

12th Air Force, 57th Bombardment Wing
310th Bombardment Group
History: April 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: April 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 (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.)

Thursday, 1 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, P-40's escort bomber missions. Medium and light bombers hit parked airplanes and AA batteries at El Maou Airfield at Sfax.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, during the night of 31 Mar/1 Apr, RAF Wellingtons bomb the Bizerte docks and Karouba Bay seaplane base. During the day, A-20's bomb La Fauconnerie and El Djem Airfields. Fighters, carrying out reconnaissance missions over wide areas of Tunisia, attack motor transport, tanks, and guns in the Sidi Mansour-Djebel Tebaga areas. British medium and light bombers and fighters hit gun positions N of Oued el Akarit and hit the Sfax-El Maou Airfield. The 17th Bombardment Squadron (Light), 27th Bombardment Group (Light) with A-20's transfers from Nouvion, Algeria to Ras El Ma, French Morocco. The 96th Fighter Squadron, 92nd Fighter Group with P-38's transfers from Telergma, Algeria 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

428th BS War Diary: Every available shop was loaded with frags but bad weather called the mission off. The target was an airdrome on the other side of the Mediterranean.

Friday, 2 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, during the night of 1/2 Apr, RAF Liberators, under the operational control of the IX Bomber Command, bomb the ferry terminal at Messina and the airfield at Crotone. During the day, 2 B-24's on a special mission bomb the ferry terminals at Messina and Villa San Giovanni; 27 B-24's sent against Naples find the target totally obscured by clouds; 9 bomb the area through overcast and 3 bomb Augusta and Crotone.

In Sicily, 24 B-24's sent to attack Palermo abort because of heavy clouds over the target.

In Tunisia, P-40's fly 9 armored reconnaissance and 6 fighter-bomber and escort missions.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-25's and A-20's bomb the airfield at La Fauconnerie.

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: No mission, all's quiet.

Saturday, 3 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-25's bomb the Sfax-El Maou area during the night of 2/3 Apr. P-40's fly fighter-bomber missions N of Gabes. HQ, 12th Bombardment Group (Medium) and its 434th Bombardment Squadron (Medium) with B-25's transfer from El Assa, Libya to Medenine, Tunisia.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force): Weather cancels Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) bomber operations.

In Tunisia, Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) fighters strafe tanks and trucks at Kebira and Jabal Nasir Allah, and claim 14 aircraft downed in aerial combat over Djebel Berda. B-25's bomb the airfield at Sainte-Marie du Zit. Western Desert Air Force (WDAF) light bombers hit motor transport and gun positions N of Oued el Akarit. HQ, 81st Fighter Group and its 93rd Fighter Squadron with P-39's transfer from Thelepte, Tunisia to Bone, Algeria to patrol the coast of Africa and protect Allied shipping in the Mediterranean.

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: Bad weather still kept the planes grounded.

Sunday, 4 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, B-24's attack Naples, concentrating on the dock area.

In Sicily, RAF Liberators, under operational control of the IX Bomber Command, bomb Palermo. The 83rd Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 12th Bombardment Group (Medium) with B-25's transfers from El Assa, Libya to Medenine, Tunisia.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Italy, B-25's bomb small shipping at Carloforte on San Pietro Island. B-17's hit Capodichino Airfield and the marshalling yards at Naples.

In Tunisia, P-38's dive-bomb a beached freighter off Cape Zebib. Other P-38's escort the bombing raids. Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) A-20's hit La Fauconnerie Airfield while B-25's hit El Djem and Sainte-Marie du Zit airfields. Fighters accompany light and medium bombers on attacks, and carry out numerous patrols, reconnaissance flights, and fighter sweeps over the battle areas of Tunisia. The 16th Bombardment Squadron (Light), 27th Bombardment Group (Light) with A-20's transfers from Nouvion, Algeria to Ras el Ma, French Morocco. The 111th Observation Squadron, 68th Observation Group with A-20's and P-39's transfers from Oujda, French Morocco to Guercif, French Morocco.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 63:

Mission Report # 76, 4 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Capts. Batten, Helsabeck, and Cometh.

2. At 1300 18 B-25-C's took off to Sea Search Shipping. 2 returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

early. 16 dropped 90 X 500 1/10 dem. bombs on target at 1500 from
No. A/C No & Type Time
1430

8000 to 8500. 15 returned at 1630.
Altitude No. A/C Time

Sunday, 4 April 1943 (continued)

3. RESULTS: At 1445 hours at 37 deg 30 min N, 11 deg 10 min E a convoy was sighted heading 60 deg and consisting of 3 M/V's and 3 or 4 escorting vessels. Of the M/V's one was a good sized freighter, over 5000 tons, and two others were slightly smaller. A hospital ship proceeding in the opposite direction from the convoy was intermingled with the convoy at the time of the attack. Its presence caused one of our flights to shift the direction of its run at the last minute to avoid bombing, causing inaccuracy when it attempted to bomb another ship. The escort consisted of destroyers and corvettes, with several crews reporting the presence of flak barges in the convoy. Observation of the results of the bombing was somewhat impaired because the formation was attacked by fighters during and after the bombing run. One large M/V was seen to be burning and heavy black smoke was pouring from one of the M/V's.
4. OBS: Flak--Over the target intense, inaccurate as to altitude, light flak was encountered; also, moderate heavy flak, accurate as to range but deflection poor.
E/A--At the target the formation was attacked by 20 ME-109's and FW-190's. Two ME-109's were shot down by the bombers and were seen to hit the water. The pilot of one of these was seen to bail out. The other, in its descent, crashed into one of the bombers, causing it to go into an uncontrolled dive into the water. 3 or 4 parachutes were seen to open. The escort destroyed at least two more enemy fighters. At Cap Al Koran, 37 deg 20 min N, 9 deg 40 min E, a concentration of dark objects on the shore, extending for a distance of 3-5 miles W. They stood out against the sand and had not been observed on previous missions near this point.
Photos were taken and are being forwarded.
5. WEATHER: En Route--To coast 3/10 cumulus cloud base at 6000 ft, visibility unlimited.
Over Water--CAVU.
Target--3/10 cumulus at 3000 ft, slight haze, visibility 8-10 miles.
Back--Same as way out.
6. PRESS DATA: Two ME-109's attacked from above and from 5 o'clock. S/Sgt Robert O. Kirkland, 14064537 (428th BS), of 707 E. Reynolds St., Plant City, Fla., fired several bursts and saw hits from his fire on the engine and fuselage of the first E/A. Pilot bailed out and E/A crashed into the sea. Another ME-109 came in at 6 o'clock at 10,000 ft. S/Sgt. Elvin A. Davis, 39303647 (428th BS), of 2710 N. Warner St., Tacoma, Washington gave him a continuous burst and when about 50 yds away the E/A's tail assembly, right wing tip and top hatch came off and the plane went out of control and crashed into a B-25 of the formation, both going down and crashing into the sea.

Sunday, 4 April 1943 (continued)

Sixteen (16) sorties flown 4/4/43

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

379th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 63: On April 4th, eighteen of our planes encountered two large M/V's while on a Sea Search. Direct hits and several near misses score both as probably destroyed. Our formation was attacked by ME-109's and during the battle, a damaged enemy fighter collided with a B-25 piloted by Lt. Middleton. Both ships crashed into the sea.

	<i>A/C No. 1 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 2 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
P	<i>Johnson, Kenneth M. "Ken", 1Lt</i>	<i>Logan, Harry R., Jr., 1Lt</i>
CP		
N		
B		
E		
R		
G		
F		
	<i>A/C No. 3 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	
P	<i>Smith, Charles W., 1Lt</i>	
CP		
N		
B		
E		
R		
G		
F		

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

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 63:
Mission Report # 44 Date- April 4, 1943
Target- Sea Search. Squadron airplanes- seven
The search today paid dividends as we caught "Adolph's" convoy heading north out of Bizerte. It consisted of three merchant vessels and four escorting ships. We made our bomb run from 8,000' and if a hospital ship had not been inter-mingling with the convoy, the results would have been A-1. The final statement was that due to the change in our bomb run to miss the Red Cross ship, one large ship was seen burning and another has smoke rolling from it.

Sunday, 4 April 1943 (continued)

The flak was intense although not too accurate and some of the boys reported that it must have been coming from some barges. About 20 fighters jumped us and four of them went down under the guns of the bombers while our escort of P-38's claimed two more. The group lost one bomber today when a fighter going down in flames, crashed into one of our planes, taking it with the fighter. Three or four parachutes were seen to open so we are hoping for the best.

A report from one of the ships gave us the idea that Jerry might be getting ready to evacuate, as we spotted several small boats and dark objects parked along the coast, west of Bizerte.

Seventeen of the eighteen planes from the Group returned safely.

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified

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

A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified

P *Stutts, Earl Leeman, 1Lt*
CP *Steger, Edward H., Jr., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Kessler, Paul E., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Barbieri, Edward D., Cpl*
G *Janicki, Andrew J., S/Sgt*
F *Hutchenrider, Willis E., Sgt*

A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)

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., S/Sgt*
G *Melhus, Palmer C., S/Sgt*
F *None*

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

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

A/C No. 4 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

A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified

Cromartie, Harry L., Jr., 1Lt
Wright, John E., 2Lt
None
Kechter, Harry H., T/Sgt
None
Smith, Eldon M., T/Sgt
Kobasa, Joseph (NMI), S/Sgt
None

Sunday, 4 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 7 *may be* 41-13096 "The Question Mark"

P *McCormick, Robert J., II, 1Lt*
CP *Timmerman, Melvin E., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Richardson, David L., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Oliver, Frank R., Jr., S/Sgt*
G *Leanza, Anthony (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 63:
(381st BS did not participate)

428th BS War Diary: Planes off on another sea search. We lost "48". Lts. Middleton and Frost, S/Sgts Surbaugh, B; Everard, RG; Dickey, G; along with T/Sgt Jenkins, photographer crashed at sea when a crippled ME-109 piled into them. Four parachutes were seen to open. Fate of crew unknown. S/Sgt Kirkland accounted for one ME-109 as did S/Sgt Elvin A. Davis. Both shot a third one. One ship of the convoy is believed sunk and another probably. New crew assigned: twin brother combination. 2nd Lts T.H. and R.R. Southward, pilot and Co-pilot, S/Sgt Howard, Engineer, Sgt Wink, Gunner, S/Sgt Martin, Radio Gunner.

Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt, gunner

Dickey, Norris D. "Pop", S/Sgt, gunner

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

Frost, Roland (NMI), 1Lt, pilot

Howard, S/Sgt, engineer

Jenkins, Howard L. "Larry", T/Sgt, photographer

Kirkland, Robert Olin "Kirk", S/Sgt, gunner

Martin, Robert J., S/Sgt, radio-gunner

Middleton, Laula M., 1Lt, pilot

Southward, Raymond Russell "Ray", 2Lt, pilot

Southward, Thomas H., 2Lt, pilot

Surbaugh, Steven G., S/Sgt, bombardier-gunner

Wink, Jacob A., S/Sgt, gunner

Sunday, 4 April 1943 (continued)

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 63: April 4th, 18 B-25's took off on a sea search once again at 1300 hours. This time bomber command allowed us to use the altitude approach. Once the target was sighted each box of six was to pursue a separate path so timed and coordinated that one would pass over the target as the other passed off, without being in any danger from the following bombs of the other and so that they could regain a close formation in jig time. As the attack was to come from three directions, one or two bombs were bound to hit the vessel with reasonably accurate bombing regardless of the change in course resulting from her evasive action. It was an opportunity to prove we could get results without employing the skip-bombing technique and its attendant losses.

Three merchant vessels and four escorting vessels were sighted. The largest was picked out for the target and the planned attack set off. A hospital ship--suddenly identified in the middle of the convoy, where international law decrees that it shouldn't be, threw the plan into an indeterminate state as some dropped their bombs, some didn't, and others altered their course, interfering with others.

Captain Helsabeck, in the lead, retained his bombs, whereas the second element in his box dropped theirs. Knowing that a mission failure here might mean the skip bombing in the future he determined to hazard the flak for a second run on another vessel.

Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., Capt, pilot

The second element left the first, having dropped its bombs. As the lead element of three dropped its bombs--alone and apart from the remainder the escorting ME-109's swooped down on what looked like duck soup. Five or six of 20 ME-109's went down to the kill. Davis in the lead ship killed the pilot of an ME-109 striking from eleven O'clock. The plane--minus a controlling hand, plowed through the tail of Lieutenant Middleton's ship. Both went down in uncontrolled spins. Four chutes were seen to open. They were: 1st Lt. Roland Frost, 1st Lt. Laula Middleton, S/Sgt Norris Dickey, S/Sgt William Everard, S/Sgt Stephen Surbaugh, T/Sgt Howard Jenkins.

Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt, gunner

Dickey, Norris D. "Pop", S/Sgt, gunner

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

Frost, Roland (NMI), 1Lt, pilot

Jenkins, Howard L. "Larry", T/Sgt, photographer

Middleton, Laula M., 1Lt, pilot

Surbaugh, Steven G., S/Sgt, bombardier-gunner

That it was S/Sgt Everard's first mission since he was shot down last February (*actually 28 Jan 43*) didn't help. (but five months later no other word has come of the crew)

Sunday, 4 April 1943 (continued)

Five ME-109's continued after the remaining two. The 20 minute running dog fight that ensued is a saga of the B-25 and two magnificent pilots. Captain Helsabeck and his wing pilot, Lt. Wheeler maneuvered and teamed their fire power that S/Sgt Kirkland was able to shoot another down, damage another, with S/Sgt Davis's help and never sustain a hole therefore. It was an amazing performance--not another bomber in the world could have accomplished it. The A-20 might have more maneuverability but it doesn't have the quality of discouraging fire power.

Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt, gunner *Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., Capt, pilot*
Kirkland, Robert Olin "Kirk", S/Sgt, gunner *Wheeler, William A. K., "Gus", 1Lt, pilot*

One merchant vessel was seen to be burning, a stream of black smoke was pouring from the second. Intense, inaccurate light flak, and moderate heavy flak, inaccurate as to range, belched forth from the vessels at the target.

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

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

P <i>Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt</i>	<i>Wheeler, William A. K., "Gus", 1Lt</i>
CP <i>Cunningham, Robert L., 1Lt</i>	<i>Moulder, Robert W., F/O</i>
N <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
B <i>Upchurch, Jerry E., 1Lt</i>	<i>Swim, Lowell W., S/Sgt</i>
E <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R <i>Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Mathis, Paul E., T/Sgt</i>
G <i>Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Kirkland, Robert Olin "Kirk", S/Sgt</i>
F <i>Walker, James P. "Chief" Maj</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Commander (observer)</i>	

A/C No. 3 41-13048 (MACR-14581 - mid air collision with ME-109)

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified - may be "Sweet Alice"

P <i>Middleton, Laula M., 1Lt</i>	<i>Aldridge, Richard A. "Dick", Capt</i>
CP <i>Frost, Roland (NMI), 1Lt, pilot</i>	<i>Bingham, Henry G., Jr., 1Lt</i>
N <i>None</i>	<i>Norvell, Richard T., Capt</i>
B <i>Surbaugh, Steven G., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Truelove, Denver Vernon, Capt</i>
E <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R <i>Everard, William J., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Richardson, Warren F., T/Sgt</i>
G <i>Dickey, Norris D. "Pop", S/Sgt</i>	<i>Schletz, Howard G., S/Sgt</i>
F <i>Jenkins, Howard L. "Larry", T/Sgt</i>	<i>None</i>

A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified - may be "Bad Seed"

A/C No. 6 probably 41-13094 "Seasweep"

P <i>Brock, James C., 1Lt</i>	<i>Holley, James Taylor, 1Lt</i>
CP <i>Blaauw, Harold A., 1Lt</i>	<i>Butterfield, William M., 2Lt</i>
N <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
B <i>Spencer, Ronald L., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Connors, Charles L., S/Sgt</i>
E <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R <i>Marrs, Horace S., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Glass, John D., S/Sgt</i>
G <i>Black, James F., Cpl</i>	<i>Langford, Alvin L., S/Sgt</i>
F <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

Sunday, 4 April 1943 (continued)

428th BS: Extracts from Missing Air Crew Report # 14581: Interrogation reports indicate at least three (3) parachutes seen. No search was conducted.

A/C No. 41-13048 (MACR-14581 - mid air collision with ME-109)

P *Middleton, Laula M., 1Lt - MIA, DED*
CP *Frost, Roland (NMI), 1Lt - MIA, DED*
N *None*
B *Surbaugh, Steven G., S/Sgt - MIA, DED*
E *None*
R *Everard, William J., S/Sgt - MIA, DED*
G *Dickey, Norris D. "Pop", S/Sgt - MIA, DED*
F *Jenkins, Howard L. "Larry", T/Sgt - MIA, DED*

5 June 1945

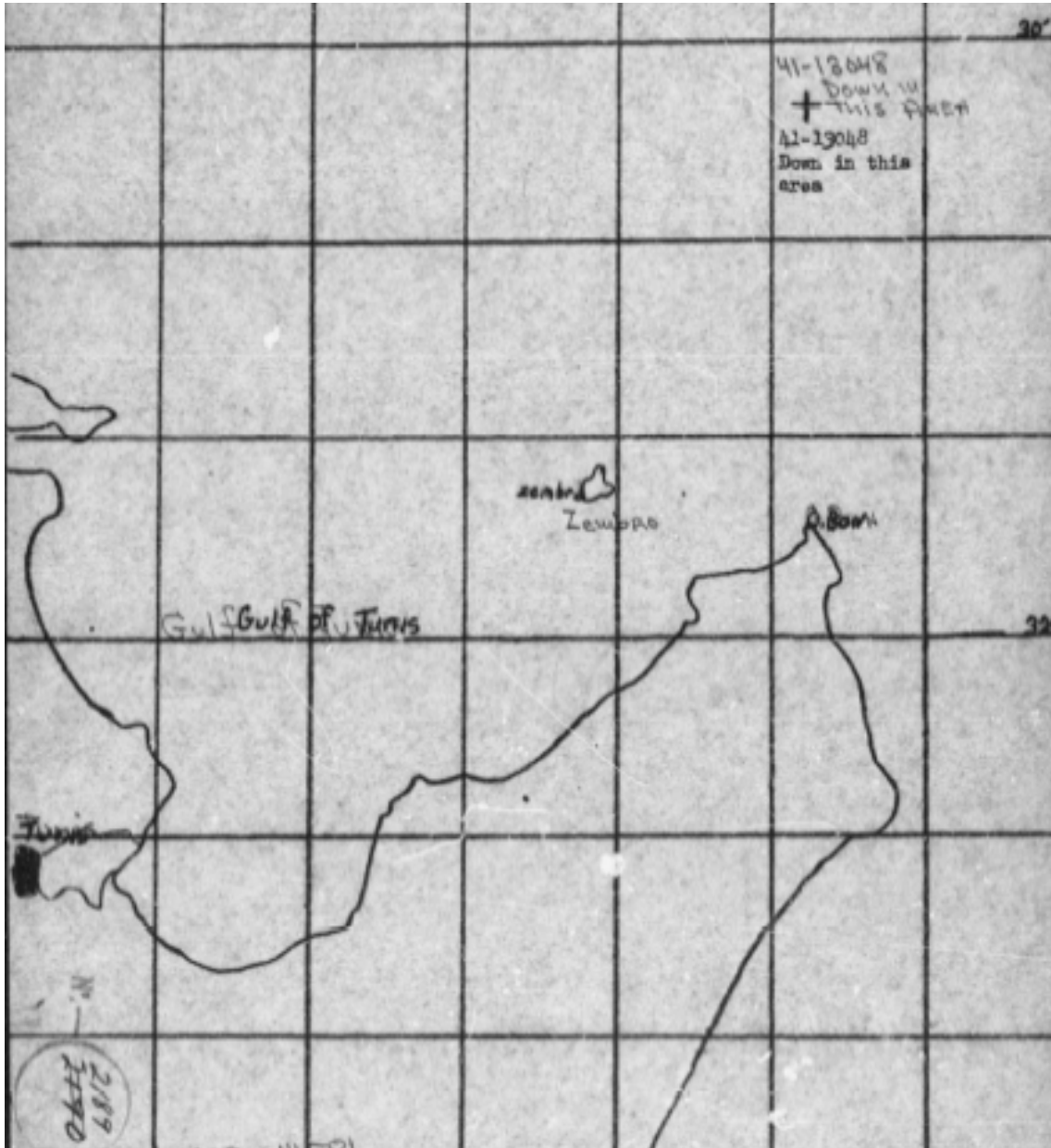
MISSING AIR CREW REPORT
AIRCRAFT NUMBER - 41-13048
PILOT - 1st Lt. Laula M. Middleton
ASN - 0-660174

Par. 15 - Description of Circumstances Pertaining to Missing Aircraft.

On April 4, 1943, the 428th Bombardment Squadron, 310th Bombardment Group (M), had six (6) aircraft on a sea search mission. An enemy convoy was sighted and a bombing run was made. The first element did not drop their bombs because there was a hospital ship passing through the convoy. This element then circled and made a second run on the target. Enemy aircraft were making attacks during this time. One was shot down and the pilot was seen to bail out. The second enemy aircraft made a pass and came straight on through the element. As he passed through the element he struck aircraft number 41-13048 and tore off part of the wing. Aircraft number 41-13048 then went into a spin and crashed in the water. Three parachutes were seen to open before the plane crashed.

KILMER H. EPPERSON
Lt Col., Air Corps
Commanding

Sunday, 4 April 1943 (continued)



Monday, 5 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): No Entry

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Sicily, during the night of 4/5 Apr, Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) Wellingtons bomb the Trapani docks and shipping. During the day, B-17's bomb the airfields at Boccadifalco and Milo.

In Tunisia, B-17's bomb airfields at Sidi Ahmed and Tunis. B-25's hit the airfield at Bo Rizzo and attack a convoy off Cap Bon. P-38's fly several fighter sweeps over the Straits of Sicily. One force of fighters claims 16 airplanes destroyed. Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) A-20's hit the Airfield at El Djem and La Fauconnerie. Fighters attack E-boats off Pont-du-Fahs and vehicles S of Bou Hamran, and fly sweeps, reconnaissance, and patrol over the battle area in Tunisia. Western Desert Air Force (WDAF) and Northwest African Coastal Air Force (NACAF) aircraft hit motor transport W of Cekhira, bomb Djebel Zitouna Airfield, and strike shipping in the Straits of Sicily. During the day Northwest African Air Force (NAAF) aircraft claim destruction of nearly 50 aircraft in aerial combat. Today starts Operations FLAX (5-22 Apr) which is designed to destroy, in the air and on the ground, enemy air transports and escorts employed in ferrying personnel and supplies to Tunisia. HQ 325th Fighter Group transfers from Tafaraoui, Algeria to Montesquieu, Algeria. The 84th Bombardment Squadron (Light), 47th Bombardment Group (Light) with A-20's transfers from Canrobert, Algeria to Thelepte, Tunisia. The 91st and 93rd Fighter Squadrons, 81st Fighter Group with P-39's transfer from Thelepte, Tunisia to Bone, Algeria.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 64:

Mission Report # 77, 5 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Capts. Allan, Cometh, and Helsabeck.

2. At 0915 36 B-25-C's took off to Bomb Bo Rizzo A/D. 2
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

returned early. 24 dropped 2442 X 20 frags bombs on target at 1440 from
No. A/C No & Type Time

8000 to 10.000 ft. 32 returned at 1345.
Altitude No. A/C Time

Monday, 5 April 1943 (continued)

3. RESULTS: There were 80 to 90 planes parked on the A/D, poorly dispersed, composed of twin engine and three engine, transports, bombers and fighters. The field was completely covered with direct hits as all bombs fell in the target area. Strings of bombs were seen to hit along rows of airplanes parked on the A/D, particularly on the W and NW portions. Hits were also seen on buildings and installations adjacent to the field.

4. OBS: E/A--Formation was attacked immediately after leaving target by approximately 15 ME-109's having yellow noses and wing tips, white noses and wing tips; others had blue fuselages and silver bellies. In the ensuing encounter four E/A were seen shot down by the bombers and one by escort.
Flak--At target moderate heavy and light flak was encountered, accurate as to range and deflection. Slight heavy flak encountered after leaving target, coming from jetty of land at Trapani. Moderate heavy and light flak from Favignana Island, accurate range, deflection poor. At Marsala Seaplane Base 25 to 30 seaplanes at anchor 2 miles N of Marsala. At Milo A/D 40 to 50 A/C observed on the field. A good sized M/V sighted at 37 deg 55 min N, 12 deg 12 min E., heading about 50 deg. One white ship 5 miles out of Trapani Harbor, heading into harbor. Seven M/V's three miles inland in river N of Mazara, 5 on W bank, 2 on E, being loaded or unloaded. Innumerable small vessels of all varieties noted in vicinity of Stagnone and Mazara Al Val, and S of Trapani harbor.
Own Losses--Two B-25's crash landed in water close to Egadi Islands, one between and one just W, at 1145 hours. Both made good landing in water.
Pamphlets were dropped at the target.

5. WEATHER: CAVU.

6. PRESS DATA: S/Sgt. Alvin Langford (*428th BS*), RD No. 1, Chester, Pa., credited with one ME-109 shot down.
S/Sgt. Elvin A. Davis (*428th BS*), 2710 N. Warner St., Tacoma, Wash., one ME-109 shot down.
S/Sgt. Scott T. Bowden (*381st BS*), Rice, Texas, one ME-109 shot down.
S/Sgt. Charles C. Payne (*428th BS*), 4260 Second Ave., South Birmingham, Ala., one ME-109 shot down.

Thirty five (35) sorties flown 5/4/43.

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

Monday, 5 April 1943 (continued)

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 64:

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

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

Allan, John T., Capt

Marple, Louis F., T/Sgt

Pagano, Salvatore A., S/Sgt

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

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

A/C No. 5 *aircraft & crew unidentified* A/C No. 6 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

A/C No. 7 *aircraft & crew unidentified* A/C No. 8 *aircraft & crew unidentified*

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

Monday, 5 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 9 *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 # 64:

Mission Report # 45

Date- April 5, 1943

Target- Bo Rizzo Airdrome, Sicily.

Squadron airplanes- ten

Ten planes from the squadron, the largest amount ever sent out at one time joined with 24 others from the Group, to make the largest formation ever sent out at one time. The result was the Bo Rizzo A/D was the recipient of 2,242 fragmentation bombs.

Lieut. Liverman stated that he did not like to brag but he would like to claim at least six direct hits on bombers and transports. One would think by the lesson that the Luftwaffe taught the world in Poland that they would take care of their airplanes in a better manner, but the Group turned things around and taught them a lesson by claiming at least 40 aircraft destroyed on the ground.

It was a beautiful target outlined in white with the airplanes sitting wing-tip to wing-tip, and the boys really went to work with the best skill that was possible and came home claiming the best job to date. Fighters jumped us as we were leaving the target and we got four, while the fighters escorting us claimed two more. The protection given us today was the best received yet. Two of our planes crash landed in the ocean, but the crews got out to be prisoners of war. All of the squadron planes returned safely.

A/C No. 1 *aircraft unidentified*

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

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

Cometh, Lawrence (NMI), Capt
Miller, James I., 2Lt
Huffman, Arnie J., 2Lt
Liverman, Ernest W. "Big Red", 2Lt
None
Mount, Robert J., S/Sgt
Melhus, Palmer C., S/Sgt
None

Monday, 5 April 1943 (continued)

**A/C No. 3 may be 41-13096 "The
Question Mark"**

P *McCormick, Robert J., II, 1Lt*
CP *Rich, Robert S., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Richardson, David L., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Oliver, Frank R., Jr., S/Sgt*
G *Leanza, Anthony (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified

P *Grow, Clyde L., 1Lt*
CP *Hubbard, Jack W., 2Lt*
N *Coffey, John D., 2Lt*
B *Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Hill, Raiford B., T/Sgt*
G *Pintar, John L., Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 7 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. 9 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. 4 aircraft unidentified

Cromartie, Harry L., Jr., 1Lt
Wright, John E., 2Lt
None
Kechter, Harry H., T/Sgt
None
Smith, Eldon M., T/Sgt
Kobasa, Joseph (NMI), S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified

Stutts, Earl Leeman, 1Lt
Steger, Edward H., Jr., 2Lt
None
Kessler, Paul E., S/Sgt
None
Barbieri, Edward D., Cpl
Janicki, Andrew J., S/Sgt
Hutchenrider, Willis E., Sgt

A/C No. 8 aircraft unidentified

Draemel, Dean H., 1Lt
Sours, Robert J., 2Lt
Kanode, Robert C., 1Lt
Holmes, William G., 2Lt
None
Thomas, Cyril L., S/Sgt
Williams, John A., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 10 aircraft unidentified

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

Monday, 5 April 1943 (continued)

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

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 64:
BO RIZZO A/D - SICILY

Group Mission # 64	Flight 35 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 45	Escort 15 P-38's
Take Off 09:15	Bomb Load: (72 x 20) Frag.
Target 11:40	Bombs Dropped: 8 (72 x 20). 11520#
Down 13:45	
Total Time: 4 Hrs. 15 Min.	

Weather: CAVU.

Remarks: One B-25 returned early. Altitude 8000 to 10000 feet. 8(72 x 20). 11520#. Frags well dispersed over A/D on which, photos showed, were 80 Enemy Aircraft, mostly transports. Flak: Heavy, moderate, accurate from vicinity of the target. Light, moderate, inaccurate from coast, and from Enemy Vessels along coast by Egadi Islands.

Our planes were attacked by 12 ME-109's. Five were shot down; one by fighter escort and one by S/Sgt. S.T. Bowden.

Lt. W.C. Jackson's aircraft and Capt. Aldridge's (428th. Bomb. Sq.) ship made forced landings just off the target.

Aldridge, Richard A. "Dick", Capt, pilot, 428th BS

A/C No. 41-13065 (F)

P *Wert, Donald S., 1Lt*
CP *Marlow, Jack F., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Rogers, Lee C., Cpl*
E *None*
R *Dittmar, Francis A., Sgt*
G *Bowden, Scott T., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-29961 "SNOW WHITE II" (MACR-? - shot down by AAA) (E)

P *Jackson, William C., 1Lt*
CP *Greenberg, Gerald J., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Caron, John B., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *LaPorte, Frank R., T/Sgt*
G *Hughes, Albert (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

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

Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt
Durgin, James L., 2Lt
Hickman, James G., 1Lt
Supple, Gilbert J., 1Lt, 379th BS
None
Boone, Edward W. W., S/Sgt
Daly, Donald J., T/Sgt
None

A/C No. 42-53444 "PUNJAB" (J)

Rouch, Melvin R., 1Lt
Stagner, Howard C., F/O
None
Grossi, Frank L., S/Sgt
None
Swanson, William M., S/Sgt
Pontet, Emile A., Jr., Sgt
None

Monday, 5 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 42-32439 (H)

P *Kearns, Archibald G., 1Lt*
CP *Stone, Morris M., F/O*
N *None*
B *Gullic, John F., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Elder, Donald W., Cpl*
G *Moberg, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

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

P *VanDivort, Richard (NMI), 1Lt*
CP *Wightman, Henry B. "Hank", 1Lt*
N *Forbes, Robert L., 2Lt*
B *Myers, John H., 1Lt*
E *None*
R *Chaffins, Ray (NMI), T/Sgt*
G *Nelson, Forest S., S/Sgt*
F *None*

**A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE"
/ "ROYAL FLUSH" (I)**

Phillips, Carl A., 1Lt
Dauley, Charles G., 2Lt
None
Kelley, Donald C., T/Sgt
None
Nickelson, Royal C., T/Sgt
Kiel, William H., S/Sgt
None

**A/C No. 41-13085 "GREEN
HORNET" (L)**

Coddington, Walter E., 1Lt
Ramsey, Thomas Upton, 2Lt
None
Hartzell, James J., S/Sgt
None
Thomas, Quentin W., S/Sgt
Moxey, Orville E., S/Sgt
None

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

A/C No. 41-29961 "SNOW WHITE II" (MACR-? - shot down by AAA) (E)

P *Jackson, William C., 1Lt – MIA, POW, RTD*
CP *Greenberg, Gerald J., 2Lt – MIA, POW, RTD*
N *None*
B *Caron, John B., T/Sgt – MIA, POW, RTD*
E *None*
R *LaPorte, Frank R., T/Sgt – MIA, POW, RTD*
G *Hughes, Albert (NMI), S/Sgt – MIA, POW, RTD*
F *None*

428th BS War Diary: An air base in Sicily, Bo Rizzo, was the hot-spot today. Capt. Aldridge went down. Co-pilot was Lt. Southward assigned only one day. Capt. Truelove, B, Capt. Norvell, N, T/Sgt Richardson, RG, S/Sgt Schletz, G, were on the crew. They went down just off the coast of Sicily. There is some hope of their rescue by the enemy. Frags were dropped all over the field destroying numerous planes of all types. Total estimated between 80 and 90 planes.

Aldridge, Richard A. "Dick", Capt, pilot
Richardson, Warren F., T/Sgt, radio-gunner
Southward, Raymond Russell "Ray", 2Lt, pilot
Truelove, Denver Vernon, Capt, bombardier

Norvell, Richard T., Capt, navigator
Schletz, Howard G., S/Sgt, gunner

Monday, 5 April 1943 (continued)

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 63: Bo Rizzo on the 5th was the first Sicily target to come our way. It was a costly one for the Axis but again so it was for the 428th. Captain Aldridge crash landed just off the coast when his engines were severely damaged by flak at the target. Lt. Jackson of the hapless 381st landed nearby. Both crews seemed to emerge safely from their planes.

Aldridge, Richard A. "Dick", Capt, pilot *Jackson, William C., 1Lt, pilot, 381st BS*

A complete surprise, some eighty to ninety aircraft were poorly dispersed on the airdrome. Strings of frags were seen to burst along the neat rows of aircraft. Installations adjacent to the field were hit.

Four ME-109's were seen to crash from the fire of the B-25's and one to the escort. S/Sgt Davis, S/Sgt Langford and Sgt. Payne of the 428th notched their guns for one each. The flak at the target was moderate and accurate.

Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt, gunner

Langford, Alvin I., S/Sgt, gunner

Payne, Charles C., Sgt, gunner

That Lt. Roy Southward, the pilot of our first replacement crew, went down with Captain Aldridge was hard. It was his first mission, and he was separated from his twin brother with whom he had attended flying school. We lost also our "A" flight leader, our squadron navigator and bombardier. The lost crew:

Aldridge, Richard A. "Dick", Capt, pilot

Norvell, Richard T., Capt, navigator

Richardson, Warren F., T/Sgt, radio-gunner

Schletz, Howard G., S/Sgt, gunner

Southward, Raymond Russell "Ray", 2Lt, pilot

Truelove, Denver Vernon, Capt, bombardier

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

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

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

Wheeler, William A. K., "Gus", 1Lt

CP *Cunningham, Robert L., 1Lt*

Moulder, Robert W., F/O

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*

Mathis, Paul E., T/Sgt

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

Kirkland, Robert Olin "Kirk", S/Sgt

F *Walker, James P. "Chief" Maj*

None

Commander (observer)

Monday, 5 April 1943 (continued)

	A/C No. 3 41-29961 (MACR-16530 - shot down by AAA)		A/C No. 4 probably 41-13070 “Shanghi Lil”
P	<i>Aldridge, Richard A. “Dick”, Capt</i>		<i>Canham, Arthur E., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Southward, Raymond Russell “Ray”, 2Lt</i>		<i>Wilson, Kieth Gordon, 1Lt</i>
N	<i>Norvell, Richard T., Capt</i>		<i>Hartman, Richard J., 1Lt</i>
B	<i>Truelove, Denver Vernon, Capt</i>		<i>Vestal, Marion S., 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Richardson, Warren F., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Stilp, John P., T/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Schletz, Howard G., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Parker, Perrie C., Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
	A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified		A/C No. 6 probably 41-13083 “Old 83”
P	<i>Gshwandtner, Frank J. “Gish”, 1Lt</i>		<i>Loutrel, John McCluney, 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Williams, Edwin W., 1Lt</i>		<i>Smith, Merle E., 2Lt,</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>Doolittle, Leonard N., 1Lt</i>
B	<i>Herold, Armin F., Jr., 1Lt</i>		<i>Naworski, Edward F., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Temple, Robert W., Sgt</i>		<i>Bennett, Robert L., T/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Stage, Albert A., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Phillips, William E., Pvt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
	A/C No. 7 aircraft unidentified - may be “Skunk Hunter”		A/C No. 8 aircraft unidentified - may be “Bad Seed”
P	<i>Marsh, Edward D., 1Lt</i>		<i>Brock, James C., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Wescott, Robert M., 1Lt</i>		<i>Blaauw, Harold A., 1Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>McDonald, Donald E. “Mac”, Sgt</i>		<i>Spencer, Ronald L., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Bosworth, William H., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Marrs, Horace S., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Payne, Charles C., Sgt</i>		<i>Black, James F., Cpl</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
	A/C No. 9 probably 41-13094 “Seasweep”		
P	<i>Holley, James Taylor, 1Lt</i>		
CP	<i>Butterfield, William M., 2Lt</i>		
N	<i>None</i>		
B	<i>Connors, Charles L., S/Sgt</i>		
E	<i>None</i>		
R	<i>Glass, John D., S/Sgt</i>		
G	<i>Langford, Alvin L., S/Sgt</i>		
F	<i>None</i>		

Monday, 5 April 1943 (continued)

428th BS: Extracts from Missing Air Crew Report # 16530: The target for B-25's on April 5, 1943 was Bo Rizzo Airdrome, Sicily. The planes piloted by Captain Aldridge and Lieutenant Jackson of the 310th were shot down.

Aldridge, Richard A. "Dick", Capt, pilot Jackson, William C., 1Lt, pilot, 381st BS

Captain Aldridge crash landed just off the coast when his engines were severely damaged by flak at the target.

A/C No. 41-29961 (MACR- 16530 - shot down by AAA)

P *Aldridge, Richard A. "Dick", Capt - MIA, POW, RMC*
CP *Southward, Raymond Russell "Ray", 2Lt - MIA, POW, RMC, EUS*
N *Norvell, Richard T., Capt - KIA*
B *Truelove, Denver Vernon, Capt - KIA*
E *None*
R *Richardson, Warren F., T/Sgt - KIA*
G *Schletz, Howard G., S/Sgt - MIA, POW, escaped & evaded the enemy, and returned to Allied military control on 11 Nov 43*
F *None*

AG 704 DEAD (9 Mar 44)

9 March 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief, Casualty Branch.

SUBJECT: Review and Determination of Status of Captain Denver V. Truelove, 0-427637, and two other members of the 310th Bombardment Group.

1. Radio message number 5829 (Casualty message 112046), dated 21 April 1943, from Headquarters, North African Theater of Operations, reported the following named personnel of the 310th Bombardment Group as missing in action off the coast of Sicily since 5 April 1943:

Captain Richard A. Aldridge	0-024025	
Captain Richard T. Norvell	0-431338	
Captain Denver V. Truelove	0-427637	
Second Lieutenant Raymond R. Southward	0-730981	
Technical Sergeant Warren F. Richardson	06138549	
Staff Sergeant Howard G. Schletz	18070482	(1) *

Monday, 5 April 1943 (continued)

2. The following named personnel were reported prisoners of war by Prisoner of War Report US/562 (Casualty message No. 119033) received 28 April 1943 from Home through the International Red Cross:

Captain Richard A. Aldridge	0-024025	
Second Lieutenant Raymond R. Southward	0-730981	
Staff Sergeant Howard G. Schletz	18070482	(2)

3. Radio message number W 5095 (Casualty message No. 317126), dated 13 November 1943, from Headquarters, North African Theater of Operations, reported that Staff Sergeant Howard G. Schletz, 18078482 had escaped from enemy imprisonment and returned to Allied military control on 11 November 1943. (3)

4. Sergeant Schletz was interrogated by Military Intelligence Service after his return to duty, and the information was incorporated in EX Report No. 47, dated 12 December 1943, a copy of which was furnished to the Casualty Branch. In this report the personnel listed in paragraph 1 are named as comprising the crew of a type B-25 aircraft of the 310th Bombardment Group, 428th Bombardment Squadron. Sergeant Schletz states that the following named personnel were killed in action:

Captain Richard T. Norvell	0-431338	
Captain Denver V. Truelove	0-427637	
Technical Sergeant Warren F. Richardson	06138549	

A pertinent portion of Sergeant Schletz' report is quoted below:

“Of the six crew members, three were drowned. Before the plane crashed I had been wounded by flak in the leg and buttocks and suffered other injuries when the plane crashed. The ship broke in two when it crashed in the sea but remained afloat for about two minutes, during which time the pilot, Capt. Richard Aldridge, the co-pilot, 2nd Lt. Southward and my self managed to extricate ourselves, but not the others.”

5. Sergeant Schletz' account was made under circumstances which brings to its support every factor of credibility. He reported the facts after escaping from the enemy and returning to Allied military control, under which conditions he could have had no possible ulterior motive for falsification. He was clearly concerned to furnish the correct details not otherwise available and his position as a member of the crew gives weight and authority to the facts he related. His testimony, naming three crew members as dead and describing the manner in which their deaths occurred, is the best possible evidence of their death that can be expected outside of the actual recover of their bodies.

Monday, 5 April 1943 (continued)

6. It is recommended, therefore, that the status of the following named personnel be changed from "Missing in action" to "Killed in action" 5 April 1943, off the coast of Sicily:

Captain Richard T. Norvell	0-431338
Captain Denver V. Truelove	0-427637
Technical Sergeant Warren F. Richardson	06138549

* Numbers in parentheses refer to list of source material attached hereto.

7. Evidence considered sufficient to conclusively establish the fact of death was received by the Secretary of War on 8 March 1944.

JOSEPH F. HENNESSEY
Captain, A. G. D.,
Special Determination Sub-Section.

CONCURRED IN:

JOHN T. BURNS
MAJOR, A. G. D.
Status Review and
Determination Section

DANIEL P. POTEET
Colonel, A. G. D.
Officer in Charge,
Status Review and
Determination Section

APPROVED:

Pursuant to the authority conferred by paragraph 1s(1) of letter AG 240 (20 Mar 43) dated 17 April 1943, subject: "Procedure under Public Law 490 in Case of Death", an official report of death will be made showing date of death as 5 April 1943 and date of receipt of evidence of death by Secretary of War as 8 March 1944.

By order of the Secretary of War:

GEORGE F. HERBERT
Colonel, A. G. D.
Chief, Casualty Branch, A.G.O.

Captain Denver V. Truelove, O-427637, and
Two other members of the 310th Bombardment
Group.

Monday, 5 April 1943 (continued)

LIST OF SOURCE MATERIAL

1. Radio message number 5829 (Casualty message No. 112046), dated 21 April 1943, from Headquarters, North African Theater of Operations.
 2. Prisoner of War Report US/562 (Casualty message No. 119033), received 28 April 1943 from Rome through the International Red Cross.
 3. Radio message number W 5095 (Casualty message No. 317126), dated 13 November 1943, from Headquarters, North African Theater of Operations.
 4. EX Report No. 47, dated 12 December 1943, from MIS-X Section, POW Branch, Military Intelligence Division G-2.
-

Tuesday, 6 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Sicily, B-24's hit the ferry and slips at Messina harbor. In Italy, RAF Liberators, under IX Bomber Command control, bomb the Naples area and rail facilities in Messina, Sicily.

In Tunisia, B-25's fly 2 missions against concentrations in the Oued el Akarit region, scoring hits on buildings, tanks, and numerous vehicles. P-40's fly escort, fighter sweep, and strafing operations, attacking guns, vehicles and personnel as the British Eighth Army begin their assault on Oued el Akarit from which the enemy begins withdrawing during the night. HQ 376th Bombardment Group (Heavy) and its 514th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) with B-24's transfer from Soluch, Libya to Bengasi, Libya.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Sicily, B-17's bomb the docks and ships at Trapani.

In Tunisia, during the night of 5/6 April, Wellingtons bomb the dock and shipping at Tunis. During the day, B-25's and P-38's attack shipping in the Straits of Sicily. Two forces of B-17's bomb a convoy further W, near Zembra Island and hit a convoy off Bizerte. B-25's and A-20's attack landing grounds and airfields at Enfidaville, La Fauconnerie, and El Djem. La Fauconnerie bears the brunt of the attacks and is well covered. Fighters escort the bombing raids, fly reconnaissance missions, and attack scattered enemy movement. HQ 27th Bombardment Group (Light) and its 91st Bombardment Squadron (Light) with A-20's transfer from Nouvion, Algeria to Ras el Ma, French Morocco. The 92nd Fighter Squadron, 81st Fighter Group with P-39's transfers from Youks-les-Bains, Algeria to Maison Blanche, Algeria. The 154th Observation Squadron, 68th Observation Group with P-39's and P-51's transfers from Thelepte, Tunisia to Sbeitla, Tunisia.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 65:

Mission Report # 78, 6 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Capts. Gshwandtner, Draemel, Lt. Thorndike.
2. At 0630 18 B-25-C's took off to Sea Search Shipping. None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

Tuesday, 6 April 1943 (continued)

early. 17 dropped 102 X 500 1/10 del. bombs on target at 0830 from
No. A/C No & Type Time
1430
from 7800 to 8500. 18 returned at 1015.
Altitude No. A/C Time

3. RESULTS: At 37 deg 42 min N, 11 deg 25 min E, at 0815 hours, a convoy was sighted consisting of three M/V's and four escorts. One of the M/V's was very good size, the other two being somewhat smaller. Two or three hits and numerous near misses were reported. It was also reported that two of the vessels were left smoking, one of which was on fire.
4. OBS: Flak--At target, intense light flak inaccurate because of insufficient range, also, moderate heavy flak, inaccurate as to range and deflection.
E/A--Five to six ME-109's seen at target. Did not attack bombers. Kept off by escort. Visual observation of shore prevented by haze.
Photos were taken and are being forwarded.
5. WEATHER: CAVU, with slight haze.
6. PRESS DATA:

Eighteen (18) sorties flown 6/4/43

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

379th BS War Diary: No Entry

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 65:

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

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

Tuesday, 6 April 1943 (continued)

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

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

A/C No. 5 *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 # 65:

Mission Report # 46

Date- April 6, 1943

Target- Sea Search.

Squadron airplanes- three

The badly needed supplies, being called for by hard-pressed Field Marshall Erwin Rommel, was the target for today as we glided out across the bluer then ever waters of the Mediterranean. We were not disappointed in our search as we spotted three merchant vessels escorted by four destroyers, off the Tunisian coast.

We immediately went to work and although their evasive action was good enough to ward off any direct hits, our 500 pounders hit close enough to damage two of the ships and leave them smoking. The flak was intense but very inaccurate and we came away unscathed.

Quite a few fighters were seen in the distance, but we guess they did not like the looks of our escort and stayed away and we came back safe and sound.

Tuesday, 6 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 1 <i>aircraft unidentified</i> (flight leader)		A/C No. 2 <i>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>Lively, Jake S., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Thomas, Cyril L., S/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>None</i>
A/C No. 3 <i>aircraft unidentified</i>			
P	<i>Sacknoff, David A., 1Lt</i>		
CP	<i>Walcott, Albert R., 2Lt</i>		
N	<i>None</i>		
B	<i>Jastrzemski, Walter F., S/Sgt</i>		
E	<i>None</i>		
R	<i>Wesline, Richard L., T/Sgt</i>		
G	<i>Grace, John J., S/Sgt</i>		
F	<i>None</i>		

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

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 65:

SEA SEARCH

Group Mission # 65	Flight 18 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 46	Escort 24 P-38's
Take Off 06:30	Bomb Load: (6 x 500)
Target 08:30	Bombs Dropped: 5 (6 x 500). 15,000#
Down 13:45	

Total Time: 3 Hrs. 30 Min.

Weather: CAVU.

Remarks: 5(6 x 500). 15,000# Demolition bombs were dropped from 7,000-9,000 feet on convoy of two 10,000 ton transports, one cruiser and three destroyers. One destroyer probably sunk and one transport probably damaged. Six ME-109's were driven off. No claims.

Flak: Heavy, moderate, quite accurate, but no damage. Light, extremely intense, but mostly falling short.

Tuesday, 6 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 42-53444 "PUNJAB" (J)

P *Rouch, Melvin R., 1Lt*
CP *Stagner, Howard C., F/O*
N *None*
B *Grossi, Frank L., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Swanson, William M., S/Sgt*
G *Pontet, Emile A., Jr., Sgt*
F *None*

**A/C No. 42-53445 "LOTTIES
 GOOSE" (H)**

P *Lewis, Kenneth E., 1Lt*
CP *Stecher, Robert Walter, 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Smith, Willie A., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Starnes, Carl B., S/Sgt*
G *George, Wade Clayton, Cpl*
F *None*

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

P *VanDivort, Richard (NMI), 1Lt*
CP *Wightman, Henry B. "Hank", 1Lt*
N *Forbes, Robert L., 2Lt*
B *Crouch, Jacob F., Jr., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Chaffins, Ray (NMI), T/Sgt*
G *Nelson, Forest S., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13061 "LIL' JOE" (G)
 (flight leader)

Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt
Durgin, James L., 2Lt
Hickman, James G., 1Lt
Supple, Gilbert J., 1Lt, 379th BS
None
Boone, Edward W. W., S/Sgt
Daly, Donald J., T/Sgt
None

A/C No. 41-13065 (M)

Wert, Donald S., 1Lt
Marlow, Jack F., 2Lt
None
Rogers, Lee C., Cpl
None
Dittmar, Francis A., Sgt
Bowden, Scott T., S/Sgt
None

**A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE"
 / "ROYAL FLUSH" (L)**

Phillips, Carl A., 1Lt
Dauley, Charles G., 2Lt
None
Kelley, Donald C., T/Sgt
None
Nickelson, Royal C., T/Sgt
Kiel, William H., S/Sgt
None

428th BS War Diary: They had an early morning "milk run". Met a convoy and went to town on it. A destroyer was blown up and three vessels left blazing. No news on the fallen crew.

Aldridge, Richard A. "Dick", Capt, pilot
Richardson, Warren F., T/Sgt, radio-gunner
Southward, Raymond Russell "Ray", 2Lt, pilot
Truelove, Denver Vernon, Capt, bombardier

Norvell, Richard T., Capt, navigator
Schletz, Howard G., S/Sgt, gunner

Tuesday, 6 April 1943 (continued)

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 65: On the 6th, Captain "Gish" Gshwandtner led the group on an eighteen plane raid, a sea search mission. It was high altitude this time. The crews reported three hits and many near misses on a convoy of three merchant vessels and a convoy of four escorting vessels. Two were reported smoking and a third on fire.

Gshwandtner, Frank J. "Gish", Capt, pilot

The light flak was short and the moderate heavy flak was generally inaccurate. Five or six ME-109's--the convoy's top cover, were effectively screened from our bombers by our escort.

<p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 1 <i>aircraft unidentified</i> (flight leader)</p> <p>P <i>Gshwandtner, Frank J. "Gish", 1Lt</i></p> <p>CP <i>Williams, Edwin W., 1Lt</i></p> <p>N <i>Doolittle, Leonard N., 1Lt</i></p> <p>B <i>Herold, Armin F., Jr., 1Lt</i></p> <p>E <i>None</i></p> <p>R <i>Temple, Robert W., Sgt</i></p> <p>G <i>Stage, Albert A., S/Sgt</i></p> <p>F <i>Pell, Robert T., Maj, HQ 310th BG</i> <i>(observer)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 3 <i>aircraft unidentified - may be "Skunk Hunter"</i></p> <p>P <i>Marsh, Edward D., 1Lt</i></p> <p>CP <i>Wescott, Robert M., 1Lt</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 style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 2 <i>probably 41-13083 "Old 83"</i></p> <p><i>Loutrel, John McCluney, 1Lt</i></p> <p><i>Smith, Merle E., 2Lt,</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Naworski, Edward F., 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> <p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 4 <i>probably 41-13070 "Shanghi Lil"</i></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>Brown, Allen R., S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p>
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Wednesday, 7 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Sicily, B-24's attack Palermo harbor.

In Tunisia, B-25's bomb retreating columns which are being pursued N of Oued el Akarit by the British Eighth Army's 30 and 10 Corps. Fighters carry out bombing and strafing operations over the battle area.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) Wellingtons attack Tunis and the Jabal al Jallud Marshalling Yard. Weather cancels all other NASAF missions except for 2 reconnaissance sorties. All available airplanes of the XII Air Support Command and Western Desert Air Force (WDAF) hit ground forces which are retreating in all sectors. Fighters fly sweeps over Medjez el Bab (claiming 3 fighters downed), a scramble mission NW of Oued Zarga (5 fighters are claimed destroyed), and over 100 other sorties (no encounters). Highway and motor transport are bombed between Sfax and Sousse. Light and medium bombers, and fighter-bombers attack concentrations N of the Oued el Akarit line. Units of the US II Corps make contact with the British Eighth Army on the Gabes-Gafsa road. HQ 31st Fighter Group and its 307th, 308th and 309th Fighter Squadrons with Spitfires transfer from Thelepte, Tunisia to Djilma, Tunisia. The 318th Fighter Squadron, 325th Fighter Group with P-40F's transfers from Tafaraoui, Algeria to Montesquieu, Algeria. The squadron will fly its first combat mission on 17 Apr 43.

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: Day of rest for crews.

Thursday, 8 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, P-40's fly 29 bomber escort, armed reconnaissance, and fighter-bomber missions against retreating column along coast N of Gabes.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force): Weather prevents all Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) operations except minimum weather reconnaissance.

In Tunisia, Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) P-40's and Spitfires fly sweeps and armed reconnaissance over the Faid Pass-Fondouk el Aouareb-Kairouan-Ousseltia area as the British X Corps attacks Fondouk. Other fighters fly widespread reconnaissance and sweeps, attacking motor transport S of Zaghouan. Western Desert Air Force (WDAF) fighters hit retreating columns in the Cekhira-Sfax area.

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 cattle buyers went on a spree. Lts Alexander and Harris and the 1/Sgt bought a steer for the squadron. An 800 pounder cost \$150.

Alexander, Homer P., 1Lt

Harris, Wayne A., 1Lt, Asst S-2

Johnston, Melvin R., Sgt, 1/Sgt

Friday, 9 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, P-40's in a fighter-bomber role attack Sfax, as the British Eighth Army, in pursuit of the retreating enemy, reaches a position a few miles to the SW of the coast.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, fighters continue reconnaissance of the N half of Tunisia and the Straits of Sicily and hit enemy movement and defenses over wide areas between Sfax and Enfidaville. HQ 320th Bombardment Group (Medium) and its 443rd Bombardment Squadron (Medium) with B-26B's transfer from Tafaraoui, Algeria to Montesquieu, Algeria. The 319th Fighter Squadron, 325th Fighter Group with P-40F's transfers from Tafaraoui, Algeria to Montesquieu, Algeria. The squadron will fly its first mission on 17 Apr 43.

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 1/Sgt butchered the steer today and now we have the steaks all set for Sunday dinner. Had the band concert at noon.

Johnston, Melvin R., Sgt, 1/Sgt

Saturday, 10 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, B-24's bomb the harbor at Naples.

In Sicily, RAF Liberators, under operation control of the IX Bomber Command, hit Palermo.

In Tunisia, Allied ground forces take Sfax and continue N to La Hencha. HQ IX Fighter Command is transferred from Egypt to Tripoli, Libya. Personnel are to be moved from Egypt over a period of several weeks.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Sardinia, B-17's hit ships at La Maddallena.

In Tunisia, during the night of 9/10 Apr, Wellingtons bomb troops and transport on roads in the area surrounding Enfidaville. The following days, B-26's follow up the Wellingtons with raids on roads and military concentrations near Enfidaville. Fighter-bombers also hit ground targets in the Enfidaville areas. Fighters escort bombers, carry out reconnaissance, and fly sweeps over the battle area from Medjez el Rah to Sousse.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 66:

Mission Report # 79, 10 April 1943

- 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Lts. Thorndike, Capts. Allan and Draemel.
- At 1045 18 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 (6 bombs salvoed)
No. A/C No & Type Time

from 18 returned at 1500.
Altitude No. A/C Time

Saturday, 10 April 1943 (continued)

3. RESULTS: No shipping sighted. No bombs dropped. At 37 deg 15 min N, 11 deg 15 min E, at 1256 hours approximately 25 JU-52's escorted by 3 or 4 JU-88's, heading 225 deg flying 200 to 300 feet above the sea were encountered. As a result of this engagement 10 JU-52's and 2 JU-99's were seen to be destroyed by the bombers. Due to the rapidity with which the transports burst into flame when hit by gunfire, it would appear that the cargo was of a highly combustible nature. The crew of one plane reports a second formation of approximately 20 JU-52's in Gulf of Tunis, heading NE. Bombers did not engage this formation. At about 1330 the formation was attacked off Bizerte by 3 ME-109's and 1 ME-210, and a running fight ensued as far W as Cape Serrat, in the course of which 1 ME-109 was seen to be shot down by escort.

4. OBS: Flak in vicinity of Cape Serrat, 8 to 10 bursts of heavy flak, accurate as to both range and deflection.
8 to 10 Siebel Ferries seen in Bizerte harbor by 3 crews. Close visual observation of shore revealed nothing.
Photos of encounter with JU-52's were taken and are being forwarded.

5. WEATHER: Base to coast--8/10 cumulus at 4500 ft, visibility 7 to 8 miles, slight haze.
Over Water--2/10 coverage at 5000 ft, visibility unlimited.
Return--Haze had lifted and visibility improved.

6. PRESS DATA: S/Sgt. Lester A. Kitzerow (*379th BS*), 5156 30th St., Detroit, Mich., one JU-52 shot down.
S/Sgt. Stanley J. Kida (*379th BS*), 11 Bryant St., Utica, N.Y., 1 JU-88 and 1 JU-52 shot down.
S/Sgt. Rudy Sekermestrovich (*379th BS*), 1001 Bellevue, Akron, Ohio, 1 JU-52 shot down.
S/Sgt. Salvatore A. Pagano (*379th BS*), 543 23rd St., Seattle, Wash., 1 JU-52 shot down.
Cpl. Wade C. George (*381st BS*), R.F.D. No. 1, Mineral Ridge, Ohio, 1 JU-52 shot down.
S/Sgt. John A Williams (*380th BS*), 176 Eden Ave., Bellevue, Ky., 1 JU-52 shot down.
Sgt. John E. White (*381st BS*), 376½ East Main, Columbus, Ohio, 1 JU-52 shot down.
S/Sgt. Richard J. Walsh (*381st BS*), 500 West 135th St., New York City, 1 JU-52 shot down.
S/Sgt. William D. Redding (*380th BS*), 1454 Williams St., Denver, Colorado, one JU-52 shot down.
S/Sgt. Edwin Moberg (*381st BS*), 21 Walden Terrace, Saugus, Mass., 1 JU-88 shot down.
S/Sgt. James F. Black (*428th BS*), 6732 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas, 1 JU-52 shot down.

Saturday, 10 April 1943 (continued)

Eighteen sorties flown 10/4/43

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

379th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 66: Another Sea Search mission was flown on April 10th. No M/V were sighted, but our gunners had a field day when a formation of 25 JU-52's with three JU-88's were intercepted on their way to Tunis with men and supplies. The B-25's accounted for ten of the transports and two of the escorting 88's. Many of our ships were hit, but only two men were injured. Lt. Taylor, co-pilot for Capt. Allan, was struck by a 20mm armor-piercing shell which ripped through the fleshy parts of both his thighs. He was administered first aid by other members of the crew while Capt. Pound, the navigator took over his duties as co-pilot. The radio-gunner, Sgt Chase, received several scratches on his arm and legs when shrapnel entered his compartment... Lt. Leask made another spectacular landing. His ship had taken a terrific hammering and the hydraulic system and oil lines of one engine were knocked out. When the landing gear was cranked down manually, it was discovered that although the main gear had locked into place, the nose wheel had not. Since a crash landing was expected, Lt. Leask dropped his bombs in salvo in a nearby lake used for target practice and prepared to land. He instructed three men of his crew to crawl to the tail of the ship so that their extra weight might facilitate a tail skid landing. The approach was made during which all had a few anxious moments while the plane rocked crazily in the prop wash of a ship landing just ahead. Lt. Leask then attempted the impossible and was successful. He bounced the ship down hard hoping to jar the nose-wheel into a locked position. It rose about ten feet into the air and gracefully settled on the runway in a beautiful, conventional three point landing... Old "58" was again turned over to Lt. Neubauer, the Engineering Officer for repairs and will soon be back in the line-up to pay "Jerry" back for its cuts and bruises. (See attached story by Lt. Neubauer - *story missing from the file*)

Neubauer, William H., 2Lt, Engineering Officer

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

P *Allan, John T., Capt*
CP *Taylor, Julius H., 2Lt*
N *Pound, William R., Jr., Capt*
B
E
R *Chase, Henry H., T/Sgt*
G *Pagano, Salvatore A., S/Sgt*
F

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

Beachum, Graham C., 2Lt

Saturday, 10 April 1943 (continued)

P *A/C No. 3 aircraft & crew unidentified* *A/C No. 4 aircraft & crew unidentified*
CP *Leask, Bertram J., 2Lt* *Logan, Harry R., Jr., 2Lt*
N
B
E
R
G
F

Gunners: on which aircraft/crew?

G *Kitzerow, Lester A., S/Sgt*
G *Kida, Stanley J., S/Sgt*
G *Sekermestrovich, Rudy (NMI), S/Sgt*
G *Pagano, Salvatore A., S/Sgt*

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

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 66:

Mission Report # 47

Date- April 10, 1943

Target- Sea Search.

Squadron airplanes- six

Back we went again today, in search of Adolph's supplies and although we failed to see any boats we arrived directly in the center of his transports hauling supplies into Bizerte. The slaughter that came out of this mix-up was too large even to be carried on our victory chart, when the totals showed that the group had shot down ten JU-52's and two JU-88's. Staff Sergeants Redding and Williams of our Squadron each claimed a transport shot down.

Three escort ships that took a pass at us, were hurriedly chased into Tunis by our P-38 escort and when last seen one of them was going down in flames. The transports burst into flames in such a manner that but one thought was in our minds they must be carrying badly needed petrol.

Finished with the transports we started back home only to be jumped by four enemy fighters and after a running fight of 20 minutes, the results were one enemy fighter shot down by our escort. Flak from Cape Serrat also helped to chase them away.

We got slightly off our course on the way home, and arrived at Tebessa but everything turned out for the best as we finally arrived back at Berteaux, late but hungry.

Saturday, 10 April 1943 (continued)

<p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)</p> <p>P <i>Draemel, Dean H., 1Lt</i></p> <p>CP <i>Sours, Robert J., 2Lt</i></p> <p>N <i>Kanode, Robert C., 1Lt</i></p> <p>B <i>Holmes, William G., 2Lt</i></p> <p>E <i>None</i></p> <p>R <i>Shambaugh, Robert M., T/Sgt</i></p> <p>G <i>Williams, John A., S/Sgt</i></p> <p>F <i>None</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified</p> <p>P <i>Sacknoff, David A., 1Lt</i></p> <p>CP <i>Goss, Ralph R., 2Lt</i></p> <p>N <i>None</i></p> <p>B <i>Links, Albert G., S/Sgt</i></p> <p>E <i>None</i></p> <p>R <i>Wesline, Richard L., T/Sgt</i></p> <p>G <i>Tabor, George E., S/Sgt</i></p> <p>F <i>None</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified</p> <p>P <i>Stutts, Earl Leeman, 1Lt</i></p> <p>CP <i>Steger, Edward H., Jr., 2Lt</i></p> <p>N <i>None</i></p> <p>B <i>Kechter, Harry H., S/Sgt</i></p> <p>E <i>None</i></p> <p>R <i>Barbieri, Edward D., Cpl</i></p> <p>G <i>Janicki, Andrew J., S/Sgt</i></p> <p>F <i>Hutchenrider, Willis E., Sgt</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified</p> <p><i>Santos, Carroll A., Jr., 1Lt</i></p> <p><i>Picklesimer, Marion L., 2Lt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Lively, Jake S., S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Smith, Teddy L., S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>Redding, William D., S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified</p> <p><i>Batten, Earl E., Capt</i></p> <p><i>Shorsher, Fred A., 2Lt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Sessler, Howard A., 1Lt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Dackiewicz, John A., Sgt</i></p> <p><i>Szczesniak, Alfred A., S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified</p> <p><i>Amick, Cecil D., 1Lt</i></p> <p><i>Porter, Lloyd L., 2Lt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Longrie, Kenneth R., S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>Meyer, Albert J., S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>Huffman, Herbert (NMI), S/Sgt</i></p> <p><i>None</i></p>
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381st BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 66:

SEA SEARCH

Group Mission # 66	Flight 18 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 47	Escort 24 P-38's
Take Off 10:45	Bomb Load: (6 x 500)
Down 15:05	Bombs Dropped: None
Total Time: 3 Hrs. 35 Min.	
<u>Weather:</u> CAVU at sea. 5000 solid overcast near coast.	

Saturday, 10 April 1943 (continued)

Remarks: Three of the escorting P-38's turned back. Our Aircraft failed to find any shipping but ran across 20 JU-52's, escorted by 3 ME-210's and 1 JU-88. Our escort drove off the fighters, shot one down and destroyed 7 JU-52's, but not before Lt. Taylor (379th) was wounded in both legs.

Taylor, Julius H., 2Lt, pilot, 379th BS

A shooting spree followed, during which 4 of the 381st. Sqd. Gunners claim victories; S/Sgt. E. Moberg, Cpl. W.C. George, Sgt. J.E. White and S/Sgt. R.J. Walsh.

No flak.

A/C No. 42-53444 "PUNJAB" (C)

P *Rouch, Melvin R., 1Lt*
CP *Stagner, Howard C., F/O*
N *None*
B *Grossi, Frank L., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Swanson, William M., S/Sgt*
G *Pontet, Emile A., Jr., Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 42-53445 "LOTTIES GOOSE" (B)

P *Lewis, Kenneth E., 1Lt*
CP *Stecher, Robert Walter, 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Hornung, Willard R., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Ough, James A., Pvt*
G *George, Wade Clayton, Cpl*
F *None*

A/C No. 42-53426 (D)

P *Kearns, Archibald G., 1Lt*
CP *Stone, Morris M., F/O*
N *None*
B *Crouch, Jacob F., Jr., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Elder, Donald W., Cpl*
G *Moberg, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

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

Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt
Durgin, James L., 2Lt
Hickman, James G., 1Lt
Supple, Gilbert J., 1Lt, 379th BS
None
Boone, Edward W. W., S/Sgt
Walsh, Richard J., S/Sgt
White, Alpheus Wray, Jr., Capt,
Commander (observer)

A/C No. 41-13065 (F)

Wert, Donald S., 1Lt
Houghtaling, Harold A., F/O
None
Rogers, Lee C., Cpl
None
Dittmar, Francis A., Sgt
Bowden, Scott T., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 41-29957 (E)

Marlow, Jack F., 2Lt
Burt, Norman A., F/O
None
Douglas, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt
None
Budde, Wilbur H., S/Sgt
White, John Edward, Sgt
None

Saturday, 10 April 1943 (continued)

M Y F I R S T M I S S I O N

By T/Sgt. *Wilbur* H. Budde, Radio Operator and Lower Turret Gunner

Well, it so happens that this is one of those mornings when a person could easily sleep 'till noon, but, due to a motherly call from Operations, I was awakened in the wee hours of the morning and informed that briefing would take place immediately. I was excited all right, but tried not to show it.

During the briefing we learned that there was no specific target, but we were to follow a prescribed course along the Tunisian coast in search of Axis shipping. This sounded good enough for me.

After briefing was completed, we received our escape kits, containing compass, rations, file, and our per diem packet, and then boarded one of those peeps, that will carry from two to twenty men, and were dispersed to our planes. From this time until take-off the upper-turret gunner and I were busy checking our guns and ammunition, in case of emergency. The next hour included take-off, taking our position in the formation, (which was right wing ship, first element of the second flight), test firing our guns to insure perfect operation, (one item about which a gunner can never be too careful).

I was now on my first mission, a real thrill that I will never forget. Arriving at the coast, we kept a watchful eye on the horizon for Axis shipping, but it so happened that none could be found. I was beginning to think that my first mission was not going to be very important. We were now approaching the end of our course and after making the 180 degree turn on our reciprocal course, we were informed by our pilot that enemy planes were sighted at the two o'clock position. Before I could sight them, my imagination is showing me enormous flights of ME-109's, 210's and FW-190's and every type of enemy aircraft know, coming out to intercept us. Then came the pilot's voice over the interphone saying that the enemy planes were identified as JU-52's, a tri-motored German transport plane. That was quite a relief. A few seconds later our guns were blazing away, the formation of transports had broken, some going down in flames, others crash landing in the water to escape from the deadly fire.

Our P-38 escort was having a field day; first they took care of the German fighters, shooting down 4 ME-109's and 3 ME-210's. Then they used their remaining ammunition on the JU-52's, adding seven more planes to their score. This was the most crowded 30 seconds of action I ever hope to see in combat. Our gunners accounted for 10 JU-52's and 2 JU-88's. S/Sgt. Richard J. Walsh, S/Sgt. Wade C. George, S/Sgt. Scott D. Bowden, S/Sgt. John E. White, and S/Sgt. Howard Moberg received credit for one each.

Lt. Taylor (of the 379th) was wounded in both legs but all of our aircraft returned safely.

Taylor, Julius H., 2Lt, pilot, 379th BS

P.S.--S/Sgt. White was the gunner in our plane.

Saturday, 10 April 1943 (continued)

428th BS War Diary: The boys were after a convoy today but tangled with a flock of JU-52's escorted by ME-210's. T/Sgt Lockhart got one from the lower turret and S/Sgt Davis got one from the upper.

Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt, gunner

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

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 66: On the 10th sea sweeping was again the order of the day, but it was the air that was whisked clean. No shipping was sighted. However a formation of twenty-five JU-52's escorted by 4 JU-88's chanced across our path. It was a field day. Ten JU-52's and two JU-88's fell before the fire of the bomber's turrets. After remainder of this Tunis-bound convoy was about obliterated by our escort, three ME-109's and an ME-210 intercepted them off Bizerte and stayed with them until the boys reached Cape Serrat. The escort accounted for one of these. S/Sgt Black got his first plane in this clay pigeon meet.

	A/C No. 1 <i>probably 41-13077</i> "The Reluctant Dragon" (later "Old Patch")	A/C No. 2 <i>aircraft unidentified - may be</i> "Bad Seed"
P	<i>Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt</i>	<i>Brock, James C., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Cunningham, Robert L., 1Lt</i>	<i>Blaauw, Harold A., 1Lt</i>
N	<i>Colvin, Jay W., Jr., 1Lt</i>	<i>None</i>
B	<i>Upchurch, Jerry E., 1Lt</i>	<i>Spencer, Ronald L., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R	<i>Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Marrs, Horace S., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Black, James F., Cpl</i>
F	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

Sunday, 11 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, B-24's attack Naples harbor. AA is intense and fighters attack B-24's from all sides, knocking 1 down. The B-24's claim destruction of 3 fighters.

In Tunisia, B-25's attack motor transport and concentrations N of Sfax as Allied ground troops push toward Sousse. HQ 340th Bombardment Group (Medium) and its 486th and 487th Bombardment Squadrons (Medium) with B-25C's transfer from El Kabrit, Egypt to Medenine, Tunisia.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Sardinia, during the night of 10/11 Apr, Wellingtons bomb airfields at Decimomannu and Monserrato.

In Sicily, B-17's strike the harbors of Marsala and Trapani.

In Tunisia, P-38's carry out fighter sweeps and reconnaissance flights, claiming numerous aircraft shot down, including 21 transports destroyed between Cap Bon and Marsala. B-26's bomb Oudna Airfield, B-25's hit Sainte-Marie du Zit Airfield, and B-17's strike the harbor of Tunis. Fighter-bombers and light bombers blast trucks S of the Enfidaville road, trucks E of Kairouan, the Sousse docks, and numerous other targets in the NE quarter of Tunisia.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 67:

Mission Report # 80, 11 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Capt. Gshwandtner, Lt. Hamilton and Capt. Canham.

2. At 1535 18 B-25-C's took off to Bomb St. Marie Du Zit L/G. None
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

returned early. 18 dropped 216 X 100 inst. bombs on target at 1710 from
No. A/C No & Type Time

9100 to 10,100' 18 returned at 1830.
Altitude No. A/C Time

Sunday, 11 April 1943 (continued)

3. RESULTS: Entire field was well covered by direct hits, especially the center and W portion, including the revetments. After the bombing the whole field was covered with smoke and dust, making further observation of results practically impossible by means of visual observation. Over 20 planes on the field, mostly in revetments-two or more taking off.
4. OBS: Flak--Moderate to intense accurate heavy flak at target. Intense light flak also seen, inaccurate due to insufficient range. From Zaghouan moderate heavy, inaccurate as to range and deflection. Two batteries reported-one N of town and one two miles E of town. From a hill S of Zaghouan situated at 36 deg 22 min N, 10 deg 8 min E, slight light inaccurate flak. From a lake or reservoir at 36 deg 16 min N, 10 deg 11 min E moderate heavy inaccurate flak. From road running N and S just W of target at 36 deg 25 min N, 10 deg 19 min E, slight heavy inaccurate flak (bombers were out of range).
Heavy traffic seen on roads leading N to Pont du Fahs and Zaghouan.
Pamphlets were dropped in target vicinity.
Photos taken and are being forwarded.
5. WEATHER: CAVU with slight ground haze.
6. PRESS DATA: None

Eighteen (18) sorties flown 11/4/43.

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

379th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 67:** April 11th saw eighteen of our ships bombing the airdrome at St. Marie du Zit. The entire field was well covered by hits, especially in the center and west portion including the revetments where over twenty ships were dispersed.

A/C No. 1 *aircraft & crew unidentified*
(flight leader) *probably "June Bug"*

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

P *Hamilton, Robert M. "Ham", 1Lt*

Grant, Isaac E., 2Lt

CP

N

B

E

R

G

F

Sunday, 11 April 1943 (continued)

	<i>A/C No. 3 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 4 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
P	<i>Rogers, Harold E., 2Lt</i>	<i>Blosel, Raymond C., F/O</i>
CP		
N		
B		
E		
R		
G		
F		
	<i>A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified - probable crew</i>	<i>A/C No. 6 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
P	<i>Sullivan, Phillip E., 2Lt</i>	<i>Holstead, James R., Capt</i>
CP	<i>Rorig, Kramer W., 2Lt</i>	
N	<i>None</i>	
B	<i>Marshall, Raymond S., Jr., 2Lt</i>	
E	<i>None</i>	
R	<i>Ross, John D., S/Sgt</i>	
G	<i>Stankewicz, Benjamin M., Sgt</i>	
F	<i>None</i>	

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

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 67:

Mission Report # 48

Date- April 11, 1943

Target- Ste. Marie du Zit Landing Ground

Squadron airplanes- five

At the request of General Montgomery and his fast moving Eighth Army we left today to knock out a landing ground that had been bothering the "Limeys" slightly. We thought we did a good job, barring the bombs that had to be salvoed, and many other difficulties, but our pictures proved us only half-right.

Some bombs hit the target, but the majority of them fell short and we were sadly disappointed to ruin our good bombing record. It was also the first time that we had ever carried 100 pound bombs on a mission, here-to-fore, we had always carried fragmentation bombs for knocking out landing fields.

We did run into some flak but the range for it was too great and no scars were received. Convoys from the fast retreating German Army could be seen moving north towards Pont Du Fahs. We also dropped a few leaflets for the Italian boys to have and to insure them safe conduct through our lines as they came in, in droves to surrender. All of our planes returned safely.

Sunday, 11 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified

P *Cromartie, Harry L., Jr., 1Lt*
CP *Wright, John E., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Kechter, Harry H., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Smith, Eldon M., T/Sgt*
G *Kobasa, Joseph (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified

P *Grow, Clyde L., 1Lt*
CP *Hubbard, Jack W., 2Lt*
N *Coffey, John D., 2Lt*
B *Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Hill, Raiford B., T/Sgt*
G *Pintar, John L., Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified

P *Rich, Robert S., 2Lt*
CP *Goss, Ralph R., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Mizerski, Richard C. "Bronco", 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Poknis, Paul A., S/Sgt*
G *Rodgers, Lamar F., Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 may be 41-13096 "The Question Mark"

McCormick, Robert J., II, 1Lt
Steger, Edward H., Jr., 2Lt
None
Richardson, David L., T/Sgt
None
Oliver, Frank R., Jr., S/Sgt
Leanza, Anthony (NMI), S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

Timmerman, Melvin E., 2Lt
Rice, Carl E., 2Lt
None
Donahue, Francis E., S/Sgt
None
Thomas, Cyril L., S/Sgt
Tabor, George E., S/Sgt
None

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

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 67:

STE. MARIE du ZIT AIRDROME

Group Mission # 67	Flight 18 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 48	Escort 28 Spitfires
Take Off 15:35	Bomb Load: (12 x 100)
Target 17:10	Bombs Dropped: 2(12 x 100). 2,400#
Down 18:25	

Total Time: 2 Hrs. 45 Min.

Weather: CAVU.

Remarks: 2(12 x 100). 2,400 bombs were dropped on the Enemy Airdrome. Damage was slight as planes were well dispersed, approximately 20 of them being in blast shelters.

Sunday, 11 April 1943 (continued)

Two Enemy Aircraft were observed taking off from the field during the bombing, but not attacked our Aircraft.

Flak: Heavy, slight, not too accurate. Light, falling short, as our bombing altitude was 9,700 feet.

	A/C No. 41-29962 (F)		A/C No. 41-29957 (E)
P	<i>Denton, Richard D., 2Lt</i>		<i>Collins, George Dennis, F/O</i>
CP	<i>Donnovan, Gerald M., 2Lt</i>		<i>Wirth, Thomas F., Jr., F/O</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Hartzell, James J., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Daly, Donald J., T/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Potolsky, George (NMI), S/Sgt</i>		<i>Rogers, Mike D., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Miller, Foster Eugene, Sgt</i>		<i>Dees, Paul (NMI), Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>

428th BS War Diary: Had our steak dinner today with an alert right in the middle of it for which no one dispersed causing some hell to be raised. Planes took off for an airport at St. Marie Du Zit. Hit with 100 pounders.

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 67: Part of the plan to eliminate the effectiveness of Axis air support was to hit each landing ground with craters. The mission of eighteen aircraft on the 11th of April was one of this nature. Visited frequently previously, St. Marie du Zit was loaded with flak, mostly mobile stuff. This, and the lack of knowledge concerning permanent enemy flak positions in the area made ack-ack fire an especial hazard.

This time this landing ground West of Tunis and North of the road from Medjez El Bab was well covered. The revetments in the West, the Western side and the central portions of the field were particularly hard hit.

The flak at the target was moderate to intense and accurate. The holes in the ship was sufficient testimony of its effectiveness to and from the target. Intense light flak en route was below altitude.

In any case the boys all came back, though they were battle-scarred. On the whole it was a very commendable performance.

	A/C No. 1 <i>aircraft unidentified</i> (flight leader)		A/C No. 2 <i>aircraft unidentified</i>
P	<i>Gshwandtner, Frank J. "Gish", 1Lt</i>		<i>Walker, James P. "Chief" Maj, Commander</i>
CP	<i>Williams, Edwin W., 1Lt</i>		<i>Knight, Gerald R., 1Lt</i>
N	<i>Doolittle, Leonard N., 1Lt</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Herold, Armin F., Jr., 1Lt</i>		<i>Queen, Kenneth E., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Temple, Robert W., Sgt</i>		<i>Martin, Robert J., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Stage, Albert A., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Wink, Jacob A., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>

Sunday, 11 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 3 *probably* **41-13070** “**Shanghi Lil**” (flight leader)

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 *Brown, Allen R., S/Sgt*
F *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

A/C No. 5 *probably* **41-13050** “**Virginia Sturgeon**”

P *Peterson, Arthur C., 1Lt*
CP *Purifoy, Lawrence Lloyd "Peter Plink", 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Guilfoyle, Frederick J., S/Sgt*
G *Michalek, Joseph F., S/Sgt*
F *Amirault, Osborne J., Sgt*

Monday, 12 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, B-24's of the 376th Bombardment Group (Heavy) sent to attack Naples harbor, are prevented by bad weather from bombing the primary target. About half return without bombing while the others hit Cosenza and Crotona. Other heavy bombers of the same group, in a subsequent mission, bomb Naples and the secondary target of Pizzo.

In Sicily, RAF Liberators, under operational control of the IX Bomber Command, are dispatched against Palermo. The primary target is attacked, in spite of total cloud cover, but most of bomb tonnage is dropped in Messina, Italy harbor. In ground action in Tunisia, the British 10 Corps captures Sousse and heads north.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Sicily, B-17's bomb the harbor at Trapani and hit shipping in the Straits of Sicily.

In Tunisia, B-17's bomb the harbor at Bizerte. B-25's and A-20's bomb airfields at Oudna and Sainte-Marie du Zit. Aircraft of tactical units hit enemy movements and fly sweep and reconnaissance throughout NE Tunisia following the attack during the night of 11/12 Apr by British aircraft, mainly in the Enfidaville, Zaghouan, and Bou Fichta areas. HQ 31st Fighter Group and its 307th 308th and 309th Fighter Squadrons with Spitfires transfer from Djilma, Tunisia to Le Sers, Tunisia. HQ 33rd Fighter Group and its 59th and 60th Fighter Squadrons with P-40's transfer from Berteaux, Algeria to Ebba Ksour, Tunisia. The 59th has been operating from Thelepte, Tunisia since 20 Mar. The 2nd, 4th and 5th Fighter Squadrons, 52nd Fighter Group with Spitfires transfer from Youks-les-Bains, Algeria to Le Sers, Tunisia. The 154th Observation Squadron, 68th Observation Group with P-39's and P-51's transfers from Sbeitla, Tunisia to Le Sers, Tunisia.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 68:

Mission Report # 81, 12 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Capts. Cometh, Draemel and Lt Hamilton.

2. At 0905 18 B-25-C's took off to Bomb St. Marie Du Zit L/G. 1
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

returned early. 17 dropped 180 X 100 inst. bombs on target at 1040 from
No. A/C No & Type Time

Monday, 12 April 1943 (continued)

9100 to 10,100'. 16 returned at 1220.
Altitude No. A/C Time

One landed at Souk El Arba; one crash landed at 36 deg 27 min N, 7 deg 31 min E, crew safe.

3. RESULTS: About 25 planes seen on the field, mostly small, single engine; several on taxi strip, balance in revetments, well dispersed over field. The L/G was well covered with hits, starting from SW corner running through to the NE, lengthwise of the field. The NE and SE corners, the runways and the western edge received many hits. A number of bombs were also seen to burst in the center of the field. Several fires were seen on the field after the bombing. Buildings on the W side of the L/G were hit and seen to be burning. It is believed that hits near some revetments were close enough to damage the A/C in them. Results believed to have been good.
4. OBS: Flak--At target, intense, accurate heavy flak; from reservoir S of target at 36 deg 16 min N, 10 deg 11 min E, heavy flak, moderate, inaccurate; heavy flak reported from Zriba, 5 miles S of target, details unreported; from Jebel Zaghouan moderate heavy, very accurate; from roads, heavy and light flak reported, moderate intensity. Formation was subjected to intermittent heavy flak from whole region S of Zaghouan and Pont du Fahs.
Heavy traffic observed on all roads heading N, congestion reported.
Photos were taken and are being forwarded.
5. WEATHER: CAVU with slight haze.
6. PRESS DATA: None

Eighteen (18) sorties flown 12/4/43.

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

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 69:

Mission Report # 82, 12 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Capts. Helsabeck, Canham and Lt. Thorndike.
2. At 1050 18 B-25-C's took off to Bomb Oudna L/G. None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

Monday, 12 April 1943 (continued)

early. 18 dropped 216 X 100 inst. bombs on target at 1218 from
No. A/C No & Type Time

9000 to 10400 ft. 18 returned at 1330.
Altitude No. A/C Time

3. RESULTS: Bombs seen to hit across field from W to E, hitting among 3 A/C seen parked near middle of field. Some bombs fell short and some went over, but the L/G was well covered with hits. Black smoke was observed coming from the L/G area.
4. OBS: Very slight heavy and light flak experienced at target, range fair, but deflection was poor. Slight heavy flak 5 miles S of target; range good, deflection poor. Moderate heavy flak from edge of Lake Sret el Kourzia, at 36 deg 27 min N, 9 deg 6 min E, very inaccurate as to both range and deflection. One battery of heavy flak just N of Pont du Fahs at 36 deg 25 min N, 9 deg 55 min E.
Five to seven silver colored storage tanks in a grove of trees by a railroad 2 to 3 miles S of target located at 36 deg 38 min N, 10 deg 8 min E. Seven medium sized M/V in S end of Tunis harbor, south side of causeway leading to La Goulette.
Practically no traffic seen on main or subsidiary roads in target area, and on route to and from target.
No enemy A/C were seen or encountered.
No satisfactory photographs taken.
5. WEATHER: CAVU with slight ground haze, high stratus at 16/20,000 ft.
6. PRESS DATA: None

Eighteen (18) sorties flown 12/4/43.

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

379th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 68:** To make certain of complete destruction of the airdrome at St. Marie du Zit, a second flight was sent out on April 12th. Approximately twenty five A/C were seen well dispersed and in revetments. The L/G was well covered and fire was observed coming from buildings and west side of the field. The results were believed to be very good.

Monday, 12 April 1943 (continued)

P *A/C No. 1 aircraft & crew unidentified* *A/C No. 2 aircraft & crew unidentified*
CP *Beachum, Graham C., 2Lt* *Grant, Isaac E., 2Lt*
N
B
E
R
G
F

A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified - *A/C No. 4 aircraft & crew unidentified*
 probable crew *(flight leader) probably "June Bug"*
P *Sullivan, Phillip E., 2Lt* *Hamilton, Robert M. "Ham", 1Lt*
CP *Rorig, Kramer W., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Marshall, Raymond S., Jr., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Ross, John D., S/Sgt*
G *Stankewicz, Benjamin M., Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 5 aircraft & crew unidentified *A/C No. 6 aircraft & crew unidentified*
P *Rogers, Harold E., 2Lt* *Blozel, Raymond C., F/O*
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

A/C No. 7 aircraft & crew unidentified
P *Holstead, James R., Capt*
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

Monday, 12 April 1943 (continued)

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 69: *(379th BS did not participate)*

An hour later, eighteen planes of the 428th and 381st made a run on the Oudna L/G. Bombs were seen to burst near three aircraft parked near the center of the field. Heavy black smoke was observed and the L/G was considered well covered.

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

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 68:

Mission Report # 49

Date- April 12, 1943

Target- Ste. Marie du Zit Landing Ground

Squadron airplanes- eleven

Whenever a tough job arrives or some one else fails to complete one, it looks as though the 380th gets the job to complete, and complete it we did, furnishing eleven out of eighteen airplanes with Capt. Cometh's crew leading the flight. Pictures proved we did the job in a thorough manner and fires were left burning from the 100 pounders that we dropped. About 25 fighter craft were seen in the revetments on the field but how much use they are to Adolph now, is a matter of pure fiction.

Starting with Lieut. Liverman's string, 90 per cent of the bombs fell on the target and if nothing else the scrap iron on the runways would make the field useless for sometime.

By the flak thrown up, all the guns in Rommel's long retreat must have been firing at us. For twenty minutes before the target and twenty minutes afterwards, we were entirely covered and in testimony to the aim, we would like to state that 16 out of 18 airplanes had holes in them. One airplane of another Squadron was forced down in friendly territory, although the crew is safe.

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

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., S/Sgt*
G *Melhus, Palmer C., S/Sgt*
F *Wilder, Rodney R. "Hoss", Maj,*
Commander (observer)

A/C No. 2 *aircraft unidentified*

Cromartie, Harry L., Jr., 1Lt
Wright, John E., 2Lt
None
Kechter, Harry H., T/Sgt
None
Smith, Eldon M., T/Sgt
Kobasa, Joseph (NMI), S/Sgt
None

Monday, 12 April 1943 (continued)

**A/C No. 3 may be 41-13096 "The
Question Mark"**

P *McCormick, Robert J., II, 1Lt*
CP *Walcott, Albert R., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Richardson, David L., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Oliver, Frank R., Jr., S/Sgt*
G *Leanza, Anthony (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified

P *Stutts, Earl Leeman, 1Lt*
CP *Steger, Edward H., Jr., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Kessler, Paul E., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Barbieri, Edward D., Cpl*
G *Janicki, Andrew J., S/Sgt*
F *None*

**A/C No. 7 aircraft unidentified (flight
leader)**

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. 9 aircraft unidentified

P *Grow, Clyde L., 1Lt*
CP *Hubbard, Jack W., 2Lt*
N *Coffey, John D., 2Lt*
B *Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Hill, Raiford B., T/Sgt*
G *Pintar, John L., Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

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

A/C No. 6 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

A/C No. 8 aircraft unidentified

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

A/C No. 10 aircraft unidentified

Timmerman, Melvin E., 2Lt
Rice, Carl E., 2Lt
None
Donahue, Francis E., S/Sgt
None
Thomas, Cyril L., S/Sgt
Tabor, George E., S/Sgt
None

Monday, 12 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 11 *aircraft unidentified*

P *Rich, Robert S., 2Lt*
CP *Goss, Ralph R., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Mizerski, Richard C. "Bronco", 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Poknis, Paul A., S/Sgt*
G *Rodgers, Lamar F., Sgt*
F *None*

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 69:
(380th BS did not participate)

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

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 68:
(381st BS did not participate)

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 69:
UDNA LANDING GROUND 11 ½ Mi. S. of TUNIS

Group Mission # 69	Flight 18 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 49	Escort 24 Spitfires
Take Off 10:50	Bomb Load: (12 x 100)
Target 12:18	Bombs Dropped: 10(12 x 100). 12,000#
Down 13:20	

Total Time: 2 Hrs. 30 Min.

Weather: CAVU.

Remarks: 10(12 x 100). 12,000# bombs scattered in Landing Ground area, but no Enemy Aircraft were visible. No Enemy Aircraft attacked.

Flak: Heavy and light, moderate and inaccurate.

After the interrogation, coffee and doughnuts were served the combat crews by two charming Red Cross girls.

**A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE"
/ "ROYAL FLUSH" (H)**

P *Phillips, Carl A., 1Lt*
CP *Therrien, Robert W., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Kelley, Donald C., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Nickelson, Royal C., T/Sgt*
G *Kiel, William H., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-29962 (M)

Denton, Richard D., 2Lt
Donnovan, Gerald M., 2Lt
None
Dombkowski, Stanley F., S/Sgt
None
Potolsky, George (NMI), S/Sgt
Miller, Foster Eugene, Sgt
None

Monday, 12 April 1943 (continued)

**A/C No. 41-13085 "GREEN
HORNET" (I)**

P *Coddington, Walter E., 1Lt*
CP *Ramsey, Thomas Upton, 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Hornung, Willard R., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Thomas, Quentin W., S/Sgt*
G *Moxey, Orville E., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 42-53444 "PUNJAB" (P)

P *Rouch, Melvin R., 1Lt*
CP *Stagner, Howard C., F/O*
N *None*
B *Grossi, Frank L., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Swanson, William M., S/Sgt*
G *Pontet, Emile A., Jr., Sgt*
F *None*

**A/C No. 42-53445 "LOTTIES
GOOSE" (C)**

P *Lewis, Kenneth E., 1Lt*
CP *Stecher, Robert Walter, 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Smith, Willie A., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Ough, James A., Pvt*
G *George, Wade Clayton, Cpl*
F *None*

A/C No. 42-53426 (Q)

P *Kearns, Archibald G., 1Lt*
CP *Stone, Morris M., F/O*
N *None*
B *Crouch, Jacob F., Jr., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Elder, Donald W., Cpl*
G *Moberg, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-29957 (L)

Collins, George Dennis, F/O
Wirth, Thomas F., Jr., F/O
None
Daly, Donald J., T/Sgt
None
Rogers, Mike D., S/Sgt
Dees, Paul (NMI), Sgt
None

A/C No. 41-13061 "LIL' JOE" (N)
(flight leader)

Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt
Durgin, James L., 2Lt
Hickman, James G., 1Lt
Supple, Gilbert J., 1Lt, 379th BS
None
Boone, Edward W. W., S/Sgt
Walsh, Richard J., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 41-13065 (S)

Wert, Donald S., 1Lt
Houghtaling, Harold A., F/O
None
Rogers, Lee C., Cpl
None
Dittmar, Francis A., Sgt
Bowden, Scott T., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 42-32333 (R)

Wightman, Henry B. "Hank", 1Lt
Cook, Walter E., F/O
None
Gullic, John F., S/Sgt
None
Porter, Lloyd G., Jr., S/Sgt
Fox, Francis J., S/Sgt
None

Monday, 12 April 1943 (continued)

428th BS War Diary: Two 18 plane missions. First one headed for yesterday's target and unloaded their pay dirt on about 15 planes. They met plenty of flak. Second flight headed for Oudna Airdrome, 11 miles outside of Tunis but found it empty. They bombed the runways anyway. Sue McPherson, Red Cross nurse, stopped by the Orderly Tent to use the phone. Barbour missed the truck back from town. Cost him 1000 francs, \$20, to convince a jeep driver to bring him back. Sold rest of seats in jeep so it only cost him 100 Francs.

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 68:
(428th BS did not participate)

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 69: Two missions were flown against landing grounds on the twelfth. The second was led by Captain Helsabeck on the Oudna Landing Ground. Again the target was reported to be well covered. One string was dropped among three aircraft parked in the center of the field. Black smoke billowed from the landing ground on the turn away.

The defenses at the target were slight and generally inaccurate. En route they were subjected to fire in three places but no damage was incurred. The successful direction of the route through the least well-defended area in the hot bed of ack-ack West and North of Tunis is a tribute to the ability of Lt. Colvin, the lead navigator--from the 428th. All planes returned safely.

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

P *Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt*
CP *Cunningham, Robert L., 1Lt*
N *Colvin, Jay W., Jr., 1Lt*
B *Upchurch, Jerry E., 1Lt*
E *None*
R *Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt*
G *Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt*
F *Walker, James P. "Chief" Maj*
Commander (observer)

A/C No. 3 probably 41-13094 "Seasweep"

P *Holley, James Taylor, 1Lt*
CP *Butterfield, William M., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Connors, Charles L., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Glass, John D., S/Sgt*
G *Langford, Alvin L., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified - may be "Bad Seed"

Brock, James C., 1Lt
Blaauw, Harold A., 1Lt
None
Spencer, Ronald L., S/Sgt
None
Marrs, Horace S., S/Sgt
Black, James F., Cpl
None

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified - may be "Skunk Hunter"

Marsh, Edward D., 1Lt
Wescott, Robert M., 1Lt
None
Keys, Paul R., 2Lt
None
Bosworth, William H., T/Sgt
Payne, Charles C., Sgt
None

Monday, 12 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified

P *Wheeler, William A. K., "Gus", 1Lt*
CP *Moulder, Robert W., F/O*
N *None*
B *Swim, Lowell W., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Mathis, Paul E., T/Sgt*
G *Kirkland, Robert Olin "Kirk", S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 7 probably 41-13070 "Shanghi Lil" (flight leader)

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 *Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified - may be "Sweet Alice"

Bingham, Henry G., Jr., 1Lt
Knight, Gerald R., 1Lt
None
Queen, Kenneth E., S/Sgt
None
Martin, Robert J., S/Sgt
Wink, Jacob A., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 8 probably 41-13050 "Virginia Sturgeon"

Peterson, Arthur C., 1Lt
Purifoy, Lawrence Lloyd "Peter Plink", 2Lt
None
Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt
None
Guilfoyle, Frederick J., S/Sgt
Michalek, Joseph F., S/Sgt
Reed, Robert H., Cpl

Tuesday, 13 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Sicily, B-24's are dispatched against the harbor at Catania. Total cloud cover prevents visual contact with the target. One drops bombs in the target area, but others jettison their load or return to base without bombing.

In the Mediterranean, P-40's fly convoy escort.

In Tunisia, the British Eighth Army's 10 Corps, continuing N reaches an anti-tank ditch guarding new enemy positions at Enfidaville and unsuccessfully attempts, on a limited scale, to force a retreat before the line can be strengthened. The 488th and 489th Bombardment Squadrons (Medium), 340th Bombardment Group (Medium) with B-25's transfer from El Kabrit, Egypt to Medenine, Tunisia.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Sicily, B-17's pound the airfields at Castelvetrano and Milo.

In Sardinia, P-38's bomb a cruiser at La Maddallena and other shipping at Porto Torres.

In Tunisia, B-25's hit Oudna Airfield. Fighters maintain sweeps and armored reconnaissance over NE Tunisia and the Straits of Sicily. During the night of 12/13 Mar, British airplanes bomb Megrine landing ground. HQ 47th Bombardment Group (Light) and its 84th Bombardment Squadron (Light) with A-20's transfer from Thelepte, Tunisia to Souk-el-Arba, Tunisia. The 58th Fighter Squadron, 33rd Fighter Group with P-40's transfers from Berteaux, Algeria to Ebba Ksour, Tunisia.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

379th BS War Diary: On April 13th Purple Heart Awards were presented to Capt. Holstead, Lt. Hamilton, Lt. Grant, T/Sgt. Pettibon, S/Sgt. Haskell, Lt. Taylor, and S/Sgt Brunner, in an impressive ceremony with all the personnel of the entire Group present. Lt. Taylor and S/Sgt. Brunner were absent, both being in the hospital recovering from their wounds.

Brunner, Robert M., S/Sgt, gunner

Grant, Isaac E., 2Lt, pilot

Hamilton, Robert M. "Ham", 1Lt, pilot

Haskell, Harris M., S/Sgt, radio-gunner

Holstead, James R., Capt, pilot

Pettibon, Woodrow W., T/Sgt, bombardier-gunner

Taylor, Julius H., 2Lt, pilot

Tuesday, 13 April 1943 (continued)

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

428th BS War Diary: Had a formation this noon at which time Major Walker started a rumor. He claims we are to move towards the front within a week.

Walker, James P. "Chief" Maj, pilot Commander

Wednesday, 14 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, P-40's fly convoy escort, and carry out fighter sweeps over the battle area as the British Eighth Army's 10 Corps continues to make quick jabs at positions at Enfidaville. These attempts to force an enemy retreat are unsuccessful. The 314th, 315th and 316th Fighter Squadrons, 324th Fighter Group with P-40's transfer from Libya to Tunisia.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Sardinia, B-17's bomb the Elmas and Monserrato Airfields.

In Tunisia during the night of 13/14 Apr, Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) Hurricanes and Blenheims bomb La Sebala Airfield and attack transport on the Tunis-Pont-du-Fahs road, and Western Desert Air Force (WDAF) light and medium bombers hit the Airfields at Sainte-Marie du Zit and Korba. During the day, B-17's bomb El Aouina Airfield. P-38's escort the heavy bombers and fly a bombing and strafing mission against a beached vessel SE of Cape Zebib. A-20's bomb Bordj Toum. Fighter-bombers hit a motor convoy near Grich el Oued and trucks NE of Dechret Ben Saidane and a battery E of Djedeida. Fighters fly reconnaissance and sweeps throughout the Tunisian battle area. Northwest African Coastal Air Force (NACAF) planes maintain sea reconnaissance and patrols. HQ 52nd Fighter Group transfers from Youks-les-Bains, Algeria to Le Sers, Tunisia. The 441st, 442nd and 444th Bombardment Squadrons (Medium), 320th Bombardment Group (Medium) with B-26B's transfer from Tafaraoui, Algeria to Montesquieu, 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

428th BS War Diary: Pictures were taken of the combat crews and other departments.

Thursday, 15 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, RAF Liberators, under operational control of the IX Bomber Command, hit Naples and Messina.

In Sicily, B-24's attack Catania and Palermo.

In Tunisia, B-25's hit the airfield and area near a fuel dump at Sainte-Marie du Zit. P-40's fly reconnaissance and sea patrol. HQ 12th Bombardment Group (Medium) transfers from Medenine, Tunisia to Sfax, Tunisia. The 515th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 376th Bombardment Group (Heavy) with B-24D's transfers from Soluch, Libya to Bengasi, Libya.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Italy, Northwest African Coastal Air Force (NACAF) B-26's on armed reconnaissance of the Naples area attack a vessel S of Ustica Island.

In Sardinia, Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) Wellingtons bomb Decimomannu, Villacidro, and Elmas Airfields during the night of 14/15 Apr.

In Tunisia, Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) fighters attack tanks and trucks at Oum EL Djema and a concentration near Sidi Ahmed, while others fly reconnaissance and patrols during the day.

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: Kramer was visited at the hospital and found to be pretty sick with kidney trouble. Riley was also taken to the hospital.

Kramer, Sylvester J., Sgt

Riley, Loys W., S/Sgt

Friday, 16 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Sicily, B-24's attack a tanker in Catania harbor, scoring several hits on the target and in surrounding areas.

In Tunisia, fighters fly sea patrol. The British Eighth Army abandons their attempts to force a German retreat from Enfidaville by quick jabs and prepares to launch a full-scale assault during the night of 19/20 Apr. The 83rd Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 12th Bombardment Group (Medium) and 488th Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 340th Bombardment Group (Medium), both with B-25's, transfers from Medenine, Tunisia to Sfax, Tunisia. The 512th and 513th Bombardment Squadrons (Heavy), 376th Bombardment Group (Heavy) with B-24's transfer from Soluch, Libya to Bengasi, Libya.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Sicily, Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) B-17's bomb the dock area at Palermo.

In Tunisia, Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) fighters strafe trucks during the night of 15/16 Apr and during the following day. A-20's and fighter-bombers bomb Djqobel el Raar and concentrations located in various wadis in the battle area. Northwest African Coastal Air Force (NACAF) aircraft maintain sea reconnaissance and patrols. NASAF B-25's and B-26's hit the Oudna landing ground while P-38's bomb vessels near Cape Zebib and at Cape el Ahmar. The 85th and 86th Bombardment Squadrons (Light), 47th Bombardment Group (Light) with A-20's transfer from Thelepte, Tunisia to Souk-el-Arba, Tunisia.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 70:

Mission Report # 83, 16 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Capts. Allan, Batten, and Lt. Hamilton.

2. At 1000 18 B-25-C's took off to Bomb Oudna A/D. None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

early. 18 dropped 211X 100 lb inst. bombs on target at 1138 from
No. A/C No & Type Time

Friday, 16 April 1943 (continued)

9100 to 10100 ft. 18 returned at 1245.
Altitude No. A/C Time

3. RESULTS: L/G well covered by direct hits, the biggest concentration of hits being in the center, SW, W and NW portions of field. Bombs were observed to hit among and near aircraft parked in SW, SE, and N portions of L/G. Approximately 20 twin engine and single engine planes were reported on the target area. One crew reported having seen a large explosion followed by black and grey smoke as a result of the bombing, several crews confirmed having seen heavy black smoke. In addition to hits on L/G several direct hits were observed on the railroad and the road to the S of the field.
4. OBS: Flak--None. Enemy aircraft--None. 5/10 to 6/10 cloud cover made observation extremely difficult. The crew of one plane reported seeing a convoy of trucks moving S on road running through Mohammedia, the count being upwards of forty. When this observation was checked with other members of the mission, no confirmation could be obtained.
5. WEATHER: Route Out--Clear, hazy, thin cloud at 14,000 ft, visibility 10 miles. Target--6/10 coverage at 6,000 ft, slight haze, visibility 8 miles. Return--Same as out.
6. PRESS DATA: None

Eighteen (18) sorties flown 16/4/43.

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

379th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 70:** Capt Allan led twelve of our ships in an eighteen plane formation over the L/G at Oudna on April 16th. It was well covered with the biggest concentration of bombs in the center, SW, W, and NW parts of the field. Hits were scored among the aircraft parked in the SW, SE, and N sections, and one crew reported seeing a large explosion followed by black and grey smoke. The RR and road S of the field were also hit.

Friday, 16 April 1943 (continued)

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

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

Allan, John T., Capt

*Marple, Louis F., T/Sgt,
Pagano, Salvatore A., S/Sgt,*

*A/C No. 3 aircraft & crew unidentified
Leask, Bertram J., 2Lt*

*A/C No. 5 aircraft & crew unidentified
(flight leader) probably "June Bug"*

Hamilton, Robert M. "Ham", 1Lt

*A/C No. 7 aircraft & crew unidentified
Blosel, Raymond C., F/O*

A/C No. 2 aircraft & crew unidentified

Beachum, Graham C., 2Lt

*A/C No. 4 aircraft & crew unidentified
Smith, Charles W., 2Lt*

A/C No. 6 aircraft & crew unidentified

Rogers, Harold E., 2Lt

*A/C No. 8 aircraft & crew unidentified
Johnson, Kenneth M. "Ken", 1Lt*

Friday, 16 April 1943 (continued)

P CP N B E R G F	A/C No. 9 aircraft & crew unidentified <i>Logan, Harry R., Jr., 2Lt</i>	A/C No. 10 aircraft & crew unidentified <i>Grant, Isaac E., 2Lt,</i>
	A/C No. 11 aircraft & crew unidentified	A/C No. 12 aircraft unidentified - probable crew
	<i>Holstead, James R., Capt</i>	<i>Sullivan, Phillip E., 2Lt</i>
		<i>Rorig, Kramer W., 2Lt</i>
		<i>None</i>
		<i>Marshall, Raymond S., Jr., 2Lt</i>
		<i>None</i>
		<i>Ross, John D., S/Sgt</i>
		<i>Stankewicz, Benjamin M., Sgt</i>
		<i>None</i>

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

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 70:

Mission Report # 50

Date- April 16, 1943

Target- K-0636 Landing Ground at Oudna

Squadron airplanes- five

Out we went today to give a little aid to Britain's now famous Eighth Army, by knocking out a "Jerry" landing ground. Nothing more than a flat piece of land, well camouflaged and sporting about 20 aircraft, we found it and pictures proved that we did our job with quite a little gusto.

Our 100 pounders well covered the field and a large explosion, followed by a huge cloud of black smoke was seen to arise from one corner leaving us to believe that we had hit the gasoline dump. Just to make sure that we got everything in sight, a few of the bombs straddled a railroad and a bridge.

Once again no fighters were seen and flak was not found in our flight. Whether we caught them by surprise or whether they decided that it wasn't much use, they failed to make any attempt to head us off. All our aircraft returned safely.

Friday, 16 April 1943 (continued)

<i>A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)</i>		<i>A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified</i>	
P	<i>Batten, Earl E., Capt</i>		<i>Amick, Cecil D., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Shorsher, Fred A., 2Lt</i>		<i>Porter, Lloyd L., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Sessler, Howard A., 1Lt</i>		<i>Longrie, Kenneth R., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Dackiewicz, John A., Sgt</i>		<i>Meyer, Albert J., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Szczesniak, Alfred A., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Huffman, Herbert (NMI), S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<i>A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified</i>		<i>A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified</i>	
P	<i>Grow, Clyde L., 1Lt</i>		<i>Timmerman, Melvin E., 2Lt</i>
CP	<i>Hubbard, Jack W., 2Lt</i>		<i>Rice, Carl E., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>Coffey, John D., 2Lt</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt</i>		<i>Donahue, Francis E., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Hill, Raiford B., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Thomas, Cyril L., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Pintar, John L., Sgt</i>		<i>Tabor, George E., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<i>A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified</i>			
P	<i>Rich, Robert S., 2Lt</i>		
CP	<i>Goss, Ralph R., 2Lt</i>		
N	<i>None</i>		
B	<i>Mizerski, Richard C. "Bronco", 2Lt</i>		
E	<i>None</i>		
R	<i>Poknis, Paul A., S/Sgt</i>		
G	<i>Rodgers, Lamar F., Sgt</i>		
F	<i>None</i>		

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 70:
(381st BS did not participate)

428th BS War Diary: Evidence has been found of 15 parachutists having landed in the vicinity. Planes again unloaded their bombs at Oudna Airfield. Approximately 20 twin and single engine planes on the field at the time. Band came with a Red Cross Nurse as a singer. Guards were doubled. All ordnance men were transferred to form their own outfit.

Friday, 16 April 1943 (continued)

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 70: Just one ship of the 428th participated in our next raid on Oudna, an 18 bomber affair on the 16th of April. Since the first raid the airdrome had been repaired and this time twenty aircraft were seen on the target. Not far from Tunis, it occupied a strategic location. The bombing set off one large, violent explosion. The bulk of the bombs hit the target. One string straddled a rail line just South of the field obtaining several direct hits. All planes returned safely. Strangely, there was no flak.

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified

P *Wheeler, William A. K., "Gus", 1Lt*
CP *Moulder, Robert W., F/O*
N *None*
B *Swim, Lowell W., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Mathis, Paul E., T/Sgt*
G *Kirkland, Robert Olin "Kirk", S/Sgt*
F *None*

Saturday, 17 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Sicily, B-24's (including Liberator Mk II's of the RAF 178 Squadron, under operational control of the IX Bomber Command) bomb Catania.

In Tunisia, P-40's fly sweeps, sea patrol, and fighter-bomber missions. HQ 340th Bombardment Group (Medium) and its 486th and 487th Bombardment Squadrons (Medium) with B-25's and the 434th Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 12th Bombardment Group (Medium) with B-25's transfer from Medenine, Tunisia to Sfax, Tunisia.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Sicily, B-17's bomb shipping and docks at Palermo.

In Tunisia, during the night of 16/17 April, Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) Wellington's bomb the N quay in Bizerte harbor. Shortly after noon, B-17's bomb shipping and docks at Ferryville. B-25's hit the town area and marshaling yard at Mateur. Fighters provide escort. Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) Blenheim bomb La Sebala Airfield and A-20's hit Ksar Tyr and concentrations NE of Grich el Oued. Fighters fly escort and reconnaissance missions. Northwest African Coastal Air Force (NACAF) airplanes fly sea patrol and reconnaissance and attack shipping in the Strait of Sicily.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

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

Mission Report # 84, 17 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Lts. Thorndike, VanDivort and Capt. Draemel.

2. At 0600 18 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

18 returned at 0830.
No. A/C Time

Saturday, 17 April 1943 (continued)

3. RESULTS: No shipping sighted--no bombs dropped. At 37 deg 45 min N, 9 deg 40 min E at 0720 hours, fighters were forced to drop belly tanks, causing them to turn back at this point. Thereupon bombers turned also and returned to base.
4. OBS: None.
5. WEATHER: Hazy, visibility 8 to 10 miles, high thin cirrus, middle cloud at 3/10 at 10/12,000 ft.
6. PRESS DATA: None.

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

379th BS War Diary: On April 17th and the 379th had a vacation. None of the planes were in the line-up. The mission was a Sea Search, but was just a nice ride. As the planes reached their initial point, two fighter planes buzzed the formation. The P-38's dropped their belly tanks in order to do battle and chased the intruders away. Since they would be unable to complete the trip without the extra tanks, they were force to return. When the leader of the B-25's saw the last one disappear, he too turned his formation and headed home.

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # xx:
(No crew list in war diary)

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # xx:
(No crew list in war diary)

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

P *Draemel, Dean H., 1Lt*
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

Saturday, 17 April 1943 (continued)

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # xx:
(No crew list in war diary)

	A/C No. 1 <i>aircraft unidentified</i> (flight leader)	A/C No. 2 <i>aircraft unidentified</i> (flight leader)
P	<i>Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt</i>	<i>VanDivort, Richard (NMI), 1Lt</i>
CP		
N		
B		
E		
R		
G		
F		

428th BS War Diary: Early morning briefing at 0430 hours. Planes took off on a sea sweep but when a couple of “Spits” buzzed the formation the P-38’s dropped their belly tanks and prepared for action; they mistook the Spits for enemy fighters. Mission turned back as a result. “Doc” Ryterband warned the men against malaria now that the hot weather is setting in.

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # xx:
(No crew list in war diary)

Sunday, 18 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): Off Cap Bon, 46 P-40F's of the 57th Fighter Group's three squadrons (64th, 65th and 66th Fighter Squadrons) and the attached 314th Fighter Squadron, 324th Fighter Group, plus 11 Spitfires of the RAF 92 Squadron flying top cover, take off to patrol. At approximately 1800 hours, they spot 2 Bf 109's and an armada of 65 Ju 52/3m transports heading back to Sicily for more supplies. The transports are in three great vees, covered by 16 Bf 109's and Mc 202's and 5 Bf 110's. The 64th Fighter Squadron and the RAF Spitfires stay high; the remaining 3 squadrons of P-40's attack the Luftwaffe formation and down 24 Ju 53/3m's and 16 fighters; another 35 Ju 52/3m's crash along the coast.

In Sicily, B-24's attack Catania.

In Tunisia, P-40's fly sweeps, armored reconnaissance, escort, and fighter-bomber missions. B-25's hit landing grounds.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, during the night of 17/18 Apr, RAF Wellingtons bomb the Tunis docks and marshalling yard. Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) Blenheim hit the La Marsa landing ground while fighter fly reconnaissance and scramble missions. Northwest African Coastal Air Force (NACAF) fighters fly reconnaissance and patrols, attacking vessels, troop columns, and trucks in the Tunisian coastal area.

In Sicily, over 75 B-17's, escorted by P-38's, attack Boccadifalco Airfield and the Palermo Marshalling Yard.

In Sardinia, B-25's, escorted by P-38's, hit the Alghero-Fertilia Airfield and shipping at Porto Torres while Beaufighters attack the Decimomannu Airfield.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 71:

Mission Report # 85, 18 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Commander: Colonel A.G. Hunter. Flight Leaders: Capts. Cometh, Batten, and Lt. Thorndike.

2. At 1140 18 B-25-C's took off to Bomb Porto Torres Harbor. None
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

Sunday, 18 April 1943 (continued)

returned early. 18 dropped 108 X 500 .1 & .25 delay bombs on target at 1355
No. A/C No & Type Time

from 8500 - 9500 ft. 18 returned at 1555.
Altitude No. A/C Time

3. RESULTS: There were 2 M/V's moored one on each side of the dock, extending out from the SE corner of the harbor. The one on the S side was very good size (one estimate was 375/400 ft) and the other was somewhat smaller. Direct hits were seen on both of these ships and the dock between; one was left sinking and the other in flames. Three other ships were moored in the harbor. The entire area was well covered by the bombing pattern. Several strings were seen to hit on the railroad and port installations at the S side of the harbor. Two columns of black smoke were coming from RR yards. Several crews report a large explosion on one of the docks. Reports of observations indicate a very successful bombing mission.
4. OBS: Flak--None. Enemy A/C--None. No ground observations. Pictures were taken and are being forwarded.
5. WEATHER: To Coast--Overcast at 12,000 ft, rain squalls, visibility 8 miles due to haze.
Target--6/10 coverage at 15,000 ft, haze, visibility 15 miles.
Return--Same as out.
6. PRESS DATA: None

Eighteen (18) sorties flown 18/4/43.

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

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 72:

Mission Report # 86, 18 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Capts. Helsabeck, Gshwandtner and Lt. Hamilton.
2. At 1150 18 B-25-C's took off to Bomb Alghero-Fertilia A/D. None
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

Sunday, 18 April 1943 (continued)

returned early. 18 dropped 1152 X 20 lb frag bombs on target at 1350 from
No. A/C No & Type Time

8500 - 9500 ft. 18 returned at 1605.
Altitude No. A/C Time

3. RESULTS: 40 to 50 A/C observed, well dispersed on the field. SW, NW, corners of the field and the center and E side of the A/D were well covered by bomb hits. Direct hits were scored on hangars on east side of the field. One of these was seen to burst into flames, and from both heavy white and black smoke was observed. Hangars and other installations in SW corner and on W side of the A/D were hit and large fires were started. 3 to 6 smaller building in this area were also left burning. A gasoline storage dump at S end of field was hit and seen to explode. Bombs landed on at least 12 transports or bombers in center of field, on 10 to 15 bombers in NW corner and among several smaller A/C scattered in front of hangars on the E side of the field.
4. OBS: Flak--None. Enemy A/C--None. 8 to 10 seaplanes observed at S/P base at Canto-Pto-Conte. A great deal of smoke and fire were observed coming from Porto Torres dock area, and two ships were seen burning in the harbor. A big concentration of tents seen just SW of Porto Torres at 40 deg 47 min N and 8 deg 22 min E.
5. WEATHER: 6/10 to 8/10 scattered clouds with rain showers over ocean, visibility 5/8 miles. Over target CAVU with thin cover of high cirrus 7/10 at 15000 ft.
6. PRESS DATA: None
Eighteen (18) sorties flown 18/4/43.
Photos were taken and are being forwarded.

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

379th BS War Diary: General Doolittle had more reason to be proud of his B-25's after this splendid days work and showed a smiling countenance that evening at a dinner held in our Officer's Club celebrating the anniversary of the Tokyo raid. All men who had participated in this mission, who were stationed closed enough to be available, were present. The "bar-room" quartette, comprising Lt. Hamilton, 379th, Lt. Horrocks, 381st, Lt. Timmerman and Lt. Coffey of the 380th, entertained the celebrators by singing all the popular songs ever printed, and some that were not.

Coffey, John D., 2Lt, navigator, bombardier, 380th BS

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

Hamilton, Robert M. "Ham", 1Lt, pilot

Horrocks, Donald D., 1Lt, intelligence, 381st BS

Timmerman, Melvin E., 2Lt, pilot, 380th BS

Sunday, 18 April 1943 (continued)

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 71: The residents of Sardinia became acutely aware of the power and accuracy of the B-25 on April the 18th when 36 ships of our group bombed two targets on their sunny little island. Eighteen planes singled out the docks of Porto Torres, and with uncanny accuracy, dropped three 500 pounders on one ship, two on a second, one on a third, and further dispelled any chance of their being afloat long by spacing several near misses among them. The docks and other harbor installations were heavily damaged. While sad Italians watched the destruction, others equally sad saw over 1,100 frag. bombs disrupt the peace and serenity of the Alghero-Fertilia A/D. The entire field was covered with bursting bombs damaging or destroying completely scores of aircraft dispersed in neat order. Hangars and buildings on both the E. and SW corners were hit and set afire and a gasoline dump at the south end of the field exploded, sending up columns of flames and smoke. The two flights met after leaving the target and winged their way home without having seen a trace of flak or enemy fighters.

A/C No. 1 *aircraft & crew unidentified*
(flight leader) *probably "June Bug"*

P *Hamilton, Robert M. "Ham", 1Lt*
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 72:

A/C No. 1 <i>aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	A/C No. 2 <i>aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
P <i>Rogers, Harold E., 2Lt</i>	<i>Smith, Charles W., 2Lt</i>
CP	
N	
B	
E	
R	
G	
F	

Sunday, 18 April 1943 (continued)

	<i>A/C No. 3 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 4 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
P	<i>Blosel, Raymond C., F/O</i>	<i>Grant, Isaac E., 2Lt,</i>
CP		
N		
B		
E		
R		
G		
F		
	<i>A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified - probable crew</i>	<i>A/C No. 6 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
P	<i>Sullivan, Phillip E., 2Lt</i>	<i>Holstead, James R., Capt</i>
CP	<i>Rorig, Kramer W., 2Lt</i>	
N	<i>None</i>	
B	<i>Marshall, Raymond S., Jr., 2Lt</i>	
E	<i>None</i>	
R	<i>Ross, John D., S/Sgt</i>	
G	<i>Stankewicz, Benjamin M., Sgt</i>	
F	<i>None</i>	

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

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 71:

Mission Report # 50

Date- April 18, 1943

Target- K-0636 Landing Ground at Oudna

Squadron airplanes- twelve

Just to see for himself, what the boys could really do, Colonel Hunter went along today, riding with Capt. Cometh and the smile that graced his face on his return, left little doubt as to the results of the mission. It was a double barrel attack that we handed old Musso, this afternoon, with 36 airplanes leaving the Base.

The mission was divided with eighteen ships hitting the Fertilia Airdrome and the remainder, which are twelve ships we're a part of, were to hit the shipping at Porto Torres, both of the targets being in the northwest corner of Sardinia and but a few miles apart.

Everything was perfect. There wasn't a fighter in the sky, and the boys must have been cleaning their guns, as not a burst of flak was to be seen. Although a slight haze covered the ground, the visibility was still something to brag about.

This afternoon, Lieut. Liverman, bombardier in Capt. Cometh's ship, and leading the flight, became a member of the "Royal and not too Ancient Order of Funneleers", when he dropped one down the funnel of a freighter from 10,000 feet. Pictures proved the accuracy of the mission. One ship was sunk. Another was left in flames while another suffered a hit, damage unknown, while the docks also received two hits. Over 85% of the bombs hit within 20 feet of the target area, and proved to us that the equipment and training was everything people said about it.

Sunday, 18 April 1943 (continued)

The other flight at the airdrome also did their part leaving a hangar and a gasoline dump on fire, and destroying at least 20 aircraft on the ground. We don't know how "Ole Musso" felt about it, but it was certainly a setback to his well-layed plans.

	A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)		A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified
P	<i>Cometh, Lawrence (NMI), Capt</i>		<i>Cromartie, Harry L., Jr., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Miller, James I., 2Lt</i>		<i>Wright, John E., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>Huffman, Arnie J., 2Lt</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Liverman, Ernest W. "Big Red", 2Lt</i>		<i>Kechter, Harry H., T/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Mount, Robert J., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Smith, Eldon M., T/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Melhus, Palmer C., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Kobasa, Joseph (NMI), S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>Hunter, Anthony G., Col, 310th BG Commander (observer)</i>		<i>None</i>
	A/C No. 3 may be 41-13096 "The Question Mark"		A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified
P	<i>McCormick, Robert J., II, 1Lt</i>		<i>Grow, Clyde L., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Ross, Fred C., Jr., 2Lt</i>		<i>Hubbard, Jack W., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>Coffey, John D., 2Lt</i>
B	<i>Richardson, David L., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Oliver, Frank R., Jr., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Hill, Raiford B., T/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Leanza, Anthony (NMI), S/Sgt</i>		<i>Pintar, John L., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
	A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified		A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified
P	<i>Timmerman, Melvin E., 2Lt</i>		<i>Rich, Robert S., 2Lt</i>
CP	<i>Rice, Carl E., 2Lt</i>		<i>Goss, Ralph R., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Donahue, Francis E., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Mizerski, Richard C. "Bronco", 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Thomas, Cyril L., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Poknis, Paul A., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Tabor, George E., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Rodgers, Lamar F., Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
	A/C No. 7 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)		A/C No. 8 aircraft unidentified
P	<i>Batten, Earl E., Capt</i>		<i>Stutts, Earl Leeman, 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Shorsher, Fred A., 2Lt</i>		<i>Steger, Edward H., Jr., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Sessler, Howard A., 1Lt</i>		<i>Kessler, Paul E., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Dackiewicz, John A., Sgt</i>		<i>Barbieri, Edward D., Cpl</i>
G	<i>Szczesniak, Alfred A., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Janicki, Andrew J., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>Hutchenrider, Willis E., Sgt</i>

Sunday, 18 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 9 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. 11 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. 10 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. 12 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., S/Sgt
None

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 72:
(380th BS did not participate)

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

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 71:

PORTO TORRES, SARDINIA

Group Mission # 71	Flight 18 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 50	Escort 28 P-38's
Take Off 11:40	Bomb Load: (6 x 500)
Down 15:55	Bombs Dropped: 5(6 x 500). 15,000#

Total Time: 4 Hrs. 15 Min.

Weather: Hazy at sea, CAU at target.

Remarks: Direct hits were made on two large Motor Vessels in the harbor, probably destroying both.

The raid was most likely a complete surprise to the Enemy, as there was no opposition, either flak or Enemy fighters.

The raid was carried out in conjunction with Squadron Mission #51.

2nd Lt. Dauley, C. G., Co-Pilot on a 428th plane.

Dauley, Charles G., 2Lt, pilot

Sunday, 18 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 42-53444 "PUNJAB" (P)

P *Rouch, Melvin R., 1Lt*
CP *Stagner, Howard C., F/O*
N *None*
B *Grossi, Frank L., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Swanson, William M., S/Sgt*
G *Pontet, Emile A., Jr., Sgt*
F *None*

**A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE"
/ "ROYAL FLUSH" (S)**

P *Phillips, Carl A., 1Lt*
CP *Therrien, Robert W., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Kelley, Donald C., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Nickelson, Royal C., T/Sgt*
G *Bozovitch, Matthew L., Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 42-32333 (R)

P *Wightman, Henry B. "Hank", 1Lt*
CP *Cook, Walter E., F/O*
N *None*
B *Gullic, John F., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Porter, Lloyd G., Jr., S/Sgt*
G *Fox, Francis J., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-13061 "LIL' JOE" (N)
(flight leader)

Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt
Durgin, James L., 2Lt
Hickman, James G., 1Lt
Supple, Gilbert J., 1Lt, 379th BS
None
Boone, Edward W. W., S/Sgt
Molnar, William J., S/Sgt
White, Alpheus Wray, Jr., Capt,
Commander (observer)

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

VanDivort, Richard (NMI), 1Lt
Campbell, Martin H., Jr., F/O
Forbes, Robert L., 2Lt
Myers, John H., 1Lt
None
Chaffins, Ray (NMI), T/Sgt
Nelson, Forest S., S/Sgt
None

**381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 72:
FERTILIA A/D, SARDINIA**

Group Mission # 72

Flight 18 B-25's

Sqdrn. Mission # 51

Escort 28 P-38's

Take Off 11:40

Bomb Load: (72 x 20)

Down 16:05

Bombs Dropped: 3(72 x 20). 4,320#

Total Time: 4 Hrs. 25 Min.

Weather: Hazy at sea, CAU at target.

Remarks: Frag clusters were well dispersed over the field, landing on at least twelve Enemy transports. Photos showed direct hits on hangars.

Sunday, 18 April 1943 (continued)

As in the other flight to Porto Torres, (Squadron Mission #50), no Enemy aircraft or flak were encountered. The combined raids were a great success, and Maj. Gen. Doolittle was here to welcome the missions home, bringing with him correspondents from the Saturday Evening Post and from the press.

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

A/C No. 41-13065 (M)

P *Wert, Donald S., 1Lt*
CP *Houghtaling, Harold A., F/O*
N *None*
B *Rogers, Lee C., Cpl*
E *None*
R *Dittmar, Francis A., Sgt*
G *Bowden, Scott T., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 42-53426 (K)

Kearns, Archibald G., 1Lt
Stone, Morris M., F/O
None
Crouch, Jacob F., Jr., 2Lt
None
Elder, Donald W., Cpl
Moberg, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 41-29957 (E)

P *Marlow, Jack F., 2Lt*
CP *Burt, Norman A., F/O*
N *None*
B *Douglas, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Budde, Wilbur H., S/Sgt*
G *White, John Edward, Sgt*
F *None*

428th BS War Diary: 36 planes took off for Sardinia. 18 planes attacked Alghero-Fertilia Airdrome destroying 40 to 50 planes, exploded a gas dump and set the hangars on fire. Other formation attacked the docks and harbors at Port Torres destroying 3 cargo vessels and leaving a large one burning. No opposition what-so-ever.

The grand success was claimed in the evening by a banquet in which General Doolittle was the star guest. All available personnel of the air force who had participated in the Tokyo raid gathered in our bar to celebrate the anniversary of the raid. Captain Truelove was gone, of course, but Major Bower, Major Wilder, Captain Pound, and Captain Daniels and Major Hoover were there. The group was well represented, and it made us swell with pride.

The announcement of the fate of their less Fortunate mates on that remarkable raid, --already surmised--cast a bit of a pall on the little band--as it did amongst allied airmen all the world over. Here the hurt was especially sharp--and many must have vowed that the day will come when--.

Sunday, 18 April 1943 (continued)

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 71: The 18th was a red letter day in the history of the group. Thirty-nine aircraft took off for the extreme Northwest tip of Sardinia. Once the area was reached, eighteen proceeded to Port Torres, sinking one Merchant vessel burning, setting another afire and severely damaging the docks. The bomb pattern was exceptionally well concentrated. Two columns of black smoke streamed up from the railroad yards. One large explosion was reported. Highly successful.

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 72: The second eighteen led by Captain Helsabeck bombed nearby Fertilia for its first allied visit. Forty to fifty aircraft ere dispersed on the field. The whole drome was covered with frags. The hangar installations on either side were hit. A gasoline storage dump was set off. An estimated twenty-five aircraft were destroyed. That seemed to be a conservative generalization.

Absolutely no opposition was encountered. It was too good to be true

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

P *Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt*
CP *Cunningham, Robert L., 1Lt*
N *Colvin, Jay W., Jr., 1Lt*
B *Upchurch, Jerry E., 1Lt*
E *None*
R *Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt*
G *Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt*
F *Walker, James P. "Chief" Maj*
Commander (observer)

A/C No. 3 probably 41-13094 "Seasweep"

P *Holley, James Taylor, 1Lt*
CP *Butterfield, William M., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Connors, Charles L., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Glass, John D., S/Sgt*
G *Langford, Alvin L., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified - may be "Bad Seed"

Brock, James C., 1Lt
Blaauw, Harold A., 1Lt
None
Spencer, Ronald L., S/Sgt
None
Marrs, Horace S., S/Sgt
Black, James F., Cpl
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
Glover, Harold E., S/Sgt
None

Sunday, 18 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 5 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 *Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 7 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)

P *Gshwandtner, Frank J. "Gish", 1Lt*
CP *Dauley, Charles G., 2Lt, 381st BS*
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. 9 aircraft unidentified - may be "Sweet Alice"

P *Bingham, Henry G., Jr., 1Lt*
CP *Knight, Gerald R., 1Lt*
N *None*
B *Queen, Kenneth E., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Martin, Robert J., S/Sgt*
G *Wink, Jacob A., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 6 probably 41-13050 "Virginia Sturgeon"

Peterson, Arthur C., 1Lt
Purifoy, Lawrence Lloyd "Peter Plink", 2Lt

None
Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt
None
Guilfoyle, Frederick J., S/Sgt
Michalek, Joseph F., S/Sgt
Amirault, Osborne J., Sgt

A/C No. 8 aircraft unidentified

Wheeler, William A. K., "Gus", 1Lt
Moulder, Robert W., F/O
None
Swim, Lowell W., S/Sgt
None
Mathis, Paul E., T/Sgt
Kirkland, Robert Olin "Kirk", S/Sgt
None

Monday, 19 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-25's hit landing grounds and defensive positions, and P-40's escort bombers and fly fighter sweeps as the British Eighth Army opens an assault on Enfidaville positions.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, during the night of 18/19 Apr, Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) Blenheims bomb La Marsa landing ground and roads nearby, and attack activity on beach at Reyville. During the day, Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) B-17's bomb shipping at Tunis. B-25's and A-20's raid the La Sebala Airfield. Fighter-bombers attack tanks in the battle area. Northwest African Coastal Air Force (NACAF) maintains sea reconnaissance and patrols as far as Sardinia and sea approaches to Naples. NAAF aircraft claim over 100 aircraft destroyed during the day.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 73:

Mission Report # 87, 19 April 1943

- 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Lts. Thorndike and VanDivort.
- At 1545 12 B-25-C's took off to Bomb La Sebala L/G None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C
early. 10 dropped 117 X 100 inst. bombs on target at 1710 from
No. A/C No & Type Time
9100-10000 ft. 11 returned at 1820.
Altitude No. A/C Time
- RESULTS: One crew only reports seeing 4 to 5 S/E fighters on dispersal area SW of field across road. Another crew reports 6 to 8 shelters in NW corner of the field, unoccupied. Strings of bombs were seen to fall across the S dispersal area and the NE dispersal area. Some strings reported to have hit across the runway. After the bombing three fires, one quite large and two smaller, giving off black smoke, were observed along the S edge of the field bordering the canal.

Monday, 19 April 1943 (continued)

4. OBS: Flak--At target, intense, accurate heavy flak. It seemed to be coming from ridge just W of L/G and NE edge of L/G. Elsewhere--From Vicinity of Medjez-el-Bab, moderate very accurate heavy flak; also intense light flak. From Bordj Toum, slight accurate heavy. From Green Hill, Djedeida, Tebourba, El Bathan and along course along Medjerda River, intense heavy, quite accurate. From Chouigui, heavy flak (no details given).

Enemy A/C--6 S/E fighters, near target, attempted to attack formation, driven off by escort. 8 unidentified T/E planes at 15,000 ft headed toward Bizerte from Tunis.

Other--One large white ship at 37 deg 5 min N, 10 deg 20 min E, heading for Tunis. Crews report seeing fires and much smoke at Bizerte. No traffic observed on roads.

One B-25 hit by flak at target. Proceeded on one engine and was seen by escort to make a controlled belly landing somewhere SW of Chouigui. Crew believed safe. German pamphlets were dropped.

5. WEATHER: En Route--2/10 coverage at 14,000 ft visibility 6 to 8 miles due to haze. At Target--3/10 stratus at 18,000 ft, visibility unlimited, slight haze in valleys. Back--Same as out.
6. PRESS DATA: None

Twelve (12) sorties flown 19/4/43.

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

379th BS War Diary: The 381st Sqdn. took off on April 19th to bomb the La Sebala L/G. Strings of bombs fell across the south dispersal area and the NE section. Three fires sending up black smoke were observed along the south edge of the field bordering the canal. Intense heavy flak severely damaged Lt. Kearns' ship, causing him to crash land in enemy territory. He was seen to make a good landing, and the crew is thought to be safe.

Kearns, Archibald G., 1Lt, pilot, 381st BS

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 73:
(379th BS did not participate)

Monday, 19 April 1943 (continued)

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

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 73:
(380th BS did not participate)

Mission Report # 52

Date- April 19, 1943

Target- La Sebala Landing Ground

Squadron airplanes- none

Lieut. J.D. Coffey, navigator, accompanied Lieut. R. VanDivort of the 381st Squadron, due to the shortage of navigators in that Squadron.

Coffey, John D., 2Lt, navigator, bombardier

VanDivort, Richard (NMI), 1Lt, pilot, 381st BS

Once again, Rommel's landing grounds were the targets and once again our bombs found the mark. Bombs covered the airdrome and also the dispersal area across the highway. Three fires were reported so we feel that something did some good.

The flak was terrific, especially from the roads and highways and one of our aircraft is missing. Fighters came into intercept us but our escort drove them away before any damage was done.

We knew we were not alone on our mission when we spotted large explosions occurring in the Bizerte area, and the knowledge that the Fortress boys were also on the job.

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

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 73:

LA SEBALA L/G

Group Mission # 73

Flight 12 B-25's

Sqdrn. Mission # 52

Escort 60 P-40's and Spitfires

Take Off 15:45

Bomb Load: (10 x 100)

Down 18:20

Bombs Dropped: 12 (10 x 100). 12,000#

Total Time: 2 Hrs. 35 Min.

Weather: Haze en route, visibility 6 to 8 miles. CAVU at target.

Remarks: All planes in this mission were 381st planes.

The escort gave excellent cover. No Enemy aircraft were encountered. Flak was extremely heavy at the target and for thirty miles while circling and en route home.

Lt. Kern's ship was hit and he was forced to land in Enemy territory.

Monday, 19 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 42-53444 "PUNJAB" (C)

P *Rouch, Melvin R., 1Lt*
CP *Stagner, Howard C., F/O*
N *None*
B *Grossi, Frank L., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Swanson, William M., S/Sgt*
G *Pontet, Emile A., Jr., Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-29969 (B)

P *Lewis, Kenneth E., 1Lt*
CP *Stecher, Robert Walter, 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Smith, Willie A., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Rea, Willis L., PFC*
G *George, Wade Clayton, Cpl*
F *None*

**A/C No. 42-53426 (MACR-? – forced
down by AAA) (D)**

P *Kearns, Archibald G., 1Lt*
CP *Stone, Morris M., F/O*
N *None*
B *Crouch, Jacob F., Jr., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Elder, Donald W., Cpl*
G *Moberg, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

**A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE"
/ "ROYAL FLUSH" (J)**

P *Phillips, Carl A., 1Lt*
CP *Dauley, Charles G., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Kelley, Donald C., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Nickelson, Royal C., T/Sgt*
G *Bozovitch, Matthew L., Sgt*
F *None*

**A/C No. 41-13061 "LIL' JOE" (A)
(flight leader)**

Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt
Durgin, James L., 2Lt
Hickman, James G., 1Lt
Supple, Gilbert J., 1Lt, 379th BS
None
Boone, Edward W. W., S/Sgt
Molnar, William J., S/Sgt
*White, Alpheus Wray, Jr., Capt,
Commander (observer)*

A/C No. 41-13065 (S)

Wert, Donald S., 1Lt
Houghtaling, Harold A., F/O
None
Rogers, Lee C., Cpl
None
Dittmar, Francis A., Sgt
Bowden, Scott T., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 41-29980 (E)

Marlow, Jack F., 2Lt
Burt, Norman A., F/O
None
Douglas, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt
None
Budde, Wilbur H., S/Sgt
White, John Edward, Sgt
None

**A/C No. 41-13052 "TABOO" (G)
(flight leader)**

VanDivort, Richard (NMI), 1Lt
Campbell, Martin H., Jr., F/O
Coffey, John D., 2Lt, 380th BS
Myers, John H., 1Lt
None
Chaffins, Ray (NMI), T/Sgt
Nelson, Forest S., S/Sgt
None

Monday, 19 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 42-32333 (H)

P *Wightman, Henry B. "Hank", 1Lt*
CP *Cook, Walter E., F/O*
N *None*
B *Gullic, John F., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Porter, Lloyd G., Jr., S/Sgt*
G *Fox, Francis J., S/Sgt*
F *None*

**A/C No. 41-13085 "GREEN
HORNET" (K)**

P *Coddington, Walter E., 1Lt*
CP *Ramsey, Thomas Upton, 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Hornung, Willard R., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Thomas, Quentin W., S/Sgt*
G *Moxey, Orville E., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-29957 (M)

Collins, George Dennis, F/O
Wirth, Thomas F., Jr., F/O
None
Daly, Donald J., T/Sgt
None
Rogers, Mike D., S/Sgt
Dees, Paul (NMI), Sgt
None

A/C No. 41-29962 (L)

Denton, Richard D., 2Lt
Donnovan, Gerald M., 2Lt
None
Dombkowski, Stanley F., S/Sgt
None
Potolsky, George (NMI), S/Sgt
Miller, Foster Eugene, Sgt
None

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

A/C No. 42-53426 (D) (MACR-? – belly landed at Djedeida airfield on Medjerda River, 15 mi from Tunis due to engine trouble and captured by Luftwaffe. On May 6, 1943 American troops captured the airfield.

P *Kearns, Archibald G., 1Lt – MIA, POW, liberated & RTD*
CP *Stone, Morris M., F/O – MIA, POW, liberated & RTD*
N *None*
B *Crouch, Jacob F., Jr., 2Lt – MIA, POW, liberated & RTD*
E *None*
R *Elder, Donald W., Cpl – MIA, POW, liberated & RTD*
G *Moberg, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt – MIA, POW, liberated & RTD*
F *None*

428th BS War Diary: None of our planes on the missions; just spares.

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 73:
(No spares list in diary or mission report)

Tuesday, 20 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, P-40's fly sweeps, reconnaissance, and fighter-bomber missions as British ground forces take Enfidaville E and push N. Forces on the left are checked by stubborn enemy resistance at Djebel Garci.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) B-17's and B-25's bomb the landing grounds of Mabtouha, La Marsa, La Sebala, Sidi Ahmed, Creteville, and near Protville. Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) fighters fly escort, carry out reconnaissance, and attack various Tunisian airfields. The Northwest African Coastal Air Force (NACAF) continues sea patrols and reconnaissance as far-reaching as the approaches to Naples, Italy.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 74:

Mission Report # 88, 20 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Capt. Allan, Lt. Hamilton.

2. At 0820 12 B-25-C's took off to Bomb La Sebala L/G None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

early. 12 dropped 144 X 100 inst. bombs on target at 1410 from
No. A/C No & Type Time

9100-10000 ft. 12 returned at 1110.
Altitude No. A/C Time

3. RESULTS: All but two crews report no A/C seen on field. These two state there were several in the SW dispersal area-type unidentified. The bombs were seen to string across the N end of the runway and N end of the E dispersal area. Gun positions and fox holes in this area were hit. Some reports of bombs hitting SW dispersal area. Considerable black smoke was seen.

4. OBS: Flak--At target moderate heavy, range good, deflection fair. Elsewhere--Slight heavy, range good, deflection poor from hill at 36 deg 45 min N, 9 deg 34 min E (hill 668); slight heavy inaccurate from S of Chouigui; S of Protville; hill N of Bordj Toum; and from vicinity of Sidi Tabet.

Tuesday, 20 April 1943 (continued)

Enemy A/C--None

Other--On road between Bordj Toum and Djedeida, heavy traffic heading NE. In Lake Bizerte, 3 good sized M/V's and many smaller near Ferryville. German pamphlets were dropped in target area.

5. WEATHER: 5/10 to 6/10 cirrus at 12,000 ft, very hazy. Visibility 6 miles.
6. PRESS DATA: None

Twelve (12) sorties flown 20/4/43.

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

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 75:

Mission Report # 89, 20 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Capts. Cometh and Draemel.
2. At 0825 12 B-25-C's took off to Bomb L/G at J-9283 None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

early. 12 dropped 144 X 100 inst. bombs on target at 1410 from 8000-9000 ft.
No. A/C No & Type Time Altitude

12 returned at 1120.
No. A/C Time
3. RESULTS: Seven or eight A/C were seen on the field and several shelters were observed in the SW corner of the L/G. Many hits were made on the center of the field and one single engine plane was destroyed in this area. No hits were observed in the shelter area; but all crews were certain that the rest of the field was well covered. A bad ground haze made observations very difficult.
4. OBS: Flak was first experienced at a point about 5 miles NE of Medjez El Bab and it continued on course, heading 45 deg, all the way to the target. Two (2) four-gun positions 1 mile NW of Bordj Toum. Heavy moderate flak, very accurate, from 36 deg 50 min N, 9 deg 40 min E to 37 deg 5 min N, 9 deg 55 min E. Moderate, heavy and light flak from Tebourba, Air Rhelal, Djedeida and Protville. Moderate, heavy flak was reported at Chouigui while slight, heavy and inaccurate flak came from Sidi Athman. 1 battery of heavy flak observed at river bend near Sidi Tabet. 3 crews reported slight, heavy, and inaccurate flak at the target.

Tuesday, 20 April 1943 (continued)

2 ships seen in Lake Bizerte one in SW corner and the other was on the E side. Both were approximately 299 yards from the shore. The crews of 2 ships report what appeared to be a tank battle in progress at 36 deg 29 min N, 9 deg 30 min E. Convoy of 12 to 15 M/T on road N of Protville. Could not tell direction or type. The crew of one plane reported a convoy about 5 miles long moving E on the highway from Medjez El Bab.

German pamphlets were dropped.

5. WEATHER: En Route--6/10 coverage at 12,000 ft, visibility 8 to 10 miles. At target, same with bad ground haze.
6. PRESS DATA: None

Twelve (12) sorties flown 20/4/43.

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

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 76:

Mission Report # 90, 20 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Capts. Helsabeck and Gshwandtner. Observer: Col. Ridenour.
2. At 1530 12 B-25-C's took off to Bomb L/G at K-2338 None returned
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

early. 12 dropped 143 X 100 inst. bombs on target at 1650 from 8500 - 9600 ft
No. A/C No & Type Time Altitude

12 returned 1800.
No. A/C Time
3. RESULTS: Two crews only report seeing 5 to 8 planes in SW center and two near center of field, with bomb hits among the larger group. Other ten crews report seeing no planes. Axis of attack NW to SE. Bombs of one flight strung across the NE section, the bombs of the other, released slightly latter, landed in the SE section. There were many hits on and near the runway. Two crews report 2 buildings at N of field seen burning as they were leaving the target.

Tuesday, 20 April 1943 (continued)

4. OBS: Flak--At target, intense, accurate heavy from road N of field, near crossroads and from SW corner of field. Slight light flak, inaccurate because of insufficient range, from pillboxes on road near field. Moderate inaccurate heavy from ridge 5 miles S of target. Elsewhere--Intense, accurate heavy from road 36 deg 46 min N, 10 deg 2 min E. 4 gun heavy battery reported in building at K-2043; 4 gun heavy in open at K-2042 (details of fire not given).

Other--Hospital observed at 36 deg 26 min N, 9 deg 55 min E. Tunis Harbor seemed deserted. Heavy traffic of very large trucks going in both directions on Pont Du Fahs-Tunis road.

5. WEATHER: Out--Scattered showers; overcast at 10,000 ft, visibility unlimited except in showers. Target--Solid overcast at 10,000 ft, visibility unlimited. Back--Same as out.
6. PRESS DATA: None

Twelve (12) sorties flown 20/4/43.

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

379th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 74: Three targets were bombed on April 20th. Twelve of our ships took off at 0830 hours to bomb the L/G at La Sebala, five minutes later the 380th went after a L/G at J-9283 and in the afternoon the 428th bombed the L/G at K-2338. The targets were well covered and all ships returned in spite of the intense, heavy flak.

	<i>A/C No. 1 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 2 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
P	<i>Allan, John T., Capt</i>	<i>Leask, Bertram J., 2Lt</i>
CP		
N		
B		
E		
R	<i>Marple, Louis F., T/Sgt,</i>	<i>Marrall, Russell M., Sgt, 381st BS</i>
G	<i>Pagano, Salvatore A., S/Sgt,</i>	
F		

Tuesday, 20 April 1943 (continued)

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

P
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

A/C No. 3 aircraft & crew unidentified
Smith, Charles W., 2Lt

A/C No. 4 aircraft & crew unidentified
(flight leader) *probably "June Bug"*
Hamilton, Robert M. "Ham", 1Lt

A/C No. 5 aircraft & crew unidentified
Rogers, Harold E., 2Lt

A/C No. 6 aircraft & crew unidentified
Blosel, Raymond C., F/O

A/C No. 7 aircraft & crew unidentified
Beachum, Graham C., 2Lt

A/C No. 8 aircraft & crew unidentified
Johnson, Kenneth M. "Ken", 1Lt

A/C No. 9 aircraft & crew unidentified
Logan, Harry R., Jr., 2Lt

A/C No. 10 aircraft & crew unidentified
Grant, Isaac E., 2Lt

Tuesday, 20 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 11 <i>aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	A/C No. 12 <i>aircraft unidentified - probable crew</i>
P <i>Holstead, James R., Capt</i>	<i>Sullivan, Phillip E., 2Lt</i>
CP	<i>Rorig, Kramer W., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>
B	<i>Marshall, Raymond S., Jr., 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>
R	<i>Ross, John D., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Stankewicz, Benjamin M., Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 75:
(379th BS did not participate)

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 76:
(379th BS did not participate)

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

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 74:
(380th BS did not participate)

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 75:
Mission Report # 53 Date- April 20, 1943
Target- J-9283 Landing Ground Squadron airplanes- eleven
Although we saw one fire today, visibility prevented the accurate bombing that should have been. The field was well covered, especially in the central section, but we were afraid that some planes were not seen.

Flak greeted us all the way in and also all the way back and we also had a grandstand seat at a tank battle, in progress at Medjez el Bab, one stranger accompanied us today, S/Sgt. J.P. Stilp, flying with Lieut. Rich, and loaned for the mission from the 428th Squadron.

Stilp, John P., T/Sgt, radio-gunner, 428th BS

A/C No. 1 <i>aircraft unidentified (flight leader)</i>	A/C No. 2 <i>aircraft unidentified</i>
P <i>Cometh, Lawrence (NMI), Capt</i>	<i>Cromartie, Harry L., Jr., 1Lt</i>
CP <i>Miller, James I., 2Lt</i>	<i>Wright, John E., 2Lt</i>
N <i>Huffman, Arnie J., 2Lt</i>	<i>None</i>
B <i>Liverman, Ernest W. "Big Red", 2Lt</i>	<i>Kechter, Harry H., T/Sgt</i>
E <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R <i>Mount, Robert J., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Smith, Eldon M., T/Sgt</i>
G <i>Melhus, Palmer C., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Kobasa, Joseph (NMI), S/Sgt</i>
F <i>Dent, James J., Jr., 1Lt (observer)</i>	<i>None</i>

Tuesday, 20 April 1943 (continued)

**A/C No. 3 may be 41-13096 "The
Question Mark"**

P *McCormick, Robert J., II, 1Lt*
CP *Ross, Fred C., Jr., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Richardson, David L., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Oliver, Frank R., Jr., S/Sgt*
G *Leanza, Anthony (NMI), S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified

P *Stutts, Earl Leeman, 1Lt*
CP *Steger, Edward H., Jr., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Kessler, Paul E., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Barbieri, Edward D., Cpl*
G *Janicki, Andrew J., S/Sgt*
F *Hutchenrider, Willis E., Sgt*

**A/C No. 7 aircraft unidentified (flight
leader)**

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. 9 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., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

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

A/C No. 6 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

A/C No. 8 aircraft unidentified

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

A/C No. 10 aircraft unidentified

Grow, Clyde L., 1Lt
Hubbard, Jack W., 2Lt
Coffey, John D., 2Lt
Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt
None
Hill, Raiford B., T/Sgt
Pintar, John L., S/Sgt
None

Tuesday, 20 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 11 *aircraft unidentified*

P *Rich, Robert S., 2Lt*
CP *Goss, Ralph R., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Mizerski, Richard C. "Bronco", 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Stilp, John P., T/Sgt*
G *Rodgers, Lamar F., Sgt*
F *None*

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 76:
(380th BS did not participate)

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

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 74:

LA SEBALA L/G

Group Mission # 74	Flight 12 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 53	Escort 30 P-38's and Spitfires
Take Off 08:20	Bomb Load: (12 x 100)
Down 11:10	Bombs Dropped: (12 x 100). 1,200#
Total Time: 2 Hrs. 50 Min.	

Weather: Hazy. Visibility 7 to 8 miles.

Remarks: Sgt. Marrall flew as a radio gunner in a 379th ship. 100# bombs were dropped from 9,400 feet on the L/G, where no planes were visible. No activity was observed. Flak: Heavy, moderate, with fair accuracy.

Marrall, Russell M., Sgt, radio-gunner

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 75:

J-9283 LANDING GROUND

Group Mission # 75	Flight 12 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 54	Escort 30 P-40's and Spits
Take Off 08:20	Bomb Load: (12 x 100)
Target 10:03	Bombs Dropped: 1(12 x 100). 1,200#
Down 11:20	
Total Time: 2 Hrs. 50 Min.	

Weather: Hazy. Visibility 7 to 8 miles.

Remarks: Bombs were dropped on the landing ground from 8,800 feet. No planes or activity were observed on the field.

Flak: Heavy, moderate, with fair accuracy. No Enemy aircraft.
This Mission was combined with Squadron Mission #53.

Tuesday, 20 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 41-29957 (L)

P *Collins, George Dennis, F/O*
CP *Wirth, Thomas F., Jr., F/O*
N *None*
B *Daly, Donald J., T/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Rogers, Mike D., T/Sgt*
G *Dees, Paul (NMI), Sgt*
F *None*

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 76:
CRETEVILLE L/G --- (K-2338)

Group Mission # 76	Flight 12 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 55	Escort 24 Spits, 6 P-40's
Take Off 15:30	Bomb Load: (12 x 100)
Target 16:50	Bombs Dropped: 2(12 x 100). 2,400#
Down 18:00	
Total Time: 2 Hrs. 30 Min.	

Weather: High overcast, rain and showers. Visibility 6 to 7 miles.

Remarks: 2,400 bombs were dropped on the landing ground, or "Wheat field".

Flak: Heavy, moderate, and inaccurate, except for one small piece which broke a window in Lt. Marlow's ship.

No Enemy aircraft.

A/C No. 41-13065 (F)

P *Wert, Donald S., 1Lt*
CP *Houghtaling, Harold A., F/O*
N *None*
B *Rogers, Lee C., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Dittmar, Francis A., T/Sgt*
G *Bowden, Scott T., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 41-29980 (E)

Marlow, Jack F., 2Lt
Burt, Norman A., F/O
None
Douglas, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt
None
Budde, Wilbur H., S/Sgt
White, John Edward, Sgt
None

428th BS War Diary: 1/Sgt Johnston finally persuaded Major Walker to let him go on a mission and it was a rough one. Landing Ground at La Sebala between Tunis and Bizerte. Flak was popping all around.

Johnston, Melvin R., Sgt, 1/Sgt

Walker, James P. "Chief" Maj, pilot Commander

Tuesday, 20 April 1943 (continued)

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 74:
(428th BS did not participate)

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 75:
(428th BS did not participate)

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 76: The 428th contributed ten planes to the group's third twelve-plane raid of the day on Axis landing grounds. K-2338 North of Tunis was the target. Five to eight aircraft in the Southwest corner of the field were in the center of the area most heavily covered by 100 pounders. The Southeast, Northwest, and central position (two aircraft reported here were also well hit). Two buildings on the North end of the field were left burning. Intense accurate flak was thrown up at the target and near the target but all returned safely.

A gunner of the 379th was killed by flak on the second raid.
(1st/Sgt Johnston is not on any of the crew lists)

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

P *Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt*
CP *Cunningham, Robert L., 1Lt*
N *Colvin, Jay W., Jr., 1Lt*
B *Upchurch, Jerry E., 1Lt*
E *None*
R *Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt*
G *Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt*
F *Ridenour, Carlyle H., Col, 47th Wing, Commander (observer)*

A/C No. 3 probably 41-13094 "Seasweep"

P *Holley, James Taylor, 1Lt*
CP *Butterfield, William M., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Connors, Charles L., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Glass, John D., S/Sgt*
G *Langford, Alvin L., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified - may be "Bad Seed"

Brock, James C., 1Lt
Blaauw, Harold A., 1Lt
None
Spencer, Ronald L., S/Sgt
None
Marrs, Horace S., S/Sgt
Black, James F., Cpl
None

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified - may be "Skunk Hunter"

Marsh, Edward D., 1Lt
Wescott, Robert M., 1Lt
None
Keys, Paul R., 2Lt
None
Bosworth, William H., T/Sgt
Payne, Charles C., Sgt
None

Tuesday, 20 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)		A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified	
P	<i>Gshwandtner, Frank J. "Gish", 1Lt</i>		<i>Wheeler, William A. K., "Gus", 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Williams, Edwin W., 1Lt</i>		<i>Moulder, Robert W., F/O</i>
N	<i>Doolittle, Leonard N., 1Lt</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Herold, Armin F., Jr., 1Lt</i>		<i>Swim, Lowell W., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Temple, Robert W., Sgt</i>		<i>Mathis, Paul E., T/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Stage, Albert A., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Kirkland, Robert Olin "Kirk", S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
	A/C No. 7 aircraft unidentified - may be "Sweet Alice"		A/C No. 8 probably 41-13070 "Shanghi Lil"
P	<i>Bingham, Henry G., Jr., 1Lt</i>		<i>Canham, Arthur E., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Knight, Gerald R., 1Lt</i>		<i>Wilson, Kieth Gordon, 1Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Queen, Kenneth E., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Vestal, Marion S., 2Lt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Martin, Robert J., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Rebello, John E., Jr., T/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Wink, Jacob A., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
	A/C No. 9 probably 41-13083 "Old 83"		A/C No. 10 probably 41-13050 "Virginia Sturgeon"
P	<i>Loutrel, John McCluney, 1Lt</i>		<i>Peterson, Arthur C., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Smith, Merle E., 2Lt,</i>		<i>Purifoy, Lawrence Lloyd "Peter Plink", 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Naworski, Edward F., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Bennett, Robert L., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Guilfoyle, Frederick J., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Glover, Harold E., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Michalek, Joseph F., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>Reed, Robert H., Cpl</i>

Wednesday, 21 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, RAF Liberators, under operational control of the IX Bomber Command, bomb Naples.

In Tunisia, P-40's bomb and strafe barges along the coast. The British Eighth Army meets such fierce opposition at Takrouna that General Montgomery decides to confine the offensive to the coastal region.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, weather prevents completion of any missions by the Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF). Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) fighters and A-20's hit landing grounds and military traffic on roads, fly sweeps and armed reconnaissance, and attack ground forces and aircraft in the Medjez el Bab-Goubellat area where an enemy counterattack by armored and infantry columns during the night of 20/21 Apr ends in costly failure. The 346th and 347th Fighter Squadrons, 350th Fighter Group with P-39's swap bases; the 346th moves from La Senia, Algeria to Orleansville, Algeria; the 347th moves from Orleansville to Le Sers, 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: Bad weather kept the planes grounded.

Thursday, 22 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, P-40's fly fighter sweeps over the battle area along the Gulf of Hammamet.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) B-26's bomb 2 landing grounds near Protville. Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) fighters and A-20's fly sweeps, reconnaissance, and patrols and attack positions at Djebel el Ahmera (Longstop Ridge), Sidi Nsir, Djebel el Ajred (Bald Hill), and other points as the British First Army's 5 Corps launches the start of the final phase of the assault on Tunis and Bizerte, attacking on a front N and S of Medjez el Bab.

In Italy, B-26's hit the harbor at Carloforte on San Pietro Island.

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: Heavy rainfall made the runways unserviceable. Crews alerted but none took off. Had a squadron formation at which time Capt. Wilson presented wings to combat crew members and Articles of War were read. Phillips was arrested and confined at Telergma for taking money out of the escape kit and substituting paper. First Atebrin tablets passed out for malaria.

Wilson, Samuel A., Capt, intelligence, S-2

Friday, 23 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-25's attack a landing ground, troops, and artillery N of Enfidaville. P-40's fly escort sweeps, and fighter-bomber missions in the battle area.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) B-25's and B-26's bomb vehicles and the railroad at Mateur, the Mateur-Bedja road and Arbatax harbor in Italy. Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) fighters, A-20's, and medium bombers carry out a large number of missions against positions in NE Tunisia and particularly along the battleline area from near Pont-du-Fahs N to the Mediterranean as the US II Corps begins a drive on Bizerte in the Jefna-Sidi Meftah area.

In the Mediterranean, B-17's attack vessels N of Sicily.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 77:

Mission Report # 91, 23 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders; Capts. Cometh, Helsabeck and Holstead.

2. At 0705 20 (S-2) (*2 spares*) B-25-C's took off to Sea Search Shipping. 2 (S-2)
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

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

18 returned at 1010.
No. A/C Time

3. RESULTS: No shipping sighted. No bombs dropped. The course was followed as briefed to 37 deg 35 min N, 10 deg 40 min E. Then, because of extremely limited visibility and in the hope of being able to locate a target, the next leg was extended to 38 deg 10 min N, 11 deg 45 min E, then to 38 min N, 11 deg 40 min E. From this point the course home was followed as prescribed.

Friday, 23 April 1943 (continued)

4. OBS: Flak--None. E/A--None. Visibility was severely limited by haze over water. Shore observations were impossible. One crew only reports having sighted two objects at 37 deg 22 min N, 8 deg 40 min E. Possibility they might be submarines--not sure.
5. WEATHER: Base to coast--low heavy haze, ceiling unlimited, visibility 3 to 5 miles. Over Water--Very hazy, visibility varied from 2 to 10 miles; ceiling unlimited except in Tunis-Cap Bon area, where it was overcast at 6000 ft. Back--Same as out, except that haze had lifted and visibility much improved.
6. PRESS DATA: None.

Eighteen (18) sorties flown 23/4/43.

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

379th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 77:** A sea search mission was flown on April 23rd, but no shipping was sighted and all bombs were returned.

	<i>A/C No. 1 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 2 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
		(flight leader)
P	<i>Beachum, Graham C., 2Lt</i>	<i>Holstead, James R., Capt</i>
CP		
N		
B		
E		
R		
G		
F		
	<i>A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified - probable crew</i>	<i>A/C No. 4 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
P	<i>Sullivan, Phillip E., 2Lt</i>	<i>Rogers, Harold E., 2Lt</i>
CP	<i>Rorig, Kramer W., 2Lt</i>	
N	<i>None</i>	
B	<i>Marshall, Raymond S., Jr., 2Lt</i>	
E	<i>None</i>	
R	<i>Ross, John D., S/Sgt</i>	
G	<i>Stankewicz, Benjamin M., Sgt</i>	
F	<i>None</i>	

Friday, 23 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 5 aircraft & crew unidentified

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

Blozel, Raymond C., F/O

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

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 77:

Mission Report # 54

Date- April 25, 1943

Target- Sea Search

Squadron airplanes- seven

We really played "bloodhound" this morning, in an attempt to find some Axis shipping. We followed the course so far as they wanted us to go and then in desperation for something to hit, we went even further but failed to find anything worth while. The weather was terrible. The best visibility at anytime was not over five miles and a ceiling that fairly rested on the water.

We did see two little isolated objects in the water, but what ever they were they were too small to waste bombs upon. Everybody got back in good style, but it seemed nothing more then a day wasted fort the most of us.

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

P *Cometh, Lawrence (NMI), Capt*

Cromartie, Harry L., Jr., 1Lt

CP *Miller, James I., 2Lt*

Wright, John E., 2Lt

N *Huffman, Arnie J., 2Lt*

None

B *Liverman, Ernest W. "Big Red", 2Lt*

Kechter, Harry H., T/Sgt

E *None*

None

R *Mount, Robert J., S/Sgt*

Smith, Eldon M., T/Sgt

G *Melhus, Palmer C., S/Sgt*

Kobasa, Joseph (NMI), S/Sgt

F *Wilder, Rodney R. "Hoss", Maj,*

None

Commander (observer)

A/C No. 3 may be 41-13096 "The Question Mark"

A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

P *McCormick, Robert J., II, 1Lt*

Grow, Clyde L., 1Lt

CP *Toenjes, Norman L., 1Lt*

Hubbard, Jack W., 2Lt

N *None*

Coffey, John D., 2Lt

B *Richardson, David L., T/Sgt*

Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt

E *None*

None

R *Oliver, Frank R., Jr., S/Sgt*

Hill, Raiford B., T/Sgt

G *Leanza, Anthony (NMI), S/Sgt*

Pintar, John L., S/Sgt

F *None*

None

Friday, 23 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 5 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., S/Sgt
F None

A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified

Timmerman, Melvin E., 2Lt
Rice, Carl E., 2Lt
None
Donahue, Francis E., S/Sgt
None
Thomas, Cyril L., S/Sgt
Tabor, George E., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 7 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., Sgt
G Szczesniak, Alfred A., S/Sgt
F None

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

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 77:
(381st BS did not participate)

428th BS War Diary: The weather man really hit us with a barrage today! A hail storm that lasted for 15 minutes and hail as big as your thumb. It was followed by a rain storm and everyone is soaked. Fox-holes were flooded and pup tents washed out. Leonard stepped into what appeared to be a small puddle and fell into a fox-hole filled with 4 feet of water. Approximately 100 men were evacuated to the day room for the night.

Leonard, Charles O., Pvt,

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 77: Eighteen aircraft participated in another fruitless sea search on the 23rd of April. The lack of shipping was a surprise considering the dire straits of the Axis. All planes returned safely.

Friday, 23 April 1943 (continued)

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

(flight leader)

P *Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt*
CP *Cunningham, Robert L., 1Lt*
N *Colvin, Jay W., Jr., 1Lt*
B *Upchurch, Jerry E., 1Lt*
E *None*
R *Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt*
G *Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 3 probably 41-13094 "Seasweep"

P *Holley, James Taylor, 1Lt*
CP *Butterfield, William M., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Connors, Charles L., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Glass, John D., S/Sgt*
G *Langford, Alvin L., 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 *Glover, Harold E., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified - may be "Bad Seed"

Brock, James C., 1Lt
Blaauw, Harold A., 1Lt
None
Spencer, Ronald L., S/Sgt
None
Marrs, Horace S., S/Sgt
Black, James F., Cpl
None

A/C No. 4 probably 41-13070 "Shanghi Lil"

Canham, Arthur E., 1Lt
Wilson, Kieth Gordon, 1Lt
Hartman, William J., 1Lt
Vestal, Marion S., 2Lt
None
Rebello, John E., Jr., T/Sgt
Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt
None

A/C No. 6 probably 41-13050 "Virginia Sturgeon"

Peterson, Arthur C., 1Lt
Purifoy, Lawrence Lloyd "Peter Plink", 2Lt
None
Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt
None
Guilfoyle, Frederick J., S/Sgt
Michalek, Joseph F., S/Sgt
Amirault, Osborne J., Sgt

Saturday, 24 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, RAF Liberators, under operational control of the IX Bomber Command, bomb Naples.

In Tunisia, P-40's escort bombers, fly sweeps, and carry out fighter-bomber operations against troops in the battle area N of Enfidaville.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) Wellingtons bomb the N quay at Bizerte harbor during the night of 23/24 Apr. Bad weather the following morning cancels NASAF operations. Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) fighters, although hampered by bad weather, attack guns, troops, and trucks in the battle area from Pont-du-Fahs N to the sea. Fierce ground fighting continues in the Jefna area. The 99th Fighter Squadron, Twelfth Air Force with P-40's arrives at Casablanca, French Morocco from the U.S. The 99th is the first black USAAF unit to serve overseas.

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 rain started again early this morning and lasted all day. A few more holes were flooded and forced the occupants to move. Double feature at the movies.

Sunday, 25 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, B-25's attack landing grounds, concentrations, and vehicles N and NW of Enfidaville. P-40's escort bombers and fly fighter sweeps over the battle area.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, weather prevents Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) bombing missions. Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) fighters attack positions and vehicles in the battle area. A-20's and medium bombers bomb the S landing ground at Soliman, positions NW of Enfidaville, and several other points in the battle area as Allied ground forces continue their advance on Bizerte and Tunis. HQ 2nd Bombardment Group (Heavy) and its 20th, 49th, and 96th Bombardment Squadrons (Heavy) with B-17's arrive at Navarin, Algeria from the US. HQ 319th Bombardment Group (Medium) and its 437th, and 438th, 439th and 440th Bombardment Squadrons (Medium) with B-26B's transfer from Oujda, French Morocco to Rabat Sale, French Morocco. The group has been undergoing reorganization and training since Feb 43.

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: Easter Day and the sun came out. Men started drying their wet clothing. Runways unserviceable. Had spaghetti and spam with chocolate cake for our Easter dinner. Crews alerted at supper time.

Monday, 26 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): No Entry

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force): No Entry

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 78:

Mission Report # 92, 26 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Lt. Thorndike and Captain Draemel.

2. At 1445 13 (S-1) (*1 spares*) B-25-C's took off to Bomb Road Junction, RR
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target

crossing and Sta. at Tebourba. (S-1) returned early. 12 dropped 122 X 100
Target No. A/C No. A/C No & Type

Inst & 45 sec delay bombs on target at 1410 from 9500' - 10000'. 12 returned
No & Type Time Altitude No. A/C

at 1720.
Time

3. RESULTS: Some hits were seen in N edge of town, on junction of roads and railroad. One string fell along road leading NE from town. Other strings fell across road and RR to E of town. The RR sta. was seen to be burning. Some fires were also seen in northern portion of town.

Pamphlets not dropped. Not received in time for mission.

4. OBS: Flak--At target, moderate heavy, accurate range and deflection from batteries located S, SW and NW of Tebourba (between edge of town and RR.) Elsewhere--From hill 668 (8 mi W of Bordj Toum) intense, inaccurate heavy. From just NE of hill 668-moderate inaccurate heavy. From vicinity of Bordj Toum moderate heavy accurate range, deflection poor. From vicinity of Chouigui-moderate heavy, accurate range, deflection poor. M/G fire from trucks SW of target-inaccurate due to insufficient range. From along road and river between Medjez-El-Bab and Tebourba moderate heavy flak reported, not very accurate. Enemy A/C--None. Other--Some M/T traffic observed moving in both directions on Medjez-El-Bab--Tebourba road, also Medjez-El-Bab--Tunis road. One crew reports a large convoy of exceptionally large M/T heading NE on road from Tebourba to Djedeida. Another crew reports a concentration of 200 or more tents one-half mile S of Bordj Toum. Indications of ground fighting were seen, E of Oued Zarga. A battle reported near Sidi Nsir.

Monday, 26 April 1943 (continued)

- 5. WEATHER: En Route--6/10 to 8/10 coverage at 8/9000 ft, gradually rising-scattered showers visibility 8 to 10 miles. Target--3/10 strato-cumulus at 12000 ft, hazy with visibility 6 to 8 miles. Return--Scattered showers-9/10 coverage at 7000 ft, visibility 6 miles.
- 6. PRESS DATA: None

Twelve (12) sorties flown 26/4/43.

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

379th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 78:** April 26th... the Tebourba Rd. Junction, RR Station and tracks were the target for the bombs of twelve of our ships today. The objectives were well covered and fires were observed in the station and the north portion of town. Intense, heavy, accurate flak followed the flight to and from the target but in no way affected the bomb run. Several ships suffered minor flak holes.

	<i>A/C No. 1 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 2 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
P	<i>Leask, Bertram J., 2Lt</i>	<i>Smith, Charles W., 2Lt</i>
CP		
N		
B		
E		
R		
G		
F		
	<i>A/C No. 3 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 4 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
P	<i>Johnson, Kenneth M. "Ken", 1Lt</i>	<i>Logan, Harry R., Jr., 2Lt</i>
CP		
N		
B		
E		
R		
G		
F		

Monday, 26 April 1943 (continued)

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

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 78:

Mission Report # 55

Date- April 26, 1943

Target- Tebourba Highway Junction

Squadron airplanes- two

Once again we took a trip down "Flak Alley". When "Jerry" got tired of loading the big guns, he opened up with the light, but thanks to strenuous evasive action and his poor shooting, we came through unscathed.

Bombs fell all over north eastern Tunisia and also on the target so damage was dealt to the Afrika Korps. One string fell along the edge of town and on the junction of the railroad and the highway. The railroad station was seen in flames. Small fires were also seen burning in the northern sector of town.

We had a grandstand seat today for a tank battle near Sidi Nair, and boy they can have it, by the dust and smoke that was rolling up.

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. 2 aircraft unidentified

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

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

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 78:

TEBOURBA ROAD JUNCTION, TUNISIA

Group Mission # 78

Flight 12 B-25's

Sqdrn. Mission # 56

Escort 14 Spits, 23 P-40's

Take Off 14:15

Bomb Load: (12 x 100)

Target 16:20

Bombs Dropped: 5(12 x 100). 6,000#

Down 17:20

Total Time: 3 Hrs. 05 Min.

Weather: Visibility 6 to 8 miles, ceiling 12,000 ft. at Target. Scattered showers en route home.

Remarks: Unimpressive target. Most of the bombs hit across the highway and railroad to the East of the actual target, while a few landed in the town. Moderately heavy flak from four positions en route, from which no damage resulted. No Enemy aircraft were seen.

Monday, 26 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 41-13065 (C)

P Wert, Donald S., 1Lt
CP Houghtaling, Harold A., F/O
N None
B Rogers, Lee C., Cpl
E None
R Marrall, Russell M., Sgt
G Bowden, Scott T., S/Sgt
F None

A/C No. 41-29980 (B)

P Marlow, Jack F., 2Lt
CP Burt, Norman A., F/O
N None
B Douglas, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt
E None
R Budde, Wilbur H., S/Sgt
G White, John Edward, Sgt
F None

**A/C No. 41-13085 “GREEN
HORNET” (D)**

P Coddington, Walter E., 1Lt
CP Ramsey, Thomas Upton, 2Lt
N None
B Hornung, Willard R., 2Lt
E None
R Thomas, Quentin W., S/Sgt
G Moxey, Orville E., S/Sgt
F None

**A/C No. 41-130074 “BALLS OF
FIRE” / “ROYAL FLUSH” (A)**

Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt
Durgin, James L., 2Lt
Hickman, James G., 1Lt
Supple, Gilbert J., 1Lt, 379th BS
None
Boone, Edward W. W., S/Sgt
Molnar, William J., S/Sgt
White, Alpheus Wray, Jr., Capt,
Commander (observer)

A/C No. 41-29957 (F)

Collins, George Dennis, F/O
Wirth, Thomas F., Jr., F/O
None
Kelley, Donald C., T/Sgt
None
Rogers, Mike D., S/Sgt
Dees, Paul (NMI), Sgt
None

A/C No. 41-29962 (E)

Denton, Richard D., 2Lt
Donnovan, Gerald M., 2Lt
None
Hartzell, James J., S/Sgt
None
Potolsky, George (NMI), S/Sgt
Miller, Foster Eugene, Sgt
None

428th BS War Diary: No mission.

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 78:**
(428th BS did not participate)

Tuesday, 27 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Tunisia, P-40's bomb and strafe concentrations N and NW of Enfidaville.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Sardinia, Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) B-17's, with P-38 escort, bomb Villacidro Airfield.

In Tunisia, NASAF B-25's hit shipping W of Zembra Island off Cap Bon. Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) planes (fighters, A-20's, and medium bombers) hit numerous tactical targets in NE Tunisia, including Sidi Ahmed Airfield and troops, tank, trucks, and gun positions at Massicault, on the Pont-du-Fahs road, Ksar Tyr, Bir Meherga, and other points along the battleline. HQ 2nd Bombardment Group (Heavy) and its 20th, 49th and 96th Bombardment Squadrons (Heavy) with B-17's transfer from Navarin, Algeria to Chateaudun-du-Rhumel, Algeria. The Group's fourth squadron, the 429th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), arrives at Chateaudun-du-Rhumel from the US today. The group will fly its first combat mission tomorrow.

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: No mission. Movies in the evening.

Wednesday, 28 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, B-24's attack the harbor at Naples and the ferry slip at Messina. Gunners claim 5 fighters destroyed.

In Tunisia, P-40's escort bombers and attack troops in the battle area N of Enfidaville.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) B-25's and P-38's attack 2 vessels off NE Tunisia in the Straits of Sicily. Other B-25's hit Tunis shipping while B-26's bomb the landing grounds at Mabouban and Mabtouha. Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) aircraft bomb concentrations near Saint-Cyprien and Ksar Tyr, shipping off Tunis, and numerous positions and vehicles along the Tunisian battleline and surrounding areas as the US 9th Infantry Division continues W astride the Sedjenane River and the 1st and 34th Infantry Divisions continue to face fierce opposition S of Jefna in Sidi Meftah area.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 79:

Mission Report # 93, 28 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders; Capt. Allan, Helsabeck and Lt. Hamilton.

2. At 0630 20 (S-2) (2 spares) B-25-C's took off to Sea Search Shipping. 2 (S-1)
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

returned early. 18 dropped 94 X 500 .1 & .025 delay bombs on target at 0820
No. A/C No & Type Time
from 7400 - 8400 ft. 18 returned at 1010.
Altitude No. A/C Time

3. RESULTS: At 0813 hours at 37 deg 35 min N, 11 deg 15 min E, two medium sized M/V's were sighted, without escort. One direct hit and one near miss was made by the bombers on the stern of one. A considerable amount of smoke was issuing from it and several crews report seeing flames. It was seen to lose headway and when last observed was not moving. These results are confirmed by fighter pilots. The other M/V was attacked by the fighter bombers of the escort and a direct hit was scored on it.

Wednesday, 28 April 1943 (continued)

- OBS: Flak--at target intense light flak from M/V's, inaccurate due to insufficient range. Slight inaccurate heavy also encountered. E/A--2 ME-109's and 1 ME-210 were seen covering the convoy. The ME-120 was shot down by bombers as it attacked formation. It came up from deck and attacked from 5 o'clock. Others were kept away by escort.

At 37 deg 34 min N, 9 deg 20 min E, a long yellow dinghy with 3 or 4 occupants was sighted. (Report sent in by phone.) Shore observations impossible due to haze.

- WEATHER: Out--Overcast at 8/10000 ft, showers, visibility 6-7 miles.
Over Water--Low scud clouds; visibility 3-5 miles due to haze. Bank of clouds at 7000 ft E of target.
Back--Same as out.
- PRESS DATA: 1 ME-210 shot down by S/Sgt. Horace S. Marrs (*428th BS*), RD #1, Box 207, Broomfield, Colorado, and T/Sgt. James H. Lockhart (*428th BS*), 423 Edith St., Pittsburgh, PA. Joint claim.

Eighteen (18) sorties flown 28/4/43.

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

379th BS War Diary: (*No non-mission information*)

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 79:** Capt. Allan led eighteen ships on a Sea Search mission on April 28th. The escort consisted of twenty P-38's of which four were fighter bombers, each having a 1,000 lb. bomb hanging in an external rack. Two M/V's were sighted without escort. The bombers scored one direct hit and one near miss on the first ship and left it halted, belching flames and clouds of smoke. The P-38's claimed a direct hit on the other ship and both are believed sunk. Two ME-109's and one ME-210 covering the ships were engaged in combat, and S/Sgt. Marrs and T/Sgt. Lockhart poured lead into the ME-210 until it crashed.

Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt, radio-gunner, 428th BS

Marrs, Horace S., S/Sgt, radio-gunner, 428th BS

Wednesday, 28 April 1943 (continued)

P A/C No. 1 aircraft & crew unidentified A/C No. 2 aircraft & crew unidentified
CP Allan, John T., Capt Leask, Bertram J., 2Lt
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 unidentified -
probable crew
P Holstead, James R., Capt Sullivan, Phillip E., 2Lt
CP Rorig, Kramer W., 2Lt
N None
B Marshall, Raymond S., Jr., 2Lt
E None
R Ross, John D., S/Sgt
G Stankewicz, Benjamin M., Sgt
F None

A/C No. 5 aircraft & crew unidentified A/C No. 6 aircraft & crew unidentified -
probably "June Bug"
P Beachum, Graham C., 2Lt Hamilton, Robert M. "Ham", 1Lt
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

A/C No. 7 aircraft & crew unidentified
P Bloesel, Raymond C., F/O
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

Wednesday, 28 April 1943 (continued)

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

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 79:

Mission Report # 56

Date- April 28, 1943

Target- Sea Search

Squadron airplanes- three

Our long drawn sea searches finally paid dividends today, when we spotted two unescorted vessels in Mare Nostrum. Hits were seen on one and smoke and flames started to pour out. When last seen it was standing still and starting to settle in the water. The fighters confirmed this for us. The fighter-bombers with us, went to work on the other, with the result that direct hits were also seen on it.

The light flak from the boats was quite intense but due to our altitude it fell short. Two of the gunners in the Group made a claim for a ME-210 that jumped the formation. With all the planes back safely, we could call it a good day. Shore observations were not so good, due to the haze.

A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified

P *Grow, Clyde L., 1Lt*
CP *Hubbard, Jack W., 2Lt*
N *Coffey, John D., 2Lt*
B *Hall, Paul R., Jr., 2Lt*
E *None*
R *Hill, Raiford B., T/Sgt*
G *Pintar, John L., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

Rich, Robert S., 2Lt
Goss, Ralph R., 2Lt
None
Jastrzemski, Walter F., S/Sgt
None
Poknis, Paul A., S/Sgt
Rodgers, Lamar F., 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*

381st BS War Diary: No Entry

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 79:

(381st BS did not participate)

Wednesday, 28 April 1943 (continued)

428th BS War Diary: A sea search today. Two merchant vessels sighted and a near miss on the stern of one ship caused smoke and flames to pour out. ME-109 was chalked up by Marrs and Lockhart.

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

Marrs, Horace S., S/Sgt, radio-gunner

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 79: Five days later another eighteen ship flight participated in an altitude sea search early that morning. At 0813 two unescorted medium-sized vessels were seen and the formation deployed for their runs. One direct hit and many near misses were observed on the targets. When last observed it was burning and had stopped. Fighters confirmed this report. Fighter-bombers of the escort scored a direct hit on the other merchant vessel.

Intense light flak at the target was short of range and slight, heavy flak was no better. Two ME-109's, the top cover, were driven off by the escort. An ME-210 came up from low on the deck. S/Sgt. Horace S. Marrs, radio operator and lower turret gunner dispatched him as he passed beneath. It was his first claim.

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

P *Helsabeck, Chester J. "Joe", Jr., 1Lt*
CP *Cunningham, Robert L., 1Lt*
N *Colvin, Jay W., Jr., 1Lt*
B *Upchurch, Jerry E., 1Lt*
E *None*
R *Lockhart, James H., T/Sgt*
G *Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 3 probably 41-13094 "Seasweep"

P *Holley, James Taylor, 1Lt*
CP *Butterfield, William M., 2Lt*
N *None*
B *Connors, Charles L., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Glass, John D., S/Sgt*
G *Langford, Alvin L., S/Sgt*
F *None*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified - may be "Bad Seed"

Brock, James C., 1Lt
Blaauw, Harold A., 1Lt
None
Spencer, Ronald L., S/Sgt
None
Marrs, Horace S., S/Sgt
Black, James F., Cpl
None

A/C No. 4 probably 41-13070 "Shanghi Lil"

Canham, Arthur E., 1Lt
Wilson, Kieth Gordon, 1Lt
Hartman, William J., 1Lt
Vestal, Marion S., 2Lt
None
Rebello, John E., Jr., T/Sgt
Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt
None

Wednesday, 28 April 1943 (continued)

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 *Glover, Harold E., S/Sgt*

F *None*

A/C No. 6 *probably* **41-13050** “Virginia
Sturgeon”

Peterson, Arthur C., 1Lt
Purifoy, Lawrence Lloyd "Peter Plink",
2Lt

None

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

None

Guilfoyle, Frederick J., S/Sgt

Michalek, Joseph F., S/Sgt

Reed, Robert H., Cpl

Thursday, 29 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): No Entry

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force): No Entry

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 80:

Mission Report # 94, 29 April 1943

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders; Capt. Cometh & Lt. Thorndike.
2. At 0710 21 (S-6) (*6 spares*) B-25-C's took off to Sea Search Shipping. 6 (S-5)
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target No. A/C

returned early. 15 dropped No bombs on target at from
 No. A/C No & Type Time altitude

15 (S-1) returned at 1110.
No. A/C Time

3. RESULTS: Course was flown as prescribed. No suitable target was seen-no bombs dropped.
4. OBS: Flak--None. E/A--at 0910 hours at 37 deg 40 min N, 11 deg 50 min E, a group of 10/12 ME-109's and one 6 engine flying boat were sighted. The ME-109's came in to attack the bombers, and were intercepted by the escort. Two ME-109's reached the bomber formation and one was shot down by the bombers. At least two ME-109's were shot down by the escort. Several reports that the 6 engine flying boat was also destroyed by the escort. One of escort believed to have been shot down in this encounter--seen to hit the water at some distance from the formation. Shortly after the attack by enemy fighters two very small ships were seen in the distance off Marettimo Island, heading toward Sicily. One naval vessel, believed to be a destroyer or light cruiser sighted heading SW at 37 deg 25 min N, 11 deg 50 min E. Attack not made due to shortage of gas in fighters. No shore observations due to poor visibility.
5. WEATHER: 9/10 overcast at 4/5000 ft over entire route, with scattered showers. Hazy-visibility 5-10 miles. Low hanging fog off coast of Sicily.
6. PRESS DATA: 1 ME-109 shot down by: S/Sgt. Paul Dees (*381st BS*), Bartow, Florida, and Sgt. Foster E. Miller (*381st BS*), Castroville, Texas. Joint claim.

Thursday, 29 April 1943 (continued)

Fifteen (15) sorties flown 29/4/43.

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

379th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 80: On April 29th, an ME-109 was added to the list of enemy aircraft victories of the 310th Gp. When both S/Sgt. Dees and Sgt Miller caught him in their sights and knocked him into the water. This happened when fifteen planes flew a sea search mission and were intercepted by 10 to 12 ME-109's and a 6/e flying boat (*6 engines*) ensuing battle the P-38's accounted for the flying boat and several of the ME-109's. Although two small ships were sighted in the distance, no attack was made because the fighters, having dropped their belly tanks during the engagement, had to head for home. All bombs were returned.

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

P *Logan, Harry R., Jr., 2t*
CP
N
B
E
R
G
F

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

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 80:

Mission Report # 57

Date- April 29, 1943

Target- Sea Search

Squadron airplanes- five

“A life on the ocean wave.” This seems to be our motto with the Sea Searches we have been going on. Although we spotted three small boats today, they were too far apart and too small to shoot at. We did have a little action though when Messerschmitt-109's jumped us. Two of our boys made a joint claim for one of them while the fighters with us, P-38's got at least two more of them.

A bi-engine flying boat was seen in the distance but too far away to even go after. Visibility again stopped us from making any shore observations.

Thursday, 29 April 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 1 <i>aircraft unidentified</i> (flight leader)		A/C No. 2 <i>may be</i> 41-13096 "The Question Mark"	
P	<i>Cometh, Lawrence (NMI), Capt</i>		<i>McCormick, Robert J., II, 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Miller, James I., 2Lt</i>		<i>Toenjjes, Norman L., 1Lt</i>
N	<i>Huffman, Arnie J., 2Lt</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Liverman, Ernest W. "Big Red", 2Lt</i>		<i>Richardson, David L., T/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Mount, Robert J., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Oliver, Frank R., Jr., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Melhus, Palmer C., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Leanza, Anthony (NMI), S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>Wilder, Rodney R. "Hoss", Maj, Commander (observer)</i>		<i>None</i>
A/C No. 3 <i>aircraft unidentified</i>		A/C No. 4 <i>aircraft unidentified</i>	
P	<i>Batten, Earl E., Capt</i>		<i>Stutts, Earl Leeman, 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Shorsher, Fred A., 2Lt</i>		<i>Steger, Edward H., Jr., 2Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
B	<i>Sessler, Howard A., 1Lt</i>		<i>Kessler, Paul E., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
R	<i>Talley, Edwin C., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Barbieri, Edward D., Cpl</i>
G	<i>Szczesniak, Alfred A., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Janicki, Andrew J., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>		<i>Hutchenrider, Willis E., Sgt</i>
A/C No. 5 <i>aircraft unidentified</i>			
P	<i>Amick, Cecil D., 1Lt</i>		
CP	<i>Porter, Lloyd L., 2Lt</i>		
N	<i>None</i>		
B	<i>Longrie, Kenneth R., S/Sgt</i>		
E	<i>None</i>		
R	<i>Meyer, Albert J., S/Sgt</i>		
G	<i>Huffman, Herbert (NMI), S/Sgt</i>		
F	<i>None</i>		

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

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 80:

SEA SEARCH

Group Mission # 80	Flight 15 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 57	Escort 24 P-38's, 4 with bombs.
Take Off 07:10	Bomb Load: (6 x 500)
Down 11:10	Bombs Dropped: None
Total Time: 4 Hrs.	

Weather: Over sea, 5,000 ft. overcast, with visibility 5 to 10 miles.

Remarks: Six ME-109's attacked the formation, four of which were shot down by the P-38 escort. Another was shot down jointly by S/Sgt. Paul Dees and Sgt. F.E. Miller.

Thursday, 29 April 1943 (continued)

<p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 42-53444 "PUNJAB" (M)</p> <p>P <i>Rouch, Melvin R., 1Lt</i> CP <i>Stagner, Howard C., F/O</i> N <i>None</i> B <i>Grossi, Frank L., S/Sgt</i> E <i>None</i> R <i>Swanson, William M., S/Sgt</i> G <i>Pontet, Emile A., Jr., Sgt</i> F <i>None</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 42-53445 "LOTTIES GOOSE" (L)</p> <p>P <i>Lewis, Kenneth E., 1Lt</i> CP <i>Stecher, Robert Walter, 2Lt</i> N <i>None</i> B <i>Smith, Willie A., T/Sgt</i> E <i>None</i> R <i>Starnes, Carl B., S/Sgt</i> G <i>George, Wade Clayton, S/Sgt</i> F <i>None</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 41-13085 "GREEN HORNET" (N)</p> <p>P <i>Coddington, Walter E., 1Lt</i> CP <i>Ramsey, Thomas Upton, 2Lt</i> N <i>None</i> B <i>Hornung, Willard R., 2Lt</i> E <i>None</i> R <i>Thomas, Quentin W., S/Sgt</i> G <i>Moxey, Orville E., S/Sgt</i> F <i>None</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 41-13061 "LIL' JOE" (K)</p> <p><i>Thorndike, Robert W., 1Lt</i> <i>Durgin, James L., 2Lt</i> <i>Hickman, James G., 1Lt</i> <i>Supple, Gilbert J., 1Lt, 379th BS</i> <i>None</i> <i>Boone, Edward W. W., S/Sgt</i> <i>Molnar, William J., S/Sgt</i> <i>White, Alpheus Wray, Jr., Capt, Commander (observer)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 41-29962 (O)</p> <p><i>Denton, Richard D., 2Lt</i> <i>Donnovan, Gerald M., 2Lt</i> <i>None</i> <i>Hartzell, James J., S/Sgt</i> <i>None</i> <i>Potolsky, George (NMI), T/Sgt</i> <i>Miller, Foster Eugene, S/Sgt</i> <i>None</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A/C No. 41-29957 (P)</p> <p><i>Collins, George Dennis, F/O</i> <i>Wirth, Thomas F., Jr., F/O</i> <i>None</i> <i>Kelley, Donald C., T/Sgt</i> <i>None</i> <i>Rogers, Mike D., S/Sgt</i> <i>Dees, Paul (NMI), Sgt</i> <i>None</i></p>
---	--

428th BS War Diary: Another sea search but nothing cooking. Atebrin pills passed out.

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 80: No shipping was seen early on the sea sweep of the 29th. However a patrol of ten to twelve ME-109's and one 6-engined flying boat were sighted. Only two of them slipped past our escort and one of these was shot down. The P-38's destroyed the flying boat and two of the fighters.

Shortly after the attack one good-sized naval vessel was sighted in the distance but the fighters were too short of gas to risk an attack that might take them another fifteen minutes. If the purpose of the patrol was to force our formations to return they were successful.

Thursday, 29 April 1943 (continued)

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*

**A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified - may be
"Sweet Alice"**

P *Bingham, Henry G., Jr., 1Lt*
CP *Knight, Gerald R., 1Lt*
N *None*
B *Queen, Kenneth E., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Martin, Robert J., S/Sgt*
G *Wink, Jacob A., S/Sgt*
F *Amirault, Osborne J., Sgt*

A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

Wheeler, William A. K., "Gus", 1Lt
Moulder, Robert W., F/O
None
Swim, Lowell W., S/Sgt
None
Mathis, Paul E., T/Sgt
Kirkland, Robert Olin "Kirk", S/Sgt
None

Friday, 30 April 1943

USAAF Chronology: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO):

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force):

In Italy, B-24's attack the Messina ferry; bombs hit the target area and nearby marshalling yard and the city area.

In the Mediterranean, P-40's fly fighter-bomber missions against shipping with excellent results, claiming 1 destroyer and 3 other vessels sunk, and 2 destroyers and 2 boats damaged. Fighters claim 5 Bf 109's shot down; 3 P-40's are lost.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Northwest African Air Force):

In Tunisia, Northwest Strategic Air Force (NASAF) B-26's and P-38's hit shipping off Tunisia while B-26's strike shipping near Cap Bon and the Tunis-Medjez el Bab highway. Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) fighters, A-20's, and medium bombers, hit positions near Mateur, Bir Meherga, and Ksar Tyr, concentrations near Furna, shipping in the Gulf of Tunis and near Cap Bon, and attack isolated vehicles and troops along the battleline as the US II Corps makes substantial gains in the Jefna area. The 97th Bombardment Squadron (Light), 47th Bombardment Group (Light) with A-20's transfers from Thelepte, Tunisia to Souk-el-Arba, Tunisia.

HQ 310th BG War Diary: No Entry

HQ 310th BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 81:

Mission Report # 95, 30 April 1943 (*Mission Reports for both 30 Apr and 3 May 43 missions are designated Mission Report # 95*)

1. 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF. Flight Leaders: Capts. Allan and Canham and 1st Lt. Thorndike.

2. At 1230 22 (S-4) (*4 spares*) B-25-C's took off to Bomb L/G at J-8850 4 spares
Time No. A/C Type A/C Mission Target

not used, returned early. 18 dropped 208 X 100 inst & .45 del. tail fuse bombs
No. A/C No & Type

on opportunity target (see results) at 1410 from 8000 to 8900 ft. 16 (S-1) returned at
Time Altitude No. A/C

1520 and 1 returned at 1615.
Time Time

Friday, 30 April 1943 (continued)

3. RESULTS: L/G J-8850-no planes or activity of any nature seen on field. Road junction on main road Tunis-Medjez El Bab SE of L/G bombed instead. Area well covered. Direct hits scored on the road junction and 3 strings seen to fall across road just E of junction. 30,000 German and Italian leaflets were dropped in the target area.
4. OBS: No E/A observed or encountered. Flak--Heavy, intense and very accurate flak, both as to range and deflection at town of Massicault, and at the following coordinates; 36 deg 47 min N, 9 deg 57 min E; 36 deg 42 min N, 9 deg 56 min E; 36 deg 27 min N, 9 deg 47 min E; 36 deg 47 N, 9 deg 47 min E; 36 deg 47 min N, 9 deg 47 min E. Heavy, intense and accurate flak experienced from just SE of Bordj Toum pinpointed at 36 deg 45 min N, 9 deg 45 min E and there was continual flak from this point to St. Cyprien. 2 four-gun batteries were observed at the flak position just SE of Bordj Toum. Flak at the target; intense, heavy and accurate flak from one battery at SW edge of St. Cyprien, one four-gun battery one mile W of L/G on edge of road, one 4-gun battery one mile SW of the town and 15/20 guns, heavy, in round built-up emplacements at road junction one and one half miles SE of the town of St. Cyprien.

One B-25 hit by flak at the target. When hit, plane went down to about 5000' and pilot made an effort to pull up; left wing fell off and plane then exploded. Two and possibly 3 parachutes were seen to open. Another B-25 landed on friendly field to ascertain damage before proceeding home to base. One crew reported 6/8 tanks moving NE at 36 deg 44 min N, 9 deg 45 min E at 1358, smoke and dust observed from same area. Relatively little traffic reported on main road and secondary roads. One crew did see 100 trucks approximately 1/2 mile apart, parked, headed NE on main road between Massicault and St. Cyprien. Slit trenches on both sides of road between Medjez El Bab and Massicault at approximately 36 deg 41 min N, 9 deg 49 min E. Could not determine whether sites were still in use.

5. WEATHER: Scattered showers, overcast, 8/10 coverage at 9000 ft. Visibility 6 miles. At Target--10/10 overcast at 9/10000 feet, hazy with visibility from 5 to 6 miles.
6. PRESS DATA: None

Eighteen (18) sorties flown 30/4/43.

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

Friday, 30 April 1943 (continued)

379th BS War Diary: *(No non-mission information)*

379th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # 81:** A very busy and successful month was ended on April 30th with the L/G at J-8850 as the luckless objective. Since no planes or activity of any nature were observed on the L/G, the eighteen B-25's again led by Capt. Allan, bombed the junction on the main road between Tunis and Medjez el Bab. Direct hits were scored and 30,000 German and Italian leaflets were dropped in the target area. Extremely intense, heavy, accurate flak was thrown up at them from many points. Lt. Sullivan's ship was severely hit and dropped to 5,000 ft. The pilot made an attempt to pull up and a wing tore loose from the ship. It spun and then exploded violently. Two and possible three parachutes were seen to open. Crew members were.

Marshall, Raymond S., Jr., 2Lt, bombardier Rorig, Kramer W., 2Lt, pilot
Ross, J. D., S/Sgt, radio-gunner Stankewicz, Benjamin M., Sgt, gunner
Sullivan, Phillip E., 2Lt, pilot

Lt. Hamilton's ship received a hole in one of the gas tanks, and he landed at a friendly field to determine the damage. Finding that the tank had sealed itself, he immediately took off for home.

	<i>A/C No. 1 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 2 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
	(flight leader)	
P	<i>Allan, John T., Capt</i>	<i>Beachum, Graham C., 2Lt</i>
CP		
N		
B		
E		
R	<i>Marple, Louis F., T/Sgt</i>	
G	<i>Pagano, Salvatore A., S/Sgt</i>	
F		
	<i>A/C No. 3 aircraft & crew unidentified -</i>	<i>A/C No. 4 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
	<i>probably "June Bug"</i>	
P	<i>Hamilton, Robert M. "Ham", 1Lt</i>	<i>Johnson, Kenneth M. "Ken", 1Lt</i>
CP		
N		
B		
E		
R		
G		
F		

Friday, 30 April 1943 (continued)

P	<i>A/C No. 5 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 6 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
CP	<i>Smith, Charles W., 2Lt</i>	<i>Logan, Harry R., Jr., 2Lt</i>
N		
B		
E		
R		
G		
F		
P	<i>A/C No. 7 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 8 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
CP	<i>Grant, Isaac E., 2Lt,</i>	<i>Rogers, Harold E., 2Lt</i>
N		
B		
E		
R		
G		
F		
P	<i>A/C No. 9 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 10 aircraft & crew unidentified</i>
CP	<i>Holstead, James R., Capt</i>	<i>Blozel, Raymond C., F/O</i>
N		
B		
E		
R		
G		
F		
	<i>A/C No. 12 aircraft unidentified</i>	
	<i>(MACR-? - shot down by AAA)</i>	
P	<i>Sullivan, Phillip E., 2Lt</i>	
CP	<i>Rorig, Kramer W., 2Lt</i>	
N	<i>None</i>	
B	<i>Marshall, Raymond S., Jr., 2Lt</i>	
E	<i>None</i>	
R	<i>Ross, John D., S/Sgt</i>	
G	<i>Stankewicz, Benjamin M., Sgt</i>	
F	<i>None</i>	

Friday, 30 April 1943 (continued)

379th BS: Extracts from Missing Air Crew Report # ?: (*MACR not available*)

A/C No. 12 aircraft unidentified (MACR-? - shot down by AAA)

P *Sullivan, Phillip E., 2Lt - MIA*
CP *Rorig, Kramer W., 2Lt - MIA*
N *None*
B *Marshall, Raymond S., Jr., 2Lt - MIA*
E *None*
R *Ross, John D., S/Sgt - MIA*
G *Stankewicz, Benjamin M., Sgt - MIA*
F *None*

380th BS War Diary: No Entry

380th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 81:
(*380th BS did not participate*)

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

381st BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 81:

ST. CYPRIEN LANDING GROUND, TUNISIA

Group Mission # 81	Flight 18 B-25's
Sqdrn. Mission # 58	Escort 14 Spits, 18 P-40's
Take Off 12:30	Bomb Load: (12 x 100)
Target 14:10	Bombs Dropped: 1(12 x 100). 1,200#
Down 15:20	

Total Time: 2 Hrs. 50 Min.

Weather: Visibility six miles. Haze. 9,000 ft. ceiling.

Remarks: Flak: Heavy, accurate, extremely intense. Every one of our 18 aircraft were hit, one of them more than 50 times. Three men received slight injuries. Lt. R.M. Hamilton's aircraft (379th) made a landing at the Spit field in order to inspect flak damage before returning to the Base. Lt. Sullivan's aircraft (379th) failed to return. Two chutes were seen to open.

A/C No. 42-32333 (C)

P *Wightman, Henry B. "Hank", 1Lt*
CP *Cook, Walter E., F/O*
N *None*
B *Gullic, John F., S/Sgt*
E *None*
R *Porter, Lloyd G., Jr., S/Sgt*
G *Fox, Francis J., S/Sgt*
F *None*

Friday, 30 April 1943 (continued)

428th BS War Diary: The whole base woke up with the G.I.'s and cramps. Many of the boys were up all night. The whole sector seems to have been affected by the Atebrin pills. Landing ground and road junction near Tunis were attacked. Hits on the road were scored.

428th BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # 81: The assigned target for eighteen aircraft on April 30th was the landing ground at J-3850. The target was barren of planes and any installations or dumps. The formation leader decided to bomb a road junction on the Tunis-Medjez-El-Bab highway just Southeast of the target. Direct hits were scored by the maze of 100 pounders that fell. 30,000 nickels were strew all over the course over Axis territory.

Heavy, intense and very accurate flak studded the course both in and out at the target,--At Massicault, St. Cyprien, and Bordj Toual. We lost Lt. Sullivan and his crew of the 379th from a direct hit by St. Cyprien guns. Perhaps two chutes were seen to open. The planes were really riddled. As the campaign neared its climax the penned-in enemy was affording exceptional ack-ack opposition.

A/C No. 1 probably 41-13070 “Shanghi Lil”	A/C No. 2 probably 41-13083 “Old 83”
P <i>Canham, Arthur E., 1Lt</i>	<i>Loutrel, John McCluney, 1Lt</i>
CP <i>Wilson, Kieth Gordon, 1Lt</i>	<i>Smith, Merle E., 2Lt,</i>
N <i>Hartman, William J., 1Lt</i>	<i>None</i>
B <i>Vestal, Marion S., 2Lt</i>	<i>Naworski, Edward F., S/Sgt</i>
E <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R <i>Rebello, John E., Jr., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Bennett, Robert L., T/Sgt</i>
G <i>Myers, Loy G., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Glover, Harold E., S/Sgt</i>
F <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
A/C No. 3 probably 41-13050 “Virginia Sturgeon”	A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified - may be “Skunk Hunter”
P <i>Peterson, Arthur C., 1Lt</i>	<i>Marsh, Edward D., 1Lt</i>
CP <i>Purifoy, Lawrence Lloyd "Peter Plink", 2Lt</i>	<i>Wescott, Robert M., 1Lt</i>
N <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
B <i>Foley, Patrick L., Sr., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Keys, Paul R., 2Lt</i>
E <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R <i>Guilfoyle, Frederick J., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Bosworth, William H., T/Sgt</i>
G <i>Michalek, Joseph F., S/Sgt</i>	<i>McDonald, Donald E. “Mac”, Sgt</i>
F <i>Amirault, Osborne J., Sgt</i>	<i>None</i>

Friday, 30 April 1943 (continued)

	<i>A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified - may be "Mickey II"</i>	<i>A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified - may be "Sweet Alice"</i>
P	<i>Brennan, Samuel J., Jr., 1Lt</i>	<i>Bingham, Henry G., Jr., 1Lt</i>
CP	<i>Southward, Thomas H., 2Lt</i>	<i>Knight, Gerald R., 1Lt</i>
N	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
B	<i>Herring, William S., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Queen, Kenneth E., S/Sgt</i>
E	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
R	<i>Smit, Richard F., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Martin, Robert J., S/Sgt</i>
G	<i>Davis, Elvin A., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Wink, Jacob A., S/Sgt</i>
F	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

April 1943

HQ 310th BG War Diary: Additional Information for April 1943: None

379th BS War Diary: Additional Information for April 1943:

379th Bombardment Squadron (M)
310th Bombardment Group
Berteaux, Algeria

1 May 1943.

SUBJECT: Squadron History for April.

TO : Headquarters, 310th Bomb Gp (M) AAF.

Seventeen missions were successfully completed for the month of April. Planes of the 379th Sq. participated in twelve of them. Targets such as the Bo-Rizzo A/D in Sicily, the Alghero-Fertilia A/D and Porto Torres harbor in Sardinia, Oudna L/G, La Sebala L/G, St. Marie du Zit A/D, and enemy shipping in the Mediterranean, felt the brunt of our attacks.

Capt. Daniels arrived on the field April 2nd after many weeks of illness and took up his duties as Sq Operations Officer. He brought M/Sgt. Guichard of the Engineering Dept. with him. M/Sgt. Guichard had suffered a broken leg in a jeep accident in England, and is one of the best mechanics in the Group.

Note: Mission reports followed the above, and appear on the date of the mission.

April 1943 (continued)

380th BS War Diary: Additional Information for April 1943: None

381st BS War Diary: Additional Information for April 1943:

April and Spring arrived almost simultaneously. The weather turned warm and wildflowers began to appear --- blood red poppies, yellow and white daisies, and a tremendous variety of other flowers of unknown species. They were a complete surprise, as the cold and wind of winter had completely removed all thoughts relative to wildflowers from everyone's mind.

Another complete surprise was the arrival, on 10 April, of a Red Cross field unit, complete with a strawberry blond and a beautiful brunette, who proceeded to set up equipment on the round stone table in front of the Headquarters building, from which they served coffee and doughnuts to the combat crews upon their arrival home from that day's mission. And that was only the beginning. Each mission thereafter, they were faithfully waiting. They not only dispensed coffee and doughnuts, but plenty of feminine charm and personality, a pleasant experience for all. The combat crews must have learned to look forward to these welcomes with tremendous anticipation. For the Officers and Enlisted Men who came over on the Queen Mary, these girls were the first American women they had talked to for almost eight months.

Several days later, a tent was set up in the rear of the Headquarters Building for the Red Cross, with all sorts of necessities to be distributed: Pocket sized novels, tooth brushes, V-Mail forms, cards, sewing kits, pocket combs and even model airplane construction kits.

The efforts of the Red Cross, the new Day Room, the variety shows, and the 209th Coast Artillery Jam Sessions, etc., created, at Bertheaux, probably the model American Air Base in all of North Africa. The cynics among both Officers and Enlisted Men concluded that such unaccustomed luxury was too strange to the 310th, and prophesied a movement to some place whose ruggedness would be more in keeping with 310th standards. When the optimists picked up these rumblings, they were twisted around into hot rumors, which contained delicious morsels of "authoritative" tips that we were about to go home. From then on out, a rash of rumors covered all activities, and each new event, regardless of its actual importance, was not only interpreted to be a confirmation of some previous rumor, but in turn gave birth to floods of newer rumors. Things went on to such an extent that Lt. Donald D. Horrocks was unofficially appointed, Group Rumor Officer, in order to facilitate circulation of new born rumors, and to prevent repetition.

Horrocks, Donald D., 1Lt, intelligence

April 1943 (continued)

But the rumor mongers forgot that there was still a campaign to be finished, and after that, a war to be won. These stern facts became highlighted from time to time, as on 5 April, when 1st Lt. W.C. Jackson and his crew, 2nd Lt. G.J. Greenberg, T/Sgt. J.B. Caron, T/Sgt. F.R. LaPorte and S/Sgt. A. Hughes went down in action on a mission to Bo Rizzo A/D, Sicily, and again on the 19th, when 1st Lt. A.G. Kearns, F/O M.M. Stone, 2nd Lt. J.F. Crouch, Jr., and S/Sgts. D.W. Elder and E. Moberg failed to return from the raid on La Sebala L/G, Tunisia.

Caron, John B., T/Sgt, bombardier-gunner
Elder, Donald W., Cpl, radio-gunner
Hughes, Albert (NMI), S/Sgt, gunner
Kearns, Archibald G., 1Lt, pilot
Moberg, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt, gunner

Crouch, Jacob F., Jr., 2Lt, bombardier
Greenberg, Gerald J., 2Lt, pilot
Jackson, William C., 1Lt, pilot
LaPorte, Frank R., T/Sgt, radio-gunner
Stone, Morris M., F/O, pilot

On the 14th and 16th, it was officially announced that the Italian Government was holding as prisoners of war the following 381st Officers and Enlisted Men, who had been missing in action. Captains Eddy and Pickett, 1st Lt. Katzenbach, 2nd Lt. Hawkins and S/Sgt. Schave and Taylor.

Eddy, Leonard A., Capt, pilot
Katzenbach, Nicholas D., 1Lt, navigator
Schave, Henry Lloyd, S/Sgt, gunner

Hawkins, Frank B., 2Lt, pilot
Pickett, Perry D., Capt, bombardier
Taylor, Milo K., S/Sgt, radio-gunner

On the 18th of April, Major General Doolittle arrived at Berteaux, accompanied by other high ranking Officers and followed by representatives from the press and the Saturday Evening Post. They all watched the landing of the highly successful 36 plane mission which that day had bombed Porto Torres and Fertilia A/D in Sardinia. That evening a reunion was held in the Officer's Club to commemorate the first anniversary of the General's historic Tokyo raid. Gathered there were all of the Officers that are in this area who had participated in that mission.

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

General Doolittle conferred the Silver Star upon Lt. Col. Frank H. Hills, the Base Commander, for heroic action in rounding up Arab spies during the early days of the African Campaign.

Hills, Frank H., Lt Col, Commander, Berteaux Air Base

The next morning, after the General and his party had departed in a B-26, the news broadcast from London reported an announcement by the Japanese Government that some of the prisoners taken in the Tokyo raid had been executed. This caused deep indignation to spread throughout the Group, as might well be expected.

After the Tokyo celebration, the Spring weather was completely ruined by the arrival of a rainstorm, which stayed for several days. It was sever and intense, and came to a climax on Good Friday, 23 April. The sky had been cloudless, and the day balmy until the middle of the afternoon, when seven large thunder heads arranged themselves like pillars

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around the horizon. About four o'clock all hell broke loose. First, tremendous drops of rain, then flashes of lightning followed by deafening claps of thunder, after which silence for a moment. Then the sky really let loose, pelleting everything with an uninhibited shower of hail stones. It was terrific. The larger hail stones were almost the size of golf balls, and the smallest larger than ordinary marbles. They ripped pup-tents, broke windshields and raised bumps on unhelmeted heads. And when they ceased to fall, it began to rain, and rain very hard. When it was all over, Berteaux was under water to a depth of about six inches. The water began to drain off rather rapidly, pouring into all the lower spots of ground, and all the dug outs and slit trenches. Many of the Enlisted Men were completely flooded out of their pup-tents and had to seek refuge in the Day Room, or in the Officers' Club, until their possessions dried. Several people, wading through the water, stepped into flooded slit trenches and were completely immersed.

1st Lt. Melvin R. Rouch found the silver lining in the clouds by using his high I.Q. Obtaining two buckets, he began to gather hail as fast as it fell, and that evening, produced several bottles of iced Champaign for his tent-mates.

Rouch, Melvin R., 1Lt, pilot

By Easter Sunday, Spring had burst forth again in all of its glory. The services of both denominations were held in the Enlisted Mens' Day Room, which was decorated with calla lilies, roses and stock, which the Chaplain had arranged to have brought from Constantine. Music was supplied by string instruments under the direction of 1st Lt. Malloy Miller of Headquarters Squadron, who in civilian life was a member of the Denver Symphony Orchestra.

Miller, Malloy M., 1Lt, intelligence

Poynton, Walter J., Capt, Catholic Chaplain

By the end of April, the new combat men, who had arrived on 2 April, had been completely assimilated into the Squadron. They are 2nd Lt. R.J. Forbes; Flight Officers N.A. Burt and H.A. Houghtaling; S/Sgts. W.H. Budde and J. Gawron; and Sgt. J.E. White.

Budde, Wilbur H., S/Sgt, bombardier-gunner

Burt, Norman A., F/O, pilot

Forbes, Robert L., 2Lt, navigator

Gawron, Joseph (NMI), S/Sgt, bombardier-gunner

Houghtaling, Harold A., F/O, pilot

White, John Edward, Sgt, gunner

There were no Officer promotions in April, but promotions for Enlisted Men caused new stripes to be worn as follows: 1 M/Sgt; 10 T/Sgts; 9 S/Sgts; 11 Sgts; 13 Cpls; and 5 P.F.C.'s.

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During April, the Squadron engaged in 14 missions and dropped 84,240 pounds of bombs upon enemy objectives. Five Officers and five Enlisted Men were lost in action. Six enemy aircraft were shot down, as follows: 2 ME-109's, one by S/Sgt. S.T. Bowden, and the other jointly by S/Sgt. Paul Dees and Sgt. F.E. Miller. The following Enlisted Men bagged one JU-52 each: S/Sgt. E. Moberg, S/Sgt. R.J. Walsh, Sgt. J.E. White, and Cpl. W.G. George.

Bowden, Scott T., S/Sgt, gunner

George, Wade Clayton, Cpl, gunner

Moberg, Edward (NMI), S/Sgt, gunner

White, John Edward, Sgt, gunner

Dees, Paul (NMI), S/Sgt, gunner

Miller, Foster Eugene, S/Sgt, radio-gunner

Walsh, Richard J., S/Sgt, gunner

428th BS War Diary: Additional Information for April 1943: None