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HEADQUARTERS

AAF 123 APO 634

Office of the Group Operations Officer

SECRETAUTH: *CO 458th BG*INITIALS: *CAFES*DATE: *3/5/44*

5 March 1944

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

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

1. The formation took off from 0745 to 0823 assembling over base at 15,000 feet. Twenty nine aircraft took off 27 of which completed assembly. The formation departed from base at 0912 (one minute early) and proceeded to Buncher five to join the 392nd Group leading the 14th Combat Wing. The 392nd was sighted below and ahead before reaching Buncher five. Our Group maneuvered into position to fly high right on the 392nd but due to an unexpected continuation of turn by the 392nd a high left somewhat in trail was flown along the initial wing assembly line in order to cross over and close up during the first left turn of the wing. During the remainder of the wing assembly line, the turns and an improperly functioning auto pilot in the lead ship scattered the group formation somewhat. The 44th Group which was to fly low left had moved into a high right position on the 392nd and added to the difficulty of wing assembly on the part of our group. As division line was reached a wing of B-24's was sighted ahead of the 14th the wing leader trailed them and departed from coast at 0956 at Great Yarmouth. Twenty-six of our planes left the coast a number of them straggling due to the maneuvers during wing assembly. On the route out our Group continually over ran the wing leader even though the airspeed of the group leaders plane was kept from 150 to 155 mph. This necessitated considerable S-ing during the climb to 23,000 feet. At cruising altitude the position of the formation was easier to maintain.

2. The temperature at altitude was below minus 40 and an excessive number of turnbacks due mainly to supercharger trouble and inoperative turrets continued along the route.

3. As the enemy coast was approached, contrails became heavy and the wing was being flown through clouds which gradually thickened and made it increasingly difficult to maintain formation. At a point just north west of Hamburg the wing leader made an unexpected turn to the right and in an effort to maintain contact by crossing over the group leader lost the remainder of the wing in clouds.

4. At this point only four (4) ships were still with the group leader and six ships with the second section lead. The weather was such that it was considered impossible to continue further and the remnants of the formation abandoned the mission and returned along the same route flown on the way out. During the return numerous formations and single ships were seen returning and it appeared that many of the other aircraft from other units had also abandoned mission, without releasing bombs.

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Basic Ltr contd - (S-3 Narrative)

During the turnback near Hamburg, moderate flak was encountered, but no damage was sustained. All aircraft returned to base except 42-29298 the last ship landing at 1433.

5. Sortie credit is being given to 16 aircraft which crossed the enemy coast, the remaining aircraft, 13 aircraft which took off, are not being credited with sorties.

6. Aircraft 42-29298 is presumed to be down at sea. Plane reported abandoning mission at 1133 due to engine trouble and requested CIM at 1316 without giving position. At 1323 an SOS was heard with no further contacts.

Brunon W. Feiling
BRUNON W. FEILING,
Major, AC,
Gp Opas Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS

AF 123 APO 634

Office of the Operations Officer

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AUTH: C0 45/7/56

INITIALS: CWS

DATE: 4 3/5/44

3 March 1944

SUBJECT: Lead Bombardier's Narrative, Mission of 3 March 1944, Berlin.

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

1. We flew in the high right group of the wing. As we reached the enemy coast, we encountered very intense weather. We noted the wing making a right turn through the clouds and thus proceeded on a right turn, running into very heavy clouds. While we were in the turn, we encountered flak over Hamburg. Having engine trouble and having lost our whole formation with the exception of the deputy lead, we proceeded to our base.

2. I jettisoned my bombs aimed in the North Sea at 1310 hours, upon being ordered to do so by the command pilot because of continued engine trouble.

3. All bombs were returned with exception ships No. 41-20682 and 42-100425 which were jettisoned in North Sea. Ship No. 42-29298 failed to return.

Ross Mesaner
ROSS (MIL) MESANER,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Lead Bombardier.

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HEADQUARTERS
AAF 123 APO 634
Office of the Group Operations Officer

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AUTH: C.O. 458th Bg.

INITIALS: *CL-28*DATE: *3/5/44*

5 March 1944

SUBJECT: Lead Navigator's Narrative of Operational Mission No 2.

TO : Lt. Col. J. H. Isbell, C.O. 458th Bomb Gp (H), AAF 123, APO 634.

1. Assembly: Take Off was made at specified time. Assembly took place as scheduled with the exception that we were not able to stay within our assembly area due to high wind velocity. Departure at specified altitude was made one minute early. Contact with Wing and Division made according to plan.

2. Route Out: Departure from coast was made at Gr. Yarmouth instead of Splasher 5 and we were right of course to the turning point which was made on time. Landfall on enemy coast was made on time (1124), and on course. Wing Leader made rightturn to stay out of clouds and in following him we were over Hamburg at which point entire formation broke up because of clouds.

3. Route Back: Made turn over Hamburg and proceeded to a point 54-00 N 04-00E and then back to base. Arrived over base at 1333.

COMMENTS: Entire formation disrupted over enemy coast by solid cumulus clouds to an altitude of 27,000. Visibility was almost totally restricted.

George H. Clark

GEORGE H. CLARK
2nd Lt. Air Corps
Lead Navigator

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458th Bomb Gp (H)

AFTER ASSEMBLY 1ST SECTION (LEAD) MIDDLE

Low

High

WELLS | 720
|
RAITER | 366
|
J
BRAUER | 682

PIERCE | 353

SLATON-FELLING

| 425
J

GLENN-JAMISON | 433
|
J

BRUDAS | 678

HERZIK | 298

MATTSON | 441

SCHULZE | 335

HOPKINS | 450

2ND SECTION (LOW LEFT)

MIDDLE

High

Low

KOUICH | 733
|
KECK | 705
|

UMPHREY | 273

O'NEIL-RODMAN | 408
|
J

LAMB-BOOTH | 341
|
J

McMAHON-GRIFFITH | 306
|

SIEVERS | 392

SPAUVEN | 286

DENEFFE | 300

MELTON | 719

Low

3RD SECTION (HIGH RIGHT)

MIDDLE

High

MARTIN | 667
|
FREEMAN | 718
|

BITTLER | 432

PETERS-HENSEN | 284
|

OLLUM | 302
|

NYMAN | 709

ROUBAL | 303

SCHAAF | 352

B-24 J's ARE MARKED "J"; OTHERS ARE B-24 Hs.

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
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	BITTLER	2	2			42-52432	432	--	J3	1	BACHELOR'S PARADISE	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	BRAUER	2	2			41-28682	682	--	Z5	2	UNKNOWN 003	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	BRUDOS	2	1			41-28678	678	--	J3	1	UNKNOWN 002	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	DeNEFFE	2	1			41-29300	300	--	J4	1	LORELEI	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	FREEMAN	2	1			41-28718	718	--	7V	2	BO	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	GLENN	2	1	JAMISON	D1	42-100433	433	--	J3	1	BIG DICK HARD TO HIT	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	HERZIK	2	FTR			41-29298	298	G	J3	2	OLE SATAN	ALL 10 MIA
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	HOPKINS, T	2	1			42-52450	450	--	Z5	1	UNKNOWN 032	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	KECK	2	2			41-28705	705	--	J4	2	YE OLDE HELLGATE	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	LAMB	2	1	BOOTH	D2	42-100341	341	--	J4	2	SATAN'S MATE	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	MARTIN, J	2	1			41-28667	667	--	7V	2	JAYHAWKER	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	MATTSON	2	ABT			42-52441	441	--	J3	2	LAST CARD LOUIE	ABORT - PILOT OXY LEAK
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	McMAINS	2	1	GRIFFITH	L	42-52306	306	--	J4	2	UNKNOWN 030	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	MELTON	2	2			41-28719	719	--	J3	2	PADDLEFOOT	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	NYMAN	2	1			41-28709	709	--	7V	1	LUCKY STRIKE	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	OLLUM	2	1			41-29302	302	--	7V	1	NOKKISH	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	PETERS	2	2	HENSON	L3	41-29288	288	--	J3	1	BIG-TIME OPERATOR	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	PIERCE	2	1			42-52353	353	--	Z5	2	UNKNOWN 049	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	RAITER	2	2			42-100366	366	--	Z5	2	MIZPAH	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	ROUBAL	2	1			41-29303	303	--	Z5	1	LIBERTY LIB	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	SCHAAF	2	1			41-29352	352	--	7V	1	WOLVE'S LAIR	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	SCHULZE	2	2			42-52335	335	--	Z5	2	ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	SIEVERS	2	1			42-52392	392	--	J4	1	WABBIT TWACKS	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	SLATON	2	1	FEILING	L1	42-100425	425	--	J3	1	THE BIRD	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	SPAVEN	2	1			41-29286	286	--	J4	1	UNKNOWN 011	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	TOOMAN	2	1	O'NEILL	L2	42-100408	408	--	J4	2	BEASTFACE	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	UMPHREY	2	2			41-29273	273	--	J4	2	FLAK MAGNET	
03-Mar-44	BERLIN	WELLS	2	1			41-28720	720	--	J3	2	UNKNOWN 004	