

RESEARCH STUDIES INSTITUTE U. S. A. F. NATIONAL DIVISION AND RESEARCH BRANCH	RETURN TO NO	68F 219-111 (BOMB) Nov 2 1944
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P.R.C.

SCANNED BY ACT
2006

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DOD DIR 5200.9, 27 Sep 58

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MICROFILMED

5760-702

SECRET

69-319-H1
Nov 44
(78)

DESIGNATION SHEET

Historical Records

RESTRICTED

AIR FORCE: Twelfth Air Force

WING: 57th Bombardment Wing

GROUP: 319th Bombardment Group (Medium)

SQUADRON: _____

OTHER UNIT: _____

Documents Transmitted: (Period Covered)

1 OUTLINE HISTORY: November 1944

WAR DIARY: _____

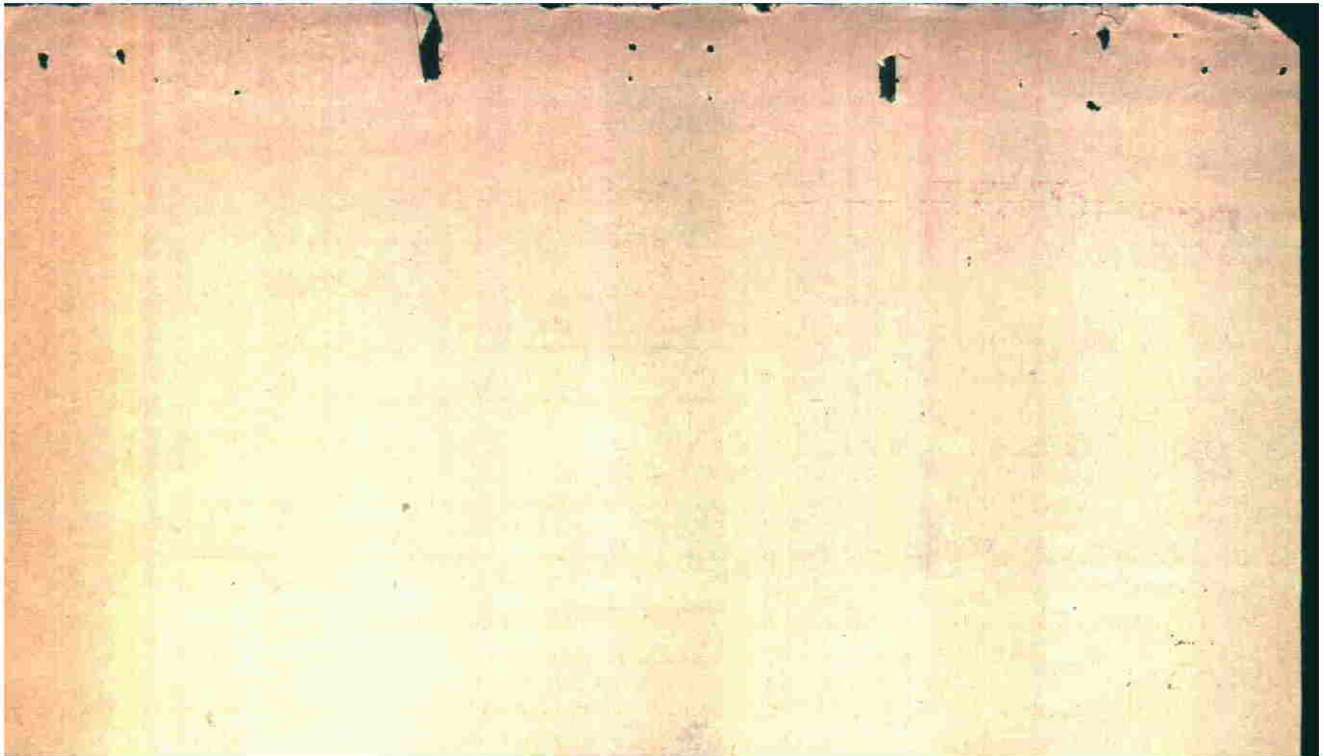
SPECIAL ACCOUNTS: _____

PHOTOGRAPHS: _____

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: _____

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SECRET319th Bombardment Group (M)
Headquarters
APO 650**RESTRICTED**OUTLINE HISTORY
November 1944~~SECRET~~ By Auth CO
319th Bomb Gp (M)
gast Initials
8 December 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, XII Air Force
(thru channels). Attention: Historian

1. Outline History of the 319th Bombardment Group (Medium) for the period 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944 (incl).

- a. Present designation:
319th Bombardment Group (Medium)
57th Bomb Wing (U. S.)
XII Air Force
- b. Changes in organization:
(1) From 42nd Bomb Wing to 57th Bomb Wing on 5 Nov 1944.
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
(1) Month of November 1944
- | | Off | F/O & W/O | EM | Total |
|------------------|-----|-----------|------|-------|
| (a) At beginning | 388 | 16 | 1500 | 1904 |
| (b) Net increase | | | | |
| (c) Net decrease | 23 | 4 | 46 | 73 |
| (d) At end | 365 | 12 | 1454 | 1831 |
- d. Station of Unit:
(1) Serraglia, Corsica
(a) Arrived 21 September 1944
(b) Unit continues at station.
- e. Movements of unit or echelons: None.
- f. Campaign:
(1) Rome-Arno.
(2) From 22 January 1944 to (still in progress)
- g. Operations.
(1) Campaigns:
(a) Rome-Arno.
(b) Also operating over Balkans, but it is not known whether this constitutes a separate campaign, or not.
- (2) Nature of operations: Principally anti-communications, i.e. against bridges. Extensive ground support was given to the Eighth Army in its attack on Faenza.

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(3) Number of missions and sorties :

44 Missions
836 Sorties (a new group record)
1,107 Tons of bombs dropped

(4) Results of the most important missions.

(a) In a concerted attack on the Brenner Pass RR we were assigned three targets; on Nov 6 1944

Rovereto RR Bridge

Rovereto Rail Fill

Calliano RR Bridge

All three were solidly hit and put out of commission.

(b) We commenced operations against Yugoslavia on 17 November by bombing the Obedisce RR Bridge with fair success.

(c) From 21 to 24 Nov, incl, 10 missions (192 sorties) were run against Faenza defense areas, in support of the Eighth Army's drive to take the town.

(d) Outstanding bombing job of the month was done on the Casale Monferrato on 28 November, when the bridge was virtually destroyed.

(e) In its first month's operations with a new aircraft, 319th Group at once asserted its superiority by destroying more bridges than any other group in the wing.

(5) Enemy opposition: No air opposition. Flak was irregular; mostly inaccurate. One plane lost.

h. Command Officers on important missions

- (1) Colonel J. R. Holzapple led group against Rovereto RR Fill.
- (2) Lt. Col. John A. Orb led group against Faenza Def. Area 1.
- (3) Lt. Col. C. R. Meyers, Jr. led group against Orto Litta RR Bridge.

i. Losses in action, officers and enlisted men.

- (1) Killed: None
- (2) Wounded: Six
- (3) Missing: Seven
- (4) P/W: None

Two men, previously reported missing, evaded capture and returned to duty.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Erwin S. Lehmann*Erwin S. Lehmann
1st Lt., A. C.
Group Historian**RESTRICTED****SECRET**