

HISTORY OF THE
766TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

Prepared in October and December 1943 and March 1944 in compliance with AR 345-105, AAF Regulation 20-8, and Directives of the Fourth Air Force and IV Bomber Command.

FORMER DESIGNATION

None

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT

To IV Bomber Command Fourth Air Force, 7 Novem 1943.

PRESENT STATION

Army Air Base, Hammer Field, California

UNITS ASSIGNED OR ATTACHED

None

APPROVED:

Frederic E. Glantzberg,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Group Commanding Officer.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH AIR FORCE
Historical Section
UNIT HISTORICAL DATA SHEET

766TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) OF 461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)

(History transmitted for period 11 August 1943 to 31 December 1943.)

Activated: 1 July 1943 (per GO 78, Hq Second Air Force, 29 May 1943).*

Organized At: Wendover Field, Utah, under 461st Bombardment Group (H).*

Source of Cadre: 29th Bombardment Group (H) of Second Air Force.**

Mission: Operational Training Unit for heavy bombardment crews (B-24).**

Assigned To: 461st Bombardment Group (H) (per GO 78, Hq Second Air Force, 29 May 1943) and to IV Bomber Command (per GO 175, Hq Fourth Air Force, 7 November 1943).* ****

Permanent Station in Fourth Air Force: Hammer Field, Fresno, Calif.*

Commanding Officers: Capt. William H. Darden assumed command on activation. Capt James C. Dooley assumed command on 13 December 1943.*

Strength Report: 31 August 1943-11 Officers, 41 Enlisted Men.
30 September 1943-12 Officers, 98 Enlisted Men.
31 October 1943-61 Officers, 256 Enlisted Men.
30 November 1943-85 Officers, 400 Enlisted Men.*

Squadron Movements: The squadron arrived at Hammer Field, Calif., from Wendover Field Utah, on a temporary change of station 31 October 1943 (per confidential Radio FAB C18, 1 November 1943, RJ-134-2, 370.5/ 222 Radio).***

Transferred: The unit was designated for overseas shipment on or about 1 January 1944, T/O and E-1-117, T/E #21 W/C1-2 (per confidential letter AAF: "Warning Orders - 457th, 458th, 460th and 461st Bombardment Groups (H)," 12 October 1943, 370.5/ 233; by 1st Ind to GO, Hammer Field, Calif., 20 October 1943.***

Ground echelon of unit departed Hammer Field for Camp Patrick Henry Va., 2 January 1944 (per confidential radio incoming 162-5, file 370.5/ W/290, 2 January 1944).****

Flight echelon of unit departed Hammer Field 1 January 1944 for Hamilton Field (per Incoming radio 5265 and 4992 clear, 15 January 1944 from Hammer Field, temporary change of station).****

Unit relieved from Fourth Air Force jurisdiction to Air Transport Command, Hamilton Field, Calif., 11 February 1944 (per Secret DAM report as of 1200 12 February 1944 and clear radio incoming #3787 from Hamilton Field, 11 February 1944).****

* History of 766th Bombardment Squadron (H).

** History of 461st Bombardment Group (H).

*** Unit File, A-3 Division, Hq Fourth Air Force.

**** Unit File, Adjutant General-Miscellaneous Section, Hq Fourth Air Force.

CHRONOLOGY

DATE	DISCRIPTION OF EVENT	REFEERRENCE IN NARRATIVE
1 Jul 1943	766th Bomb Sq activated as one of component units of 461st Bomb Gp (H).	GO #08, Hq Second AF, Ft George Wright, Wash, 29 May 1943
11 Aug 1943	Personnel assigned to Squadron.	SO #223, Hq AAB Gowen Fld, 11 Aug 1943.
13 Aug 1943	Unit personnel departed from Boise, Idaho for DS at AAF School of Applied Tactics at Orlando, Fla.	SO #223, Hq AAB Gowen Fld, Boise, Idaho, dated 11 Aug 1943.
17 Aug 1943	Personnel arrived at Orlando, Fla.	
20 Aug 1943	Ground School classes begun.	
1 Sep 1943	766th Bomb Sq (H) together with other units of 461st Bomb Gp (H) moved to Pinecastle AB for field training.	
10 Sep 1943	Squadron Ground personnel directed to move by rail from Boise, Idaho, to Kearns, Utah.	SO #251, Hq AAB Gowen Fld, 8 Sep 1943.
12 Sep 1943	Squadron departed by rail from Pinecastle for Kearns, Utah.	
20 Sep 1943	Designated officers and EM sent to Salt Lake City on DS for ten days.	SO #8, Hq Kearns, Utah, 20 Sep 1943.
24 Sep 1943	Capt Loran S. Clark, Intelligence Officer, transferred to PMG School at Ft Custer, Michigan.	
30 Sep 1943	461st Bomb Gr (H) directed to move by rail from Kearns, Utah to AAB Wendover Fld, Utah.	SO #272, Hq Kearns, Utah, 29 Sep 1943.
7 Oct 1943	Capt R. B. MacFarlaine joined Sq as Intelligence Officer.	
24 Oct 1943	Advance Party departed for AAB, Hammer Fld.	
26 Oct 1943	2nd Lt Philip J. Caroselli assigned as Assistant Intelligence Officer.	
29 Oct 1943	Air Echelon left Wendover by airplane for Hammer Fld, balance of Sq departed by rail.	
31 Oct 1943	Unit arrived at Hammer Fld from Wendover.	Conf Rad FAB C18, 11-1-43, RJ 134-2, 370.5/222 Rad. (Unit Hist Data File).

3 Nov 1943	Unit designated for overseas shipment o/a 1-1-44.	(Unit Hist Data File).
18 Nov 1943	19 officers of the Squadron left for the Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles, Calif for the purpose of receiving celestial training.	
22 Nov 1943	766th Bomb Sq lead in first Group mission.	
7 Dec 1943	Plane piloted by Capt Darden crashed causing loss of plane and entire crew, except two members who bailed out successfully.	
113 Dec 1953	Capt James C. Dooley assumed command of the Squadron.	
16 Dec 1943	Movement Orders for Flight Echelon received.	(Unit Hist Data File).
18 Dec 1943	Movement Orders received for Ground Echelon of unit.	(Unit Hist Data File).
1 Jan 1944	Ground Echelon of unit departed for Camp Patrick Henry, Va.	Conf Rad Hammer Fld C34, 1-1-44, 370.5/#290. (Unit Hist Data File).
14 Jan 1944	Flight Echelon of unit departed for Hamilton Field.	"R" Rad FAB AG868, 1-14-44; incoming #4992. (Unit Hist Data File).
15 Jan 1944	Flight Echelon of unit departed for Hamilton Field.	"R" Rad FAB AG929, 1-15-44; incoming #5265. (Unit Hist Data File).

UNIT HISTORY OF THE 766TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

Activation of the 766th Bombardment Squadron (H) as a part of 461st Bombardment Group (H) took place on 1 July 43 per G.O. 78 Par 1 H.Q. Second Air Force Ft George Wright Washington, dated 29 May 43. Assignment of personnel is contained in S.O. 223 Par 2, H.Q. AAB Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, dated 11 August 43. Names and sources from which key personnel were drawn are as follows:

From Asgd 82nd Squadron to Asgd 766th Squadron

CAPTAIN	DARDEN, WILLIAM H.	O-389288
CAPTAIN	REDDEN, JOSEPH J.	O-298372
1ST LT	FRANKLIN, WILLIAM J.	O-439100
2ND LT	STILES, RICHARD H.	O-734472
2ND LT	STEMPEL, GLENN h.	O-863960
2ND LT	BROUSSARD, DESIRE L.	O-863521
2ND LT	PRECIADO, ROBERT A.	O-581103
2ND LT	WALKER, CLAUDE (NMI)	O-861735

From ACU Atchd 52nd Squadron to Asgd 766th Squadron

2ND LT	LESLIE, Ray E.	O-740844
2ND LT	LEVINE, ABRAHAM (NMI)	O-801110

From Asgd 52nd Squadron to Asgd 766th Squadron

S/Sgt.	Remy, Robert W.	19000027
S/Sgt.	Campbell, Oliver H.	34123099
Sgt.	Lawson, Jack R.	15060486
Pfc.	Chernaik, Joseph M.	31286925
Cpl.	Feld, Isadore (NMI)	31241348
T/Sgt.	Tenery, John W.	18040752
S/Sgt.	Lucas, Lloyd J.	20726753
S/Sgt.	Lautieri, Fiorentino M.	31120794
Cpl.	Johnson, Raymond H.	37226994
S/Sgt.	Korchman, Frank (NMI)	12052351
Cpl.	Reiter, Robert E.	13124531
Cpl.	Tychostup, William (NMI)	32704651
Pvt.	Nixon, William M.	6998301
Pfc.	Elsberry, Richard D.	37436246
Cpl.	Spohn, Richard C.	13045639
Sgt.	Royce Jr., Harry C.	31165390
Pvt.	Unger, William J.	33490503
Cpl.	Houde, Rudolphe M.	11083644
Cpl.	Ciesielski, Harry S,	15374100
Pvt,	Jones Jr., Harry J.	14133981
Cpl.	Bishop, Charles F.	14156530
Sgt.	Dittrich, William C.	37193266
M/Sgt.	Hawkinson, Theodore E.	6272640
T/Sgt.	Canienne Jr., Philip J.	14071018
S/Sgt.	Tidwell, William H.	6986308
Sgt.	Hains, John J.	6833819
Cpl.	Hastings, Irving L.	12125293

Cpl.	Ruble, Charles D.	35401382
T/Sgt.	Hyde, Frank N.	12023095
Pvt.	Mathis, Thomas F.	18117896
Cpl.	Muhlmann, Herman W.	35747396
Pfc.	Kelly Jr., Hugh (NMI)	34643639
Sgt.	Zacek, Victor W.	38045733
Pfc.	Goutermout, Sheridan J.	32744795
Sgt.	Horwath, William (NMI)	33187054

From ACU Atchd 52nd Squadron to Asgd 766th Squadron

S/Sgt.	Kjellquist, Ernest T.	31125072
Sgt.	Dumont, George W.	11098734
Sgt.	Gibbons, Arthur T.	16068918
Pvt.	Campbell, James H.	34036830

S.O. 223, Par 21 and 22, Hqs AAB, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, Dated 11 August 43, directed the movement of key personnel by rail on DS to AAFSAT Orlando, Florida. This order further provided for movement from AAFSAT to proper station upon completion of temporary duty at AAFSAT. Names of personnel carried by this order are:

CAPT WILLIAM H DARDEN
 1ST LT WILLIAM J FRANKLIN
 2ND LT RAY E LESLIE
 2ND LT RICHARD H STILES
 2ND LT ABRAHAM (NMI) LEVINE
 2ND LT GLENN H STEMPEL
 2ND LT CLAUDE (NMI) WALKER
 2ND LT DESIRE L BROUSSARD

Chief Operations Clerk	Sgt Jack R Lawson
Ap Armorer-Gunner	S/Sgt Ernest T Kjellquist
Communications Chief	Sgt Harry C Royce Jr
AAF Radio Oper'r Mech-Gunr	Sgt George W Dumont
Army Ap Mech-Gunr	Sgt Arthur T Gibbons
Army Ap Mech-Gunr	T/Sgt Frank N Hyde
Army Ap Mech-Gunr	Pvt James H. Campbell
Squadron Intelligence Clerk	Sgt Charles (NMI) Sandler 33183853
Ap Armorer Gunner	S/Sgt Frank (NMI) Korchman
Armament Chief	S/Sgt Fiorentino M Leutieri
Airplane Inspector	Sgt William C Dittrich
Airplane Line Chief	M/Sgt Theodore E Hawkinson
Flight Chief	T/Sgt Philip J Canciopne Jr
Flight Chief	S/Sgt William H Tidwell
Flight Chief	Sgt John J Hains
Transportation Chief	Sgt Victor W Zacek

Departure from Boise was at 1100 hours, 13 August 43 and arrival at Orlando, Florida was at 1400 hours, 17 August 43. Ground school classes at AAFSAT began on 20 August 43 and continued through 30

August 43. The entire 461st Group was moved to Pinecastle Air Base for field training on 1 September 43.

Training at Pinecastle consisted of three missions and this Squadron participated in each. Departure from Pinecastle and AAFSAT was made on 12 September 43 by rail. Arrival at Salt Lake City was at 0600 hours, 16 September 43. Transportation by bus was furnished by Kearns, Utah.

SO 8 Par 4, Hqs Kearns, Utah dated 20 September 43 transferred the following O and EM to AAB, Salt Lake City on DS for ten days. This order further provided for the return of this personnel to proper station upon completion of DS. Return was made on 30 September 43.

CAPT DARDEN, WILLIAM H.
1ST LT FRANKLIN, WILLIAM G. JR
2ND LT LEVINE, ABRAHAM
2ND LT STILES, RICHARD H.
2ND LT LESLIE, RAY E.

Sgt Lawson, Jack R.
Pvt Campbell, James R.
Sgt Gibbons, Arthur T.
T/Sgt Hyde, Frank N.
Sgt Dumont, George W.
S/Sgt Kjellquist, Ernest T.
S/Sgt Korchman, Frank
Sgt Zacek, Victor W.
Pfc Goutermout, Sheridan J.

SO 251 Par 11 Hqs AAB, Gowen Field, Boise Idaho, dated 8 September 43 directed the movement by rail on 10 September 43 of personnel not in attendance at AAFSAT to Kearns, Utah, to arrive 11 September 43. List of O and EM affected by this order follows:

2 ND LT ROBERT A PRECIADO	O-581103
S/Sgt Campbell, Oliver	34123099
S/Sgt Remy, Robert W	19000027
Cpl Bishop, Charles F	14156530
Cpl Feld, Isadore (NMI)	31241348
Cpl Johnson, Raymond H	37226994
Cpl Reiter, Robert E	13124531
Cpl Tychostup, William	32704851
Pfc Goutermout, Sheridan J	32744795
Pfc Jones Jr, Harry J	14133981
Pfc Unger, William J.	33490503
T/Sgt Tenery, John W	18040752
S/Sgt Lucas, Lloyd J	20726753

Sgt Horwath, William	33187054
Cpl Ciesielski, Harry S	15374100
Cpl Houde, Rudolphe M	11083644
Cpl Muhlmann, Herman W	35747396
Cpl Spohn, Richard C	13045839
Pfc Elsberry, Richard D	37436246
Pfc Kelly Jr, Hugh	34643630
Pfc Mathis, Thomas F	18117896
Pvt Nixon, William M	6998301

SO 272 Par 13 Hqs Kearns, Utah, dated 29 September 43, directed movement of entire 461st Group by rail on 30 September 43 from Kearns, Utah to AAB Wendover Field, Utah. Arrival was at 1830 hours 30 September 43.

The Staff and Department Heads of the 766th Squadron were originally designated:

Squadron Commander	Capt. William H. Darden
Executive Officer	Capt. Joseph J. Redden
Adjutant	2nd Lt. Robert A. Preciado
Operations Officer	1st Lt. William J. Franklin
Co-Pilot	2nd Lt. Ray E. Leslie
Navigation Officer	2nd Lt. Abraham (NMI) Levine
Bombardiering Officer	2nd Lt. Richard H. Stiles
Engineering Officer	2nd Lt. Desire L. Broussard
Communications Officer	2nd Lt. Claude (NMI) Walker
Armament Officer	2nd Lt. Glenn H. Stempel

ADDITIONS SINCE 11 AUGUST 1943.

12 Aug 43	Sgt. Arthur E. McComb	6857472	Decontamination
20 Aug 43	Capt. Loran S Clark	O-914122	Intelligence Officer
20 Aug 43	1st Lt. Alexander E. Sproul	O-464503	Flight Surgeon
11 Sept 43	Capt. Morris J. Drobeck	O-305003	Executive Officer
13 Sept 43	Pvt. Robert D. Hershner	35217156	Basic
13 Sept 43	Pfc. Charles F. Quinn	32891468	Basic
14 Sept 43	Cpl. Henry F. Simcox	32710739	Prop Specialist
14 Sept 43	Cpl. Gordon J. Springfield	12133200	Prop Specialist
14 Sept 43	Pfc. Walter S. Blake	31321870	Hvy Equip Operator
14 Sept 43	Pfc. Claude J. Nichols	35657710	Hvy Equip Operator
14 Sept 43	Pfc. Ernest (NMI) Spirito Jr.	31333002	Hvy Equip Operator
15 Sept 43	Pfc. Lee A. Henry	35552668	Airplane & Eng Mech
15 Sept 43	Pfc. Alfred G. Nason	35056508	Airplane & Eng Mech
15 Sept 43	Pfc. Robert L. Dunn	34766643	Airplane & Eng Mech
17 Sept 43	Pfc. William E. Carrol	36456530	Adm & Tech Clerk
17 Sept 43	Pfc. Charles L. Kibler	16142922	Airplane & Eng Mech
18 Sept 43	Cpl. Ralph A. Griggs	35093419	Pwr Turret & GS Spec
19 Sept 43	Cpl. William F. Walls	13131574	Pwr Turret & GS Spec
19 Sept 43	Pvt. Alexander A. Mitchell	38366362	Adm & Tech Clerk
19 Sept 43	Pvt. James S. Campbell Jr.	34491216	Adm & Tech Clerk
23 Sept 43	Pfc. Victor F. Wells	32757109	Adm & Tech Clerk

24	Sept	43	Pfc. Joseph F. DePerry	31326221	Airplane & Eng Mech
24	Sept	43	Pfc. Kenneth G. Herman	32768535	Airplane & Eng Mech
24	Sept	43	Pvt. Raymond E. Miller	16042386	Mess Sgt
24	Sept	43	Pfc. Carlton B. Little	34781947	Adm & Tech Clerk
24	Sept	43	Pfc. Ralph W. Ferrell	34629687	Adm & Tech Clerk
25	Sept	43	Pvt. Herbert L. Davidson	16128590	Airplane & Eng Mech
25	Sept	43	Pfc. Joseph A. Candido	31288304	Adm & Tech Clerk
25	Sept	43	Cpl. J.H. Cox	37233509	Airplane & Eng Mech
25	Sept	43	Pfc. Robert O. Patterson Jr.	39129746	Camera Tech
25	Sept	43	Cpl. Leland D. Shaw	37496107	Airplane Elect Spec
25	Sept	43	Cpl. Donald R. Downing	37499737	Airplane Elect Spec
25	Sept	43	Cpl. Lawrence M. Earnheart	19170080	Airplane Elect Spec
26	Sept	43	Pvt. Pasquel P. Ortiz	39278725	Adm & Tech Clerk
26	Sept	43	Cpl. Leo L. Pannack	37278841	Adm & Tech Clerk
26	Sept	43	Pfc. Gerald L. Templin	16075316	Radio Tech
26	Sept	43	Cpl. Stephen (NMI) Juzwicki	12139386	Airplane & Eng Mech
26	Sept	43	Pfc. Bernardo G. Valdez	39847654	Cook & Baker
27	Sept	43	Pfc. Marshall J. Rhyne	34772625	Adm & Tech Clerk
28	Sept	43	Sgt. George C. Waldner	13104454	Adm & Tech Clerk

DELETIONS SINCE 11 AUGUST 1943

19	Aug	43	Capt. Joseph J. Redden
7	Sept	43	Pfc. Joseph M. Chernaik

PROMOTIONS

17 August 1943 1st Lt. Alexander E. Sproul, Flight Surgeon to Captain

FOREIGN SERVICE

2nd Lt. Robert A. Preciado served for four months in the Eleventh Air Force as Base Sgt Major at Kodiak, Alaska.

STRENGTH

31 August 1943	11 Officers	41 Enlisted Men
30 September 1943	12 Officers	98 Enlisted Men

1 November 1943

UNIT HISTORY OF THE 766TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

CHAPTER II

The month of October 1943 saw the start of the actual building of the Squadron from the nucleus which attended AFFSAT. During the early part of the month three combat crews were assigned to the Squadron and on 18 October 43 two additional crews arrived from the Anti-Submarine Command. All five of these crews received concentrated initial training at AAB Wendover Field, Utah.

On 24 October 43, the Advance Party departed for AAB, Hammer Field, California, which will be our training base until departure for "destination unknown". A portion of the air echelon left Wendover by airplane for Hammer Field on 29 October and the balance of the Squadron, with the exception a few left behind to clean up details, departed by rail on the same date.

Complete arrangements had been made for our coming, enabling the Squadron to begin its initial training immediately. The nights are very cold but the days are quite warm. So far, the predicted ground fog has not put in an appearance. Airplanes are flying and the training program is on.

ADDITIONS

Capt R B MacFarlane O-917839 joined the Squadron, 7 October 43, as Intelligence Officer.

2nd Lt Philip J Caroselli O-915791 reported for duty from AAFAIS, Harrisburg on 27 October 43. He will act as Assistant Intelligence Officer.

DELETIONS

Capt Loran S Clark O-914122, Intelligence Officer was transferred to PMG School at Fort Custer, Michigan as of 24 September 43.

T/Sgt Frand W Hyde 12023095 received an honorable discharge from the service to accept a commission as 2nd Lt, AC, AUS. He left the Squadron 8 October 43.

PROMOTIONS

On 15 October 43, T/Sgt John W Tenery 1840752 was made 1st Sergeant.

STRENGTH

31 October 43 61 Officers 256 Enlisted Men

1 December 1943

UNIT HISTORY OF THE 766TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

CHAPTER III

When the 461st Group moved from Wendover Air Base, Utah to Hammer Field, California, it affected its transition from the Second to the Fourth Air Force. The Group then having entered the second and third phase training initiated the first Group mission on 22 Nov 43. The 766th Squadron having been furthest advanced in its program in compliance with the 4th Bomber Command training schedule, and having demonstrated progress in preparing simulated missions, was selected to brief and lead the mission with Captain Darden and Colonel Glantzberg in the lead plane.

TRAINING

We initiated a plane recognition contest consisting of a daily recognition problem wherein each combat crew, organized as a team, compete with each other in giving the name, nationality, type, wing span and fuselage length of two different planes daily, one in the form of a picture of a plane in flight and the other from a shadowgraph simulating a plane in actual flight.

In the beginning of this contest there was shown a marked need for recognition training. As of this date, the individual crews have consistently improved their percentage. The competitive spirit where each crew vies with the others in obtaining the highest score has increased.

On the 18th of November, nineteen officers left for the Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles, Calif. for the purpose of receiving celestial training.

Following Captain Darden's suggestion the first of weekly parties for enlisted men at night mess, with beer and a "jam session", was carried out on the 9th of November. Along this idea a few extra touches were also added to the Thanksgiving dinner. The men discarded their mess-kits for the meal and were served on paper plates. They were also entertained by a four piece band and other musical specialties, the participants for which consisted of squadron members.

MORALE

When Captain Darden received the memorandum from Group Headquarters, requesting contribution to the National War Fund, he immediately appointed Lt. P. J. Caroselli officer in charge.

The response to Lt. Caroselli's appeal as per Captain Darden's request was spontaneous, generous and cooperative. This is reflective of the spirit and wholehearted support Captain Darden enjoys as Squadron Commander. The extent to which the Captain's goal was met in convincingly shown by the following results.

The 766th Squadron contributed \$954.00 of the total \$1200.00 contributed by the whole Group. The amount contributed by the Hammer Field Air Base was a little over \$8000.00.

PROMOTIONS

2nd Lt. Stiles to 1st Lt. (17 November 1943)

ASSIGNMENTS

Captain MacFarlane and Lt. Caroselli were assigned the additional duties of Security Officers and assisting the Unit Censor.

W/O Berenson was assigned the additional duties of Security Officer.

ADDITIONS

2nd Lt William H Logue	O-671458
2nd Lt John E Rosen	O-812661
2nd Lt Robert M. Hacker	O-752811
2nd Lt Allen E Thomas	O-1595864
W/O JG Howard S Berenson	W-2125545
1st Lt Richard E Shannon	O-570193

STRENGTH

400 Enlisted Men	85 Officers
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UNIT HISTORY OF THE 766TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
CHAPTER IV - 30 DECEMBER 1943

The month began on a somber note when, on 7 Dec 43, Capt. William H. Darden and the following crew, 2nd Lt. Settle, 2nd Lt. Schlosser, S/Sgt. Nywonger, Sgt. Mayo, Sgt. Spangle, Sgt. Vande Plasch, and Sgt. Barulic were reported to have crashed in the vicinity of Huntington Lake, California. Capt. Darden and crew had gone out in Aircraft 674 on a search mission for a lost plane from another squadron. Two members of the crew, Lt. Settle and Sgt. Barulic, successfully bailed out. Searching parties were immediately sent out, and wreckage on and around the lake led to the opinion that the plane had crashed in the lake. However, dredging failed to uncover any bodies or the plane, and on 16 December 1943, Capt. Darden and the members of the crew who had failed to return were declared officially dead.

The whole squadron felt Capt. Darden's loss very keenly. His boundless energy and enthusiasm, his inspiring leadership, his friendly bearing, reflected on every man in the squadron. Under his direction, the squadron made tremendous strides in our training preparations for going overseas.

On 13 December 1943, Capt. James C. Dooley assumed command of the 766th, and the squadron gained a commanding officer who immediately won the confidence and the respect of everyone.

The following training requirements have been fulfilled:

1. The IV Bomber Command minimum requirements have been successfully met.
2. The squadron obtained the lowest Squadron-Circular Error in bombings, the average circular error being within 250 feet.
3. The squadron S-2 and S-3 briefings are considered the best in the group.
4. The squadron missions over water and land were successfully conducted. Each crew received the maximum time in formation flying and altitude bombing.

Following the precedent of squadron parties established by Capt. Darden, Capt. Dooley planned our Christmas dinner party which was held in the mess hall in the midst of the most festive seasonal decorations. Capt. Dooley and members of his staff were present, and the wives of several of the men attended as our guests. Capt. MacFarlane read the invocation and then everyone sat down to a really bountiful meal. Christmas carols were sung and entertainment was provided by musicians from the squadron. All in all, it made us forget

for a while that most of us are many, many hundreds of miles from home.

Two other parties were held during the holiday season. The officers of the squadron held their Officer's Party at the Nurses Recreation Hall on 30 December 1943, and the Armament-Ordnance sections held their joint affair on 18 December 1943.

Fifteen flyaway planes have been received. Calibration of instruments, bombing checks, fuel consumption tests and oxygen tests are being conducted rapidly with efficiency.

The squadron as a whole appears eager to go overseas and the combat crews are ready to "knock hell out of the enemy" and live up to our nickname, "The Fighting 66th", as we were affectionately dubbed by Capt. MacFarlane.

KILLED IN LINE OF DUTY

Capt. W. H. Darden	O-389288
2nd Lt. S. J. Schlosser	O-797718
S.Sgt. F. C. Nyswonger	16009396
Sgt. D. E. Mayo	35448517
Sgt. R. L. Spangle	19013003
Sgt. D. C. Vande Plasch	36279044

ADDITIONS

2	Dec	43	2nd Lt David N. Riker	O-686495
7	Dec	43	2nd Lt Robert F. Edwards	O-795718
10	Dec	43	2nd Lt Joel (NMI) Fish	O-688015
13	Dec	43	Capt James C. Dooley	O-431130
15	Dec	43	2nd Lt William J. Barnes	O-813911
17	Dec	43	2nd Lt William K. Slusing	O-691822
24	Dec	43	1st Lt Roland A. Boone	O-504353
26	Dec	43	2nd Lt George J. Owens Jr.	O-813566
28	Dec	43	2nd Lt Robert (NMI) Nerburn	O-861452

ASSIGNMENTS

6	Dec	43	2nd Lt Broussard	Was assigned the additional duties of Squadron Parachute Officer
24	Dec	43	1st Lt Boone	Was assigned the duties of Engineering Officer, replacing 2nd Lt Broussard
24	Dec	43	2nd Lt Broussard	Was assigned the duties of Tech Supply Officer, replacing Lt. Tulpan

DELETIONS

19	Dec	43	2nd Lt James W. Piatt, Jr.
25	Dec	43	2nd Lt Leslie
			2nd Lt Duke
			2nd Lt Moore
28	Dec	43	2nd Lt Harry C. Stark
29	Dec	43	2nd Lt Theodore F. Tulpan

APPENDIX A

PHOTOGRAPHS