



RETURN TO RESEARCH STUDIES INSTITUTE U.S.A.F. HISTORICAL DIVISION ARCHIVES BRANCH	79-586-41 July 1944
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Group 4  
 Downgraded at 3 year  
 intervals; declassified  
 after 12 years



**MICROFILMED**

[REDACTED]  
UNIT HISTORY  
HEADQUARTERS  
386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (W) USAAF  
Installment VIII  
July 1944

GP-386-HI  
July 1944

GP-386-HI  
July 1944

1. Organizational changes: Negative
2. Strength: 41 officers; 52 enlisted men.
3. Date of arrival at and departure from each station in ETO:  
Negative.
4. Losses in action: Negative.
5. Awards and decorations:
  - a. Award of seventh Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal, per General Order 128, dated 17 July 1944.  
Colonel Joe W. Kelly  
Commanding Officer.
  - b. Award of eighth Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal, per General Order 124, dated 11 July 1944.  
Captain John E. Miller  
Group Technical Inspector.
  - c. Award of ninth Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal, per General Order 124, dated 11 July 1944.  
Major Leland D. Perry  
Group Operations Officer.
  - d. Award of fourth Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal, per General Order 139, dated 28 July 1944.  
Major Irvin A. Rodgers  
Assistant Group Operations Officer.

Administrative changes for the month included Major Leland D. Perry, assigned and joined from the 552nd Squadron; principal duty, Group Operations Officer vice Lt. Col. Harry G. Hankey, relieved. Lt. Col. Harry G. Hankey detailed to duty as Deputy Group Commander and Group Air Executive Officer, vice Lt. Col. Sherman R. Beaty relieved. Lt. Col. Sherman R. Beaty relieved of assignment and assigned to the 410th Bomb Group (L) as of July 2nd, 1944. Captain Albert E. Hill, assigned and joined from the 553rd Squadron, principal duty Group Bombardier, vice

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HEADQUARTERS, 386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), UNIT HISTORY.....

Major Simon Economidis relieved. First Lieutenant Arvil D. Mullins relieved from assignment and assigned to the 553rd Squadron. Captain Milton Rubenstein (DC) - attached, assigned and joined from the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, IX Bomber Command, principal duty Group Dental Officer. Major Simon Economidis relieved from assignment and assigned to Casual Pool, 12th RCD, Station 591 as of 10 July 1944. Major Clarence H. Christian relieved from assignment and assigned to 12th RCD, Station 591. Captain Arthur L. Jacobs assigned and joined from the 552nd Squadron as of July 29, 1944 (Combat Intelligence officer.)

Weather continued bad during the entire month and air operations for the group was limited to seventeen days. The entire operation was tactical, either in direct support of the ground forces fighting in Normandy or in the destruction of the enemy supply dumps and lines of communication leading thereto.

Record of operations for July is as follows:

4 July 1944

Twenty-nine aircraft bombed LaBarberie, France, but results were unobserved due to overcast. All ships returned safely.

5 July 1944

Thirty six aircraft took off to bomb Senoches. Thirty-one were recalled and five bombed with good results. The target was supplies stored in a woods. All aircraft returned.

6 July 1944

Thirty-five aircraft bombed the Forêt de Conches where enemy supplies were said to be stored. Results were classified as good. All aircraft returned.

8 July 1944

Thirty-six aircraft bombed enemy installations at Caen. Results of bombing by some flights were gross and others good. All aircraft returned.

9 July 1944

Thirty-six aircraft took off for Orleans to bomb highway bridge. First two flights (11 ships) bombed the bridge with excellent results and the remainder of the formation dropped on the railroad bridge at Vendome. Results on this target were also excellent. All ships returned.

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HEADQUARTERS, 386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), UNIT HISTORY.....

11 July 1944

Thirty aircraft bombed a fuel dump at Fleres. Results were unobserved due to overcast. All ships returned.

12 July 1944

Thirty aircraft bombed the Foret de Clinglais where enemy supplies were reported stored. Results of the bombing were unobserved due to overcast. All ships returned.

Twenty-three aircraft took off at 1800 hours; six bombed a railroad bridge at Nogent Le Roi with poor results; eleven bombed the rail tracks at Bonneval with fair to good results; six bombed the airdrome at Chasseaudun with excellent results. One aircraft failed to return; All others landed safely.

15 July 1944

Thirty-six aircraft took off to bomb a target near St. Lo but failed to bomb due to bad weather conditions. All ships returned safely.

17 July 1944

Thirty-four aircraft bombed the large fuel storage tanks at Rennes with excellent results. Extremely heavy flak was encountered and fourteen of the ships suffered battle damage. All ships returned.

18 July 1944

Thirty-six aircraft bombed the German battle area in the Caen sector in direct support of the big British and Canadian push. Results were classified as poor as the bombs overshot the target area as prescribed as the effective area to bomb. One aircraft was shot down by heavy flak over the target area and caught fire and exploded. Two chutes were observed to come from the burning plane. All other planes returned safely.

23 July 1944

Thirty-nine aircraft took off to bomb the Forest de Conches, but no bombs were dropped due to bad weather conditions. All ships returned safely.

24 July 1944

Thirty-six aircraft bombed a railroad bridge at Sable Sur Forete with good results. All aircraft returned safely.

25 July 1944

Thirty-five aircraft bombed German troop concentrations two miles west of St. Lo in support of the push there by American group forces. Results

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HEADQUARTERS, 386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) UNIT HISTORY.....

ults were classified as excellent and all ships returned safely.

26 July 1944

Thirty-five aircraft bombed enemy supplies in the Marigny area. Results were unobserved due to overcast. All ships landed safely.

28 July 1944

Thirty-two aircraft bombed a railroad bridge at Ecouche. Results of the bombing were unobserved due to overcast. Heavy flak was encountered and one aircraft failed to return. All others landed safely.

30 July 1944

Thirty-three aircraft took off to bomb a target at Cahagnes but failed to bomb due to weather. All returned safely with their bombs.

Thirty-three aircraft bombed a supply dump at Saumont. Results were unobserved due to overcast. All ships returned.

31 July 1944

Thirty-six aircraft bombed the railroad bridge at LaRiche. Results were reported as excellent. Heavy accurate flak was encountered and one aircraft failed to return. All others landed safely.

30 July 1944 marked the anniversary of this bomb group. It completed its first year of combat operations with an outstanding record; leading all medium groups in this theatre in number of missions flown, tonnage of bombs dropped, enemy fighters shot down and bombing accuracy.