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SECRETHEADQUARTERS
AAF 123 APO 634
Office of the Group Operations Officer**SECRET**

AUTH: Co 458 Bg

INITIALS: J.S.C.

DATE: 7/2/44

2 March 1944

SUBJECT: S-3 Narrative, Mission of 2, March 1944.

TO : Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H) AAF 123, APO 634.

1. The first aircraft took-off at 0846 and Group formed over Buncher 15 at 9,000 feet. The Group left as scheduled at 0948 and joined the Combat Wing at 0955.
2. The 458th Group was assigned to fly the low left position of the Combat Wing. Twenty six aircraft took off, one crashed on take off and four aborted before reaching target.
3. Departed English coast slightly south of course. At this point it appeared that the high right group left the formation, going ahead of the Wing.
4. Slight flak was observed in the coastal area and sporadic flak enroute to target. After departing the IF it appeared that the target area was completely overcast, so our group maintained CW formation for PFF bombing.
5. The formation made two 360° turns short of the target area and proceeded on a reciprocal course, at which time the bombs were released on an unidentified target. There were lower broken clouds over the area.
6. Moderately accurate flak was encountered over Belgium on the route out. No enemy fighters were encountered. Fighter support was as briefed.
7. Formation was generally good throughout the mission. All A/C returned.
8. One aircraft was lost due to crash after take off. Minor damage to others by flak.

John E. Chamberlain
JOHN E. CHAMBERLAIN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't. Gp. Opns Officer

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SECRET754TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)
AIF Station 123 APO 634**SECRET**

AUTH: Co 408 BG.

INITIALS: J.C.

DATE: 5/3/87

2 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Lead Navigator's Narrative on Mission #1.

TO : Lt. Col. J. M. Isbell, Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group.

1. Following is the narrative on Operational Mission #1, flown 2 March 1944 by the 458th Bombardment Group:

a. Assembly - The assembly took place according to the flight plan, with the exception of the take-off being 3 minutes late, the time being 0840. The lead ship leveled off at 9,000 at 0936, at which time, there were a few stragglers in the formation; however, at departure time, 0940, which was one minute late, the group was well formed. Assembly was made with the Wing and Division at the prescribed places at the prescribed times.

b. Route Out - The route out to the target was followed as planned except when the Division neared the target. About 15 miles to the west of the target, the Division lead sections turned away from the target, and made two 360° turns, finally heading in a westerly direction. The Division bombed the first town appearing after a clearing in the undercast was found; the town bombed is unknown but lies approximately 290° and 40 miles from Frankfurt.

c. Route Back - The route from the target to the home base was not made in accordance with the flight plan. An average track was made back to the enemy coast of 301° and departure was over Overflakes Island at 01° 50'N; 03° 55'E. Mild evasive action was used on the route. The track from the enemy coast to the English coast was 280°, and entry was made at 52° 18'N; 01° 39'E. Track in to the home base from entry point was 351°.

d. Comments - Suggestion is made that during a visual assembly, the small group of lakes northeast of Norwich be used as a reference point in turning, especially if haze is present or Buncher #15 is miscounted.

The navigator leading the division should have routed the formation back to England according to plan, thereby avoiding large cities and anti-aircraft installations.

Request is made that a B-24D or E be used as a lead ship experimentally both for the improvement of visibility and the addition of working space.

*E. M. Mottern*E. M. MOTTERN,
Captain, Air Corps.**SECRET**

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Ist SECTION
Middle

Low

PERKINS
 41-29331
 F B-24H
STROUP
 42-52423
 R B-24H
GRAUER
 41-25688
 I B-24H

Whitlow
 41-25750
 N B-24H
Mellon
 42-25719
 Q B-24H

WRIGHT-ISELL
 42-100362
 A B-24J
Bittler
 42-29298
 G B-24J

combs. Hugg
 42-100366
 B B-24J
BURT'S
 42-52441
 I B-24H

High

RAITER
 42-52353
 J B-24H
GRANT
 42-52352
 J B-24H
SCHULZ
 42-52335
 R B-24H

II SECTION
Middle

Low

Schuman
 41-25671
 K B-24H
MANGERRICH
 41-29329
 L B-24H
Alvestad
 41-25706
 H B-24H

Lebbear
 42-100365
 B B-24J

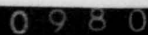
umphrey
 41-29273
 Q B-24H

claygett la Roche
 42-100311
 A B-24J
Heck
 42-100241
 A B-24J

CLARK-BOGUSCH
 42-100408
 D B-24J
Robeson
 41-25705
 H B-24H

High

Taylor
 41-25718
 M B-24H
McTeer
 41-25667
 F B-24H
DAVIDSON
 42-52206
 I B-24H



458th Pilot List

DATE	TARGET	PILOT	458th Msn #	Pilot Msn#	Cmd / Inst Pilot	LD	Serial	Last 3	RCL	Sqdn	A/C Msn#	A/C Name	Notes
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	ALVESTAD	1	1			41-28706	706	H	J4	1	DREAM BOAT/SPARE PARTS	41-28706
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	BITTLER	1	1			41-29298	298	G	J3	1	OLE SATAN	42-29298
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	BRAUER	1	1			41-28682	682	I	Z5	1	UNKNOWN 003	
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	BURTIS	1	1			42-52441	441	I	J3	1	LAST CARD LOUIE	42-52441
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	CLAGGETT	1	1	LaROCHE	L2	42-100311	311	A	7V	1	YOKUM BOY	42-100311
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	CLARK	1	1	BOGUSCH	D2	42-100408	408	D	J4	1	BEASTFACE	42-100408
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	COMBS	1	1	HOGG	D1	42-100366	366	B	Z5	1	MIZPAH	42-100366
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	DAVIDSON	1	1			42-52306	306	I	J4	1	UNKNOWN 030	42-52306
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	GORRELL	1	ACC			41-28669	669	--	7V	1	GINNY	CRASH ON TAKEOFF
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	GRANT	1	1			42-52382	382	J	7V	1	WURF'LESS	42-52382
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	HETZLER	1	1			41-28667	667	F	7V	1	JAYHAWKER	41-28667
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	KECK	1	1			42-100341	341	A	J4	1	SATAN'S MATE	42-100341
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	MANGERICH	1	1			41-29329	329	L	7V	1	FRITZI	41-29329
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	MELTON	1	1			41-28719	719	Q	J3	1	PADDLEFOOT	42-28719
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	PETERS	1	1			41-29331	331	F	J3	1	BLONDIE'S FOLLY	41-29331
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	RAITER	1	1			42-52353	353	J	Z5	1	UNKNOWN 049	42-52353
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	ROBESON	1	1			41-28705	705	H	J4	1	YE OLDE HELLGATE	41-28705
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	SCHULZE	1	1			42-52335	335	R	Z5	1	ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER	42-52335
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	SCHUMAN	1	1			41-28671	671	K	J4	1	UNKNOWN 001	41-29671
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	STROUP	1	1			42-52423	423	R	J3	1	UNKNOWN 031	42-52423
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	TAYLOR, O	1	1			41-28718	718	M	7V	1	BO	41-28718
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	UMPHREY	1	1			41-29273	273	Q	J4	1	FLAK MAGNET	41-29273
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	WEBER	1	1			42-100365	365	B	7V	1	WOLFGANG (maybe)	42-100365
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	WHITLOW	1	1			41-28720	720	N	J3	1	UNKNOWN 004	41-28720
02-Mar-44	FRANKFURT	WRIGHT	1	1	ISBELL	L1	42-100362	362	A	Z5	1	SWEET LORRAINE/BOOMERANG	42-100362 LEAD