

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

R

ISG: BOMB-443-H1
1-31 DEC-1944

443 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

1 DECEMBER - 31 DECEMBER 1944

X

RESTRICTED

MICROFILMED

5849

SQ - BOMB - 443 - H
(DEC. 4)

SECRET

Hq 443rd Bomb Sqdn
320th Bomb Group (L)
APO # 374

443rd Bombardment Squadron
CIVILIAN SERVICE December 1944
SUBJECT
BY W.T. C.C.
443rd Bombardment Squadron
31 December 1944
A.D.N. INITIALS
5 January 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, 1st Tactical Air Force
"Through Channels" - AT/320CG. DEB/CR/14.

1. Outline History of the 443rd Bombardment Squadron
for the period 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944

a. Present Designation:
443rd Bomb Squadron; 320th Bomb Group; 42nd Bomb Wing;
12th Tactical Air Command; 1st Tactical Air Force (Provisional).

b. Changes in Organization:

(1) Changes in Designation: None.

(2) Echelons or Units:

(a) Transferred: None.

(b) On DS or TD: None.

(c) Attached to other Hqs for operational control: None.

(3) Change of Commanding Officers: None.

(4) Changes of Staff Officers (not applicable to Gp or Sq): None.

(5) Changes in T/O: None.

c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted, for the month of
December 1944

	Off	E/O	W/O	Tot	TOTAL
a. At Beginning	85			366	451
b. Net Increase	1				1
c. Net Decrease				1	1
d. At End	86			365	451

-1-
SECRET

67465

S E C R E T

- d. Stations of Units or Missions:
1. Name of Station - **Dijon-Longvic A/D, France.**
 - a. Date of Arrival - **11 November, 1944.**
 - b. Date of Departure - **Presently Here.**
- e. Movements of Unit or Echelon:
- (1) From _____ to **None.**
 - a. Purpose
 - b. Dates
 - c. Means of Transportation -
 - d. Conditions of roads, conveyances and weather.
- f. Campaigns:
- (1) Name - **German-French.**
 - (2) Duration - From **1 December 1944** to **31 December 1944**
- g. Operations:
- (1) Campaign - **German-French.**
 - (2) Nature of Operations - **Precision bombing of communications, barracks and supply depots.**
 - (3) Number of Missions and Sorties for period - **15 Missions; 120 Sorties.**
 - (4) Results of the most important missions: **The 320th Group effectively bombed enemy lines of communications leading to the 7th Army sector. Barracks areas, M/Ys, supply and fuel depots were well covered.**
- h. Command Officers in important missions - **Cpts Hill, Hesel, Felt and Pickett; and Lts Ayrey, Brooks, Lohan, Murray, Newell, Sherwood and Taranto.**
- i. Losses in Action: Officers and enlisted Men:
- (1) Mission and Dates:
 - a. Killed: **None.**
 - b. Wounded: **Pfc. Chacko; Breisach RR Bridge on 23 December, 1944.**
 - c. Missing: **None.**
 - d. Taken Prisoner: **None.**

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in Action:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>AWARD</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
-------------	-------------	--------------	----------------

No Major Awards this month.

k. Photographs being submitted:

None.

- Inclosed is the War Diary of the 443rd Bomb Squadron for the period 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944

For the Commanding Officer:-



R. B. SCHNER,
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Squadron Historian.

1 Incls
X War Diary
Special Accounts (if any)
Supporting Documents (if any)
Photographs (if any)

63-
SECRET

SECRET

SHEET NO. 1 WAR DIARY 443rd Squadron 320th Bomb Group
Month of December, 1944. Prepared by R. B. SCHUR, 1st Lt. Air Corps.
DAY EVENTS

1. The Sqdn --finally-- flew its first mission from Dijon. It was the first flight off, and in the lead ship were Maj Hayward, Capt Pickett and Lt Taranto. The formation picked up 12 P-47's as escort at Nancy, then flew to Rastatt and bombed the RR/Br there with a good concentration in the target area. Heavy fairly accurate flak was encountered during the breakaway.

The Sqdn is gradually getting settled, though there are still some dozen men to arrive on the last lift from Corsica ... It is expected that the Officers Mess will be operating in the Chateau tomorrow.

2. Though a mission was scheduled and the crews got as far as Gp Hqs for Briefing, plans were abandoned when the weather report came in that the target area was covered. The vicinity of Dijon was clear, and the sun shining, which made everyone happier-- and moreover, the roads are drying up nicely. Work continues on the Officers Mess, and it is planned that the Enlisted Men take over a cafe as a Club Room. A small percent of the men took advantage of the day's freedom and clear weather to visit Dijon. Baths and showers are available, and the Red Cross operates a Snack Bar there. P.X. rations were issued today at noon.

Cpl Casey was asg'd and jd. the Squadron today.

3. The crews got to Gp this morning, but the mission was cancelled because of a general overcast covering Eastern France and Western Germany.

Plans are underway to set up a Link Trainer for pilots and A/C Recognition classes for gunners. The latter may well prove its worth because of the reports of jet-propelled enemy A/C.

4. For the third day in a row Group was "stand-down" due to adverse weather that included fog, low clouds and rain. Several details were organized to put up tents haul wood and add the finishing touches to the Officers Mess in the Chateau.

SECRET

SHEET 10. 2

WAR DIARY

445rd Squadron

320th Bomb Group

Month of December, 1944.

Prepared by R. B. SCHUK, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

- 4 Cont Construction was begun on a frame addition to a cafe located in the village square. This will serve as an Enlisted Men's Mess and the kitchen and food storage rooms will be located in the permanent building.
5. The Sqdn flew on today's mission and the formation got as far as Strasbourg, the IP, but was forced to turn back two minutes later because the undercast formed a solid wall of clouds ahead of them. All bombs were returned to base. The Officers Mess in the Chateau began serving with this morning's meal.
6. The lead crews had finished Pre-briefing before the mission was cancelled because of heavy clouds here and in the target area. The result was that most of the crews returned to the area and logged sack time for the rest of the morning. A number of personnel went into Dijon in the afternoon, some attending the Red Cross movie, some going to the Scrub House (a noble institution!) for a bath of shower, and others taking advantage of the matinee or evening performance of the comedy hit "Junior Miss", a highly entertaining play, part of the cast of which played for two years on Broadway.
7. Three years ago today. Did any of us have even a faint idea where the currents of war would take us --- or how long they would last? And what will the next 3 years bring?
- Today's mission was cancelled just before the trucks were to leave the Sqdn area. When the announcement was made, everyone piled off and made a bee-line for the relative comforts of their quarters.
- Plans are being made by the Sqdn to give the children of the village a Xmas party. It is expected that everyone will donate part, if not all, of a week's candy ration. That, with some inexpensive toys bought in Dijon, should help cement village relations.

S E C R E T

SHEET NO. 3

WAR DIARY

443rd Squadron

320th Bomb Group

Month of December, 1944.

Prepared by R. E. SCHUR, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

- 7 Cont Seven more men arrived from Alto, coming up via C-47 today. Capt Hamel and several Enlisted Men, still down in Corsica are expected very soon.
8. Again the day's mission was cancelled because of bad weather. The crews did get as far as Briefing, though. Perhaps tomorrow.
- Lt Sampson received a great deal of individual attention today. It was Pay Day and the remuneration was greatly appreciated by all. Money was running short throughout the Sqdn. Many had spent a good deal on the trip up here, and then after arrival, P.X. items and gifts purchased in town accounted for further depletion of the bank roll.
9. The crews almost made it today; Briefing, trip to the line, warm-up take-off, join up and the formation was just about to start on course when they were called in. As always, the reason was the weather. The gasoline shortage being what it is, it's a shame such notice couldn't have been obtained an hour earlier.
10. The planes took off today and from Nancy on, flew over a 10/10 undercast. Between the IP and the target it was observed that the target area would be completely covered, so the formation returned to base without dropping.
- Plans are being made for parties to be held by Officers and Enlisted Men during the Holidays. The problems are where to hold it, and how to get wine & women.
11. Just as the trucks carrying the crews got to Gp Hqs, the mission was called off so a 180° turn was made and the crews had a free day. Intermittent showers kept most of the boys pretty close to their quarters. Construction is well underway on the addition to a cafe which will be used for an EM mess hall. The present location will be used for Operations and a War Room.

S E C R E T

SHEET NO. 4

WAR DIARY

443rd Squadron 320th Bomb Group

Month of December 1944.Prepared by R. E. SCHUR, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

12. Transportation to Briefing left the Sqdn at 0830 and returned at 0900 with the crews, the missions having been cancelled. Plans were immediately made to hold the Presentation Ceremony of DFC's, Purple Hearts and Air Medals, but were abandoned half an hour later when it was announced there would be Briefing at 1000. A wild scramble and then, half way through Briefing, the mission was again cancelled.

P.X. rations today; 4 packs of cigarettes, candy bars, matches, fruit juice, tooth paste, etc., quite a complete selection.

The Enlisted Mens Club was officially opened this evening. It's located in the Cafe Petitet and the deal is the ex-proprietor is the manager, using Club funds to buy wine beer and cognac and charging 30% above cost to cover heat, light, equipment and waitresses. Prices should be most reasonable & a Day Room is planned upstairs. *** S/Sgt Collins reld fr asgd to return to USA. W/Sgt Bracone trfd to 343rd Bomb Sq (H). T/Sgts Thomas & Reinhart promoted to W/Sgt eff 12/1/44. Sgts Christerson, Harrison, McQueen, and Simons became S/Sgts, and Pfc Joy made Cpl.

13. The Sqdn combat effort got almost to the point of take-off and as the planes were lining up at the end of the runway, the order of a mission cancellation came through. Perhaps tomorrow. The new location of the Bi messhall was in operation today for the first time. Too early to say how adequate the space is, or whether the food will improve, but all the men are hoping for the best.

14. Combat crews were credited with a mission, though they didn't see the ground from Epinal on. Some planes dropped their bombs on DR, five minutes beyond the IP. Today's target was part of the Siegfried Line, but of the bombs dropped, no photo coverage was obtained.

15. Today's mission was cancelled because of cloudy weather throughout the area. The stand-down, however, provided an opportunity to have a Presentation of Awards

S E C R E T

SHEET NO. 5

WAR DIARY

443rd Squadron

320th Bomb Group

Month of December 1944.

Prepared by R. B. SCHUR, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

15 Cont ceremony in the afternoon. At a small, but adequate gathering in the village park, Gen. Doyle pinned DFC's on Capt Hill, Lts Clark, Brooks, Hendrex, Hill and Taranto, and T/Sgt Cooch. Six Purple Hearts were awarded, and a goodly number of Air Medals were distributed.

16. The mission was cancelled, but the weather did permit transition and formation flights. Sqdn Operations and Tech Supply moved into the building formerly used as the EM mess hall. This location is much better than the previous spots being handier for all concerned. Wall space in Operations has been utilized for a large map of Europe on which will be plotted the current battle line and any navigation or orientation flights that may be planned.

Those in the Sqdn who were free in the afternoon or evening, and wished to do so had the opportunity to attend the Broadway hit "The Barretts of Wimpole Street starring Katharine Cornell and Brian Ahearne, with others of the original cast. A superb production, and worth anyone's time and effort.

17. Today's targets were two enemy defense positions at Steinfeld and Deutchhof, points in the Siegfried Line that are holding up the 7th Army's advance. Excellent concentration of bomb bursts were photoed at both targets, and the score for the 443rd pattern was 92%.

Work continues on the Sqdn Officers Club, which is a room on the ground floor of the Chateau. Lt Stewart is doing a splendid job. The room had to be cleaned out, walls and ceiling swept down, a bar installed and with some furniture, lighting fixtures and wall decorations put in, the Club should be quite adequate.

18. The mission was cancelled after Briefing had taken place, and the crews returned to the area just in time to partake of the noon meal. At 1300, a cinema was held in a none-too-impressive barn in the village. The building (?) is

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

S E C R E T

SHEET NO. 6

WAR DIARY

443rd Squadron 320th Bomb Group

Month of December, 1944.

Prepared by R. E. SCHAUER, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

- 18 Cont cold and dirty, and the roof leaks like a sieve, but nonetheless all those attending, thoroughly enjoyed Humphrey Bogart in a thriller-diller "Conflict". The Officers were sold their monthly ration of liquor today, a fifth of good US whiskey, and the cost a mere two dollars. Plenty of headaches tonight!
19. The Sqdn's crews took off at 1255, but just as they were joining up to go after a hot target at Breisach, the formation was called back to base. The other Sqdns did fly a mission, however.
- The Articles of War were read to the Enlisted Men at a meeting after the night meal. That takes care of the matter for another six months.
- The flood of mail and packages coming in is almost unbelievable, and everyone is happy 'bout it --- except the poor mail clerk. What a headache for him.
20. Ach, again the weather prevented the carrying out of the day's combat effort. Intermittent showers, during the day and just as the roads were beginning to dry.
- It appears as though the proximity of Dijon is becoming quite a problem. Disciplinary action is now being taken, and tonight the law was laid down in no uncertain terms. No officers can drive a vehicle, except on the base, and the EM found in town without a pass or Off-Limits face court martial.
21. Capt Devoe promised Operations a fairly sizeable high pressure area today, but the good weather must have gone elsewhere, because a cold, cloudy day forced cancellation of the mission. Transition in the afternoon took up a good many of the crews' time.
- Plans are being made for an EMs party to be held Dec. 27. Should be a bang-up gathering, complete with wine, women and song! The Officers party originally scheduled for Christmas Eve, will be held some night during Xmas and New Years.

S E C R E T

SHEET NO. 7

WAR DIARY

443rd Squadron 320th Bomb Group

Month of December, 1944.

Prepared by R. B. SCHUR, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

21 The "O.D." - Lt Lokan - had a hectic night. A call from the Provost Marshall
Cont announced that German parachutists had been dropped. Such scurrying around only
to learn later on that the location of the air-ground activity was some 80 miles
away.

22. Briefing was held in the morning, then the crews were told to stand-by, and
after lunch they went to the planes and waited until 1400 when the mission was
cancelled.

A technicolor picture "Kismet", was scheduled for the Sqdn area in the after-
noon, but the projector light bulb blew out resulting in no cinema.

Some 120 line personnel began eating the noon meal at the mess set up at the
field. This eliminates 18 miles of cold driving. About 60 men live and eat all
their meals at the line.

Concern is being shown over the German break-through against the US 1st Army
in the region of North Luxembourg.

The B-listed Men received their semi-annual sex lecture from Capt Davis this
evening --- and immediately after, an inspection was held. Pretty difficult what
with so many heavy clothes everyone wears this chilly weather!

The following is a list of promotions all effective 12/16/44:

To T/Sgt: S/Sgts Hanson, Luper, Purtz, Salvatti and Talsky.

To S/Sgt: Sgts Beale, Cummins, Ford, Graham, Hanshaw, Harmon, Haskins, Kendricks
Ort, Perkins, Shollenberger, Sonnenstine, Wathen, Zachar, and Ziegler. To Sgt:
Cpls Hankinson, Lenkiewicz, Pingle, Sheumaker, Snow and Young. To Cpl: Pfc's Chacko
Gorycki, and Pvt's Heavenar and Slater --- all effective 12/16/44.

23. The Sqdn finally got off its long-sweated-out mission to Breisach RR Bridge,

S E C R E T

SHEET NO. 8

WAR DIARY

443rd Squadron 320th Bomb Group

Month of December, 1944.

Prepared by R. E. SCHMID, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

23 and the flak was all they had imagined. Our planes were holed but no major
cont casualties were suffered, though Pfc Chacko received minor cuts on the face.

The 441st lost a plane over the target.

The Officers Club in the Chateau opened in a blaze of glory with a plentiful supply of champagne, cognac and brandy lining the shelves, not to mention draught beer.

Rumor has it the Sqdn is due for a new C.O. one of these days ----

1st Lt Carter was reassigned to the Squadron today.

24. Another bright, clear and cold day with an early morning briefing, and the target was just north of the Swiss border at Lake Constance, the RR/Br at Langenargen. A good concentration covered the area.

In the evening, the enlisted men and officers had informal stag parties and need it be added, the liquid refreshments flowed freely for several hours.

25. The cold high pressure weather continues, and today the Sqdn joined others of the Gp to attack a RR bridge at Singen, just north of Switzerland. A fine pattern by three of the Sqdns scored direct hits, but the 442nd dropped its bombs in Switzerland. The international repercussions from that mistake -- tak, tak!

In the late afternoon, a party was given for the children of Aiseny. Beaucoup candy and presents were distributed to some eighty children. In addition, forty parents attended and the ground floor of the Chateau was a gay spot and bowls of delight greeted the refreshment department when it brought in gallons of hot chocolate and some few hundred cookies. After the guests had departed, all Sqdn personnel sat down to a delicious dinner capably prepared by the kitchen dept. Turkey and all the fixings reminded the men that in spite of war, Uncle Sam did his best to make the situation as pleasant as circumstances permitted.

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

S E C R E T

SECRET NO. 9

WAR DIARY

443rd Squadron 320th Bomb Group

Month of December, 1944

Prepared by R. B. SCHUR, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

26. Today's target was the Rail Bridge at Rastatt, and it was expected from previous experience, that there would be much flak. On going over the target, however, not a burst came up to meet the formation. Both approaches were hit.

The EM's party has been postponed because no Waacs signed up to accept the invitation. The Officers' party is also being postponed; the reason being facilities in which to hold the gathering.

The following Pvts were appointed Pfc eff. 12/26/44: Pvts Clements, Barrough, Devito, Holland, Mathis and McConnell. Cpl Martin was asgd to this Sqdn fr Gp. Cpl Lavin was transferred to Headquarters.

27. The mission was cancelled because of a heavy fog, which was so dense that in pre-flighting the planes, ice formed on the propellers. The ground has frozen solid, and the trees and shrubbery have a coating of hoar frost which is turning the countryside into a thing of Beauty.

In the evening, the first of some 15 lessons was given in elementary French. The class was held in the Aisenay school, and it is planned to hold them Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.

28. Yesterday's heavy fog continued today, adding more to the beauty of the countryside, but certainly adding nothing to the Sqdn's war effort. Ground school classes were held in the afternoon and evening, and it is intended to have each crew member attend two hours of such school each day, six days a week.

Announcement was made that the franc would be devalued so many postal money orders were written in the Orderly Room. Later on, the men can cash these for a greater number of francs. *** It was announced over the radio that the German drive against the US 3rd Army was stopped, all of which answered everyone's

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

S E C R E T

SECRET NO. 10

WAR DIARY

443rd Squadron

320th Bomb Group

Month of December, 1944.

Prepared by R. B. SCHNEP, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

28. question : "How far are they going?" **** Capt Dickinson returned from the Cont States after taking gunnery course and was assigned to the Squadron.

29. The day's mission was abortive due to weather. The formation did get in the vicinity of the target, Enemy Stores and Barracks at Kaiserlautern, but a complete undercast necessitated the planes passing over without dropping.

By the afternoon, a movie was scheduled, but the picture wasn't shown because of a blown bulb in the projector. Lt Hendricks and "Frenchy" took off with a jeep and trailer to buy some champagne. They're supposed to be back tomorrow, with a full load of A-1 drinking stuff --- we hope.

30. Enemy Barracks and Stores at Oos, Germany were the targets for the Sqdn today. The bombing was not too accurate, the score being 10%, but it was better than the other Sqdns, which scored 5%. **** A load of champagne arrived ---- and fine quality it is. Should prove adequate for tomorrow evening. Cpl McKinley 31. was assigned to and joined the Squadron today.

31. A heavy fog forced the cancellation of today's mission, but not until the crews had been briefed and stood around the planes for an hour.

A goodly amount of celebrating was in order - for Officers and Enlisted Men - to see the Old Year out and the New Year in. The men celebrated in an informal manner, starting soon after supper - and by midnight, the cheer was widespread. Because of the possibility of mission the next day, the festivities ended about an hour later.

S E C R E T

0637