

Sheet No. 9 War Diary Sqdn. Hq. 301st. Bomb Gr. (H)
AAF.

Month of April, 1943. Prepared by George M. Sander, Capt. A.C.
(name, rank, unit.)
NATOUSA St. Donat

DAY	EVENTS
11	20 B-17's took off to bomb TUNIS HARBOR (M/V). 18 a/c over target at 22,500 ft. 6 received minor flak damage and 1 Officer was slightly injured from flak. All planes safely down at base. Crews report that the M/V received several direct hits and numerous near misses. A few strings dropped short and hit dock area. No encounters. Many wild bombs due to lead bombardiers hand being injured on run and another due to mec. trouble in other lead ship. Bombing not up to 301st. standard said Lt. Col. Quick, Flight Leader on this mission, due to above cause.
12	30 B-17's of all Sqdn's took off to bomb CONVOY OF M/V's off ZEMERA ISLAND. 26 a/c over target at 15,500 ft. 14 received minor flak damage and 1 of our personnel was killed by flak. All of our a/c were safely down at base. Convoy consisted of 8 to 10 medium M/V's, definitely 1, and possible 2 or 3 were tankers. Possible 1 merchant vessel hit and near misses on several others. 5 Siebel Ferries also bombed just N of CAPE EL FORTASS and 1 near miss observed, also bombed small M/v seen off CARTHAGE. results not observed. 8 to 10 e/a at target. 3 Me 109's des. 1 FW 190 des., 1 Me 109 prob. des. and 2 Me 109's damaged.
14	Captain Lingelbach reassigned to this organization from 419th Bomb. Sq. with primary duty as Group Engineering Officer effective 13 April 1943.
13	24 B-17's of the group (all sqdn's) took off to bomb CASTELVETRANO A/D, Sicily. 23 over target at 21,000 ft. 1 a/c which was over target and dropped bombs (believed jettisoned) was reported to have gone up in flames and crashed into the sea. W of CAPE GRANITOLA, Sicily. 1 of the remaining crew members of other planes was injured (minor) by flak and 3 a/c received minor damage from flak also. 8 to 9 parachutes seen to open from the a/c that crashed, destruction of this a/c was caused by flak. All other planes down safely. No encounters. Following message was received by Lt. Colonel SAM GORMLY, from General NORSTAD A-3, calling in behalf of GENERAL DOOLITTLE: " I have just examined the pictures of the bombing of Castelvetrano Airdrome yesterday, and they are magnificent. When you can do this nine times out of ten it is not an accident. Keep up the good work. I wish to extend my congratulations for the good work, and hope we can keep it up in the future. Above Commendation was for all member of 301st Bombardment Group (H), AAF, NATOUSA.