfasted and were issued “c” rations for one day. At 7:00 P.M., we loaded on trucks and headed for the Casablanca airport. After an hour or so of waiting there we were loaded on C-47 transports, and took off for Berteaux where our unit was based. We arrived at the field around 3:30 P.M., and were greeted by the sight of the old familiar B-25’s and the many familiar faces we had last seen in the good old U.S.A. Here again we were back at our old jobs, and in the routine of things again after six months of moving around.