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CW-BOMB-577-H1  
FEB. 1943

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FEBRUARY 1943

379 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON P.R.C.

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DOD Dir. 5200.30

MICROFILMED

SQ BOMB-379-H+

Feb., 1943

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

March 1, 1943

P.R.C.

SUBJECT: Squadron History for February.

TO : Headquarters, 310th Bomb Gp (M).

The 310th Bomb Group flew on 18 missions during this month. Targets at Sfax el Maou, Maknassy, Bordj Toual, Gabes and Kasserine were successfully and effectively attacked. Group planes attacked objectives in Sardinia for the first time. Eleven of the missions were sea search. Again the planes and crews of the 370th took an active and gallant part in nearly all of these missions. Of the 18 Group missions our squadron participated in all but 4; of a total of 52 Group missions we have taken part in 44, or approximately 84% of the total raids.

(On January 20, 1943 Major Travis Hoover and 1st Lt. Allred and crew flying in a flight of six B 25's intercepted and sank an enemy tanker. Other members of the 379th crew were Lt. Howard J. Ross (B)

Lt. Laverne B. Johnson (N)  
S/Sgt. Donald D. Peery (G)  
S/Sgt. William C. Burket (RG)

On February 2, 1943 Lt. Allred and crew were shot down by enemy flak while on route to target--Sfax el Maou A/D. The plane made an excellent crash landing and members of the crew were seen to get out and run away from the plane before it was destroyed by fire. Crew members were:

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

February 21, 1943 was a day of great excitement. A large enemy tanker was reported as having left Sicily in the morning and we were to intercept it before it reached Tunisia. Two sea search missions were alerted. Major Hoover, Capt. Allan and Lt. C.W. Smith were in the first flight sent out in the morning. One JU 88 or He 177 was intercepted and shot down. The freighter was not seen. The 2nd flight ran "smack" into it. Lt. Col Hinman and Capt. White lead this flight. Lt. Leask was also with them. The freighter was hit and destroyed. One escorting cruiser was hit and damaged, 1 corvette was sunk and 3-5 JU 88's were shot down. Capt White got back to Bone on one motor, Lt. Melius (428th Bomb Sq) was shot into the water, but he and his crew were picked up safely by the British Air Sea Rescue Service after being on their life raft for 20 hours.

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

Capt. John T. Allan (P)  
 Capt. William R. Pound Jr. (M)  
 1st Lt. Donovan W. Rulien (B)  
 2nd Lt. Graham C. Beachum (CP)  
 S/Sgt. Louis F. Marple (RG)  
 S/Sgt. Salvatore A. Pagano (G)

2nd Lt. Bertram J. Leask (P)  
 2nd Lt. Leo Lesonik (CP)  
 2nd Lt. Howard J. Ross (B)  
 T/Sgt. Henry H. Chase (R)  
 S/Sgt. Stanley J. Kida (G)

1st Lt. Robert M. Hamilton (P)  
 2nd Lt. Isaac E. Grant (CP)  
 S/Sgt. Woodrow W. Pettibon (B)  
 S/Sgt. Robert M. Brunner (G)  
 S/Sgt. Harris M. Haskell (RG)

These crew members with those who intercepted the freighter on February 21, 1943 received a special commendation from General Cannon, C.O. 12th B.C. and Col. Hunter, C.O. 310th Bomb Group. These men also received special citation for their excellent and courageous work.

379th aerial gunners who now have enemy A/C to their credit are S/Sgt Albert Dallaire, S/Sgt Robert Brunner, S/Sgt Fred Hecks, S/Sgt Lester Kitzerow and S/Sgt Joseph Rabinowitz.

Enlisted personnel in combat crews receiving their wings this month were:

Robert M. Brunner  
 Lester A. Kitzerow  
 Fred F. Hecks  
 Rudy Sekermestrovich  
 Albert F. Dallaire  
 Joseph Rabinowitz  
 Stanley J. Kida  
 Salvatore A. Pagano  
 Lewis F. Marple  
 Woodrow W. Pettibon

Harris M. Haskell  
 Thomas Valentic, Jr.  
 Walter I. Sundstrom  
 Herbert Ballard  
 Donald Peery  
 Mathew P. Deluca  
 Merrell W. Long  
 Harrison J. Hodnett  
 William C. Burket  
 William H. Hiers  
 Norman B. March

General James Doolittle, Commanding General 12th A.F. accompanied our boys on two of their missions. "Uncle Jim" flew with Capt. Allan.

Number 1 squadron of the 310th B. G. was proud to learn that Capt. White was placed in command of the 381st B.S., Feb. 25th.

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Capt. Allan and crew have the greatest number of missions and sorties at the end of this month. Their total is 23. Other of this squadron are fast accumulating their number of trips over strongly defended enemy territory.

At present we have been free from enemy bombings. There have been numerous alerts, but no actual raids. The German ground forces, lead by the famous 21st Panzer Division struck at the American lines thru Faid Pass and Gafsa and for several days their rapid advance westward concerned us all. However, on Feb 25th they were stopped just West of Kasserine Pass and South of Thala and retreated toward the original line of Faid and Gafsa.

The 12th B.G. from Egypt, Advanced Air Echelon, was attached to this group of combat missions. They handled themselves well and gained the admiration of the entire 310th.

Officers receiving promotions were:

Capt. John T. Allan, Pilot

Capt. George R. Houk, Adjutant.

At the end of this month the 379th had two serviceable A/C left for combat duty.

The following table shows the comparative number of combat hours, number of missions, number of sorties, average number of sorties per mission, and the average length per mission;

<u>Sqdn.</u>	<u>Combat Hours</u>	<u>No. Missions</u>	<u>No. Sorties</u>	<u>Av. No. Sorties Per mission</u>	<u>Av. Length per mission</u>
379	365:55	45	109	2.42	3:21
380	498:15	36	149	4.13	3:20
381	492:05	35	141	4.03	3:29
428	651:55	39	162	4.15	4:01
Group	2008:10	57	161	9.84	3:34

It is noted in this table that the 379th has been on more missions up to this time than the squadrons of the group.

A series of Gp lectures were started on February 18th by order of Col. Hunter. These lectures were given to prepare our present officer personnel for command positions should new groups be activated. Talks on Military Courtesy, Leadership, Command, Discipline and Personnel were given by Capt. Walker, C.O. of the 428th B.S. and Lt. Karosen, Gp. Asst. Adjutant.

Up to this time seventy-two combat crew members from the Group have been lost in action. 12 died in a crash landing at ~~this~~ Presque Island, Maine. These 12 were from our squadron. 15 of this total are from the 379th Squadron reported as "missing in action".

Thus ends another month.

RUPERT A. NOCK  
1st Lt., AC  
379th Intelligence Off.

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