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JANUARY 1943

17 FEB 1983

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SU-DOMB-319-HI
JAN-1943

379 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

P.R.C.

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379th Bombardment Squadron (M)
310th Bombardment Group
Berteaux, Algeria

SQ-BOMB-379-HI

Jan., 1943

1 February 1943

SUBJECT: Squadron History for January.

TO : Headquarters, 310th Bombardment Group (M).

P.R.C.

On the 1st of January, the 310th moved from Telergma A.A.B. to its new and permanent base at Berteaux just six miles south of Telergma. The buildings and site were those of a former French-Algerian Agricultural School.

In the month of January pilots of the 379th participated in 30 combat missions out of a total of 34 actually flown by the 310th Group. Pilots, White, Allred, Allan, McDougall, O'Connell, Hamilton, Hoover, Smith G.W., and Holstead "carried the banner" on these missions. They and their crews flew with dauntless courage and determination in striking the Axis powers in Tunisia. Targets at Tunis, Kairouan, Graiba, Hammamet, Sfax, Gabes, Medenine, Pont du Fahs and El Aouninet were smashed. Four sea-search missions were flown. One of these sea search missions resulted in the sinking of one M/V and another damaged.

Capt. White and crew with S/Sgt Joseph Rabinowitz, 6979783 of Bob 65 Lyons Ga. (confirming) and S/Sgt Lester A. Kitzerow, 36172579 of 6758 Mansfield St., Detroit, Mich., gunner claimed 2 JU-52's and 1 ME 109 destroyed and 1 ME 109 probably destroyed in aerial combat off Bizerte while on a sea search mission.

On January 22, while returning from a bombing mission from the enemy held El Aouina A/D in Tunis, Pilot 1st Lt. Robert D. McDougall, O-790379 of Arthur, N.D., Co-Pilot 2nd. Robert G. Menning, O-728099 of 510 Broadway St., Pella, Iowa, S/Sgt. Merrell W. Long, 6993921, 141 Locust St., Quincy, Mass., gunner, and Sgt. Harrison J. Hodnett, 18064131 of Rising Star, Texas, were shot down by enemy ground fire over the Green Hill area 10 miles SW of Djedeida, Tunisia. Sgt. Long was the only crew member reported as being found by the American ground forces and sent to an evacuation hospital, but indications are that the other crew members were lost.

There were approximately 16 air alerts during the month. One one occasion a "Jerry" planes flew over and dropped flares approximately 7 miles away. It was the first time our group experienced these tactics and many men were prone to stand around and gaze at the sight rather than take immediate cover. Fortunately, the field was a hard one to find and "Jerry" went on his way. On Several occasions we could hear a terrific pounding of exploding bombs and replying flak in the distance but could not determine its location.

RUPERT A. NOCK
1st Lt., Air Corps
Sq. Intelligence Officer.

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