



## Formation and Marshalling Plan

## FORMATION PLAN

K-20  
UMPHREY M | 300

K-20  
HETZLER F | 667

K-20  
MCCULLOUGH D | 812

EAST

1. 431-37

2. 408-55

3. 311-23

4. 671-42

5. 372-41

6. 661-37

7. 276-47

8. 455-30

9. 121-43

10. 333-40

11. 812-21

12. 300-38

13. 303-34

14. 329-19

15. 457-31

16. 707-49

## WEST

1. 433-24

2. 362-8

3. 365-25

4. 245-112

5. 288-11

6. 335-4

7. 353-7

8. 682-1

9. 354-16

10. 331-15

11. 404-5

12. 432-14

13. 382-28

14. 135-36

15. 352-33

16. 719-13

17. 678-20

18. 342-17

## LEAD SECTION

K-21  
LAMB-FELLING

K-21  
CLAGETT A | 311

K-21  
CLARK-O'NEIL D | 408

K-21  
KOVICH P | 733

KECK  
O | 392

K-20  
ALVESTAD-GRIFFITH K | 671

K-20  
SCHAAF O | 455

MANER  
T | 276

ROURAL

K-20  
NYMAN H | 303

MANGRICH  
L | 329

NO TAKE OFF Q | 457

GOLDSMITH  
Q | 719

NO TAKE OFF

16 MARCH 19  
1944

SHAW  
L | 721

ROBERSON  
H | 705

## SECTION II HIGH RIGHT

K-21  
WHITLOW-JAMISON

B | 433

WOODWARD-HINGKLEY A | 362

K-21  
PETERS F | 331

K-20  
BURNIS L | 289

WELLS  
J | 389

BRUDOS  
M | 678

NOT SCHEDULED

K-20  
RAITOR K | 295

COUCH  
J | 353

K-20  
DAVIS I | 682

ABRAHAM  
GRANT J | 382

K-20  
GAINES S | 735

NO TAKE OFF K | 352

STROUP  
S | 342

ABRAHAM

HEADQUARTERS  
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Group Operations Officer

SECRET

AUTH 6-457 B G.

INITIALS: J.E.C.

DATE: 17/3/44

16 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 16 March 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H)

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A. Group . . . . .	458
B. Division F. O. No. . . . .	234
C. Date of Operation . . . . .	16 March 1944
D. Ordered Primary Target . . . . .	Friedrichshafen, (Mansell) - Dornier - Werke Acrft Factory.
E. Total A/C Taking Off . . . . .	30
F. No. A/C Dispatched . . . . .	27
G. Sorties . . . . .	26
H. No. A/C Attacking . . . . .	25
I. No. A/C Not Attacking . . . . .	5
J. No. A/C Attacking - Primary Target . .	Nil
K. No. A/C Attacking - Secondary Target .	5 52 x M47A1 Friedrichshafen Mayback Motor Werks Luftschiffbau Zeppelin Werks. 19 52 x M47A1 Friedrichshafen - City
L. No. A/C Attacking - Last Resort Target .	Nil
M. No. A/C Attacking - Opportunity Target .	1 52 x M47A1 Ravensburg
N. No. A/C Lost - Flak . . . . .	Nil
O. No. A/C Lost - Flak and E/A . . . . .	Nil
P. No. A/C Lost - E/A . . . . .	Nil
Q. No. A/C Lost - Accident . . . . .	Nil
R. No. A/C Lost - Cause Unknown . . . . .	1 Aircraft ditched in Channel.

*John E. Chamberlain*  
JOHN E. CHAMBERLAIN,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Asst Gp Opns Officer.

S-E-C-R-E-T

## HEADQUARTERS

AAF 123

APO 634

Office of the Group Operations Officer

AUTH C 645 P 62INITIAL J. E. C.DATE 14/3/44

17 March 1944

SUBJECT: Report of Operations Officer on Operational Mission For 16 March 1944.

T O : Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H), AAF 123, APO 634

1. General Narrative - Formation took off as scheduled. Assembly was not made as planned (diagram "A") because of the heavy cloud cover. Only four (4) aircraft found the leader of the first section, and the rest (22) formed on the leader of the second section. The two sections never got together and each fell into formation with different groups at the Wing assembly point. The smaller formation, hereafter referred to as the composite 458th Bombardment Group Formation) joined the 389th Bombardment Group, the larger formation, hereafter referred to as the Main 458th Bombardment Group Formation, joined an unidentified group. The course and events of each formation is outlined in attached Group Command Pilot's narrative (Main and Composite) and the Lead Pilot's narratives (Main and Composite).

2. Aircraft not attacking - Thirty aircraft took off. A/C 41-28721 returned to field before becoming dispatched. A/C 42-100408 returned to field after becoming dispatched. A/C 41-28735 returned to field before becoming dispatched. A/C 42-52353 returned to field before becoming dispatched. A/C 41-29276 failed to attack because of bombs not releasing. Twenty one (21) aircraft attacked the target in the main 458th Bombardment Group Formation (Diagram "B") and five (5) attacked the target in the composite group formation (diagram "C").

*John E. Chamberlain*  
JOHN E. CHAMBERLAIN,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Asst Gp Opns Officer.

SECRET

S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS  
AAF 123 APO 634  
Office of the Group Operations Officer

AUTH C 045806  
INITIAL J.F.C.  
DATE 28/3/44

17 March 1944

SUBJECT: Command Pilot's Narrative (Main Formation) of Operational Mission for 16 March 1944

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

1. Take off went as scheduled and we climbed through the overcast to assembly altitude. We circled Buncher 15 and saw a ship fire a yellow yellow flare. On going to join the ship it was found to have the group letter "J" on the vertical fin. We were not able to find the last section leader. At this time it was nearing departure time so we started firing yellow yellow flares as we circled. There were at least two other groups assembling in the area at this time, but we assembled seventeen ships before we departed at 0851 to the next point. We flew the route as planned until arriving at Begghy at which point we saw the formation just behind us, so we made a 360° turn and joined in as the high right group on the last group of the formation. While making the 360° turn we fired 6 to 8 more flares and 4 more ships of our group joined us.

2. We flew the high right position on the last group into enemy territory at which time the group with the designating letter of "J" slid in between the lower group and our group. We continued in this position to the target area.

3. Upon reaching the target area the group we were following came in upon a heading of 150° instead of the briefed heading. They passed about five miles to the right of the target which was visual at that time, although smoke pots could be seen in the target area. The preceding group continued flying down the lake but we turned our group about 180° and came back over the town of Fredrikshafen with the pilot guiding on the PFF smoke markers and the bombardier sighting on the shore line. The bombs were dropped on the town with fair results reported by personnel in following ships.

4. After leaving the target we joined the formation at the rally point and proceeded home. We were following a group which went several miles to the north of the briefed course which resulted in getting heavy flak near the towns of St. Quentin and Amiers. We turned slightly to the left here and left the flak area just before reaching the coast. After crossing the channel and reaching England, we proceeded directly home, reaching the field about 1545 hours.

5. Fighter support was excellent the entire trip to and from the target. The first section was not seen after take-off.

*Donald C. Jamison*  
DONALD C. JAMISON J.F.C.  
Major, Air Corps  
Command Pilot

S E C R E T

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS

AAF 123 APO 694  
Office of the Group Operations Officer

AUTH C 0 455 B. 6n  
INITIAL A. E. C.  
DATE 17/3/44

17 March 1944

SUBJECT: Lead Pilot's Narrative (Main Formation) of Operational Mission  
for 16 March 1944.

TO : Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H) AAF 123, APO 694.

1. Took off in ship 433 as assigned, leader of 2nd Section. Proceeded as briefed to above the overcast, arriving at 16,000 feet approximately at 0815. We circled passing over Buncher 15 on a heading of 45° to 60°. There were several groups in our area, one of which was firing yellow yellow flares. This was the 'J' Group. We never saw the group leader, assumed he had aborted.

2. We started firing yellow yellow flares and 21 ships assemble on us. We departed at 0851 following assembly units arriving Beachy Head about 0945, so as to make a sweeping 360° turn to tack on to the last box in the high right position off the low left group. We held this position all the way to the target.

3. At the Wing I.P., the groups turned too soon and passed about eight miles West of the target on a heading of about 150°. As we passed down the center of the lake, we saw the assigned target and the town. Directly over the town was what I thought to be a burst of 'rat Flak' but was actually a PFF smoke bomb.

4. Instead of following Wing leaders on sweeping left turn to the RP, I turned inside making about a 150° turn guiding on the 'rat flak'. My bombardier sighted on this and then dropped his bombs which were observed by the Radio Operator to hit in the center of the town. We then turned right so as to pass behind the wing and took up our position on the high right of the last group. Our 21 ships were still with us at this time.

5. Following this group, we were led on a course directly to Beachy Head. This led us over a large concentrated flak area. Three ships in our formation feathered engines. All of these ships reached England.

6. We landed at approximately 1600 hours.

Robert V. Whitlow, Jr.  
ROBERT V. WHITLOW, Jr.  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Lead Pilot (Main Form)

E-E-C-R-E-T

## HEADQUARTERS

AAF 123

APO 634

Office of the Group Operations Officer

AUTH C O 458 B. G.

INITIAL J. R. C.

DATE 7/13/44

17 March 1944

**SUBJECT:** Lead Bombardier's Narrative (Main Formation) of Operational Mission for 16 March 1944.

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

1. Bombing Approach and run- Due to difficulty in assembly, our ship led a group of 21 ships into the target. At the wing I.P. a green-yellow flare was observed, but the pathfinder ship could not be located from our position. After the turn at the Wing I.P., we uncovered to the right of the group leading us and then followed them into the target on a heading of 150°. There was a break in the 8/10 to 10/10 cloud cover when we were approximately 60 seconds from the target. The target was visible and identified at that time. Our lead group made a run on the primary target and their bombs were observed to hit to the right and over. Since we were too far to the right of the target to make a run, we continued on our heading and then made a 180° turn short and to the right of the rally point. After this turn was made, clouds had again covered the primary target. The coastline at the city of Friedrichshafen was visible, however, so we made a visual bombing run on that town on a heading of 328°. Bombs were away at 1210. Crews in the following ships reported observing hits along the coast. Many of the bombs were seen going into the clouds, which had come in over the city. Light flak was observed over the target and over the city. Smoke screens were thrown up along the coastline. At least 3 boats were observed with smoke pots aboard.

2. Disposition of Bombs- Our formation over the target consisted of 21 Aircraft. Bombs were dropped by 19 A/C over target. One A/C dropped bombs on a target of opportunity, identified as the town of Ravensburg, 10 miles North of the target. A second A/C salvoed bombs through undercast over an unidentified place in Southern France. This was done because of danger due to a gas leak. Their racks would not unlock over target. Each A/C carried fifty two (52) M47A1-70 lb. incendiaries. A total of 988 bombs were dropped on the target.

3. Types of Release- Eighteen of the A/C which bombed target released bombs by means of the intervalometer. One A/C released mechanically because racks froze. Crew which jettisoned bombs in France used pilot's salvo. One ship had doors creep over target, but released bombs on second toggle. Intervalometer setting used was minimum.

*William C. Lawrence*  
 WILLIAM C. LAWRENCE,  
 2nd Lt., Air Corps,  
 Lead Bombardier (Main Form)

SECRET

AUTH: C. 458 D. 62

INITIALS J. G.

DATE: 17/3/44

HEADQUARTERS  
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Group Navigation Officer

17 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Lead Navigator's Report, Mission of 16 March 1944, (Main Form)

TO: Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H).

1. The Group leader took off at 0725 hours. Group assembly was to be made over field at 16,000 feet. The second section and first section never got together. Assembly altitudes were confused and the second section had over three-fourths of the ships. After assembly, flew briefed route to Beachy Head, did one 360 degree turn, and tacked onto Combat Wing at Beachy Head.

2. Gee fixes showed us to be on briefed course over in England and as far as the French Coast and the metro date checked out. Started to climb at Beachy Head at 0957 hours and completed climb at 1015 hours.

3. Crossed French Coast at 1015 hours and course to target was as briefed. Bombs away at 1212. Recrossed French Coast at 1428 hours.

4. Course back over channel was off to the right. Crossed the coast at 50° 05' N 01° 14' E at 1428 hours and preceded to Beachy Head. Flew briefed route back to base. Landed 1545 hours.

*Robert O Mac George, J.S.C.*  
ROBERT O. MAC GEORGE,  
2nd Lt, Air Corps,  
Lead Navigator.

SECRET



**SECRET**

HEADQUARTERS  
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
AAF 123 APO 634  
Office of the Operations Officer

**SECRET**

AUTH: C 6458 B G  
INITIALS J.S.C.  
DATE 14/3/44

19 March 1944

**SUBJECT:** Command Pilot's Narrative of Operations, Mission of 16 March 1944.

**TO:** Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H).

1. The Group took off and on schedule under the instrument plan. Assembly was to be made on top at 16,000 feet. The top of the overcast was at 12,000 feet with bases at 10,000 feet. Only five planes had joined with me at departure time. The 445th, which was to depart Buncher 15 as lead of the Wing could not be seen as a Group, and I departed along the Wing and Division assembly line.
2. Having only a small unit and not being able to find the 445th Group on whom we were to assemble, I joined the 389th Group and flew as high right section on their leader throughout the entire trip.
3. Bombing was done by dropping on the 389th pathfinder, through overcast at the target. No enemy fighters were seen and flak was extremely light except at the target area where it was moderate but inaccurate.
4. Investigation showed that failure of the Group to assemble on me was due to the fact that the second section leader fired flares and twenty one planes assembled with him. No one in my plane reported seeing any other planes firing flares and as a result no rendezvous was made by my small section with the rest of the Group.

*Brunow W. Feiling*  
BRUNOW W. FEILING J.S.C.  
Major, AG  
Operations Officer

**SECRET**

HEADQUARTERS  
STATION 123 A.F.O. 634  
Office of the Intelligence Officer

CMB/arm

17 March 1944

SUBJECT: S-2 Report, Mission of 17 March 1944, Friedrichshaven (Mansell).  
TO : Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H), Station 123,  
A.F.O. 634.

ENEMY AIR CRAFT OPPOSITION

1. The majority of the crews dispatched on the mission reported negative fighter opposition. Positive reports were made, however, that ten (10) FW-190's and nineteen (19) ME-109's were sighted along the latter half of the return route.
2. As a rule, the enemy fighters contented themselves with circling at a safe distance awaiting a chance to jump stragglers. These were reported in the vicinity of Bar-le-duc, Vitry and Epervier. In the St. Quentin area a plane clearly identified as a P-47 painted silver grey with yellow nose and tail joined three (3) ME-109's marked the same in an attack on the last section of the formation from six o'clock. Over Amiens a FW-190 made one sweep from eleven o'clock as a decoy while four (4) ME-109's attacked from five o'clock.
3. No damage was caused by enemy aircraft opposition and no claims are made.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE

4. Flak on the briefed route was negligible and planes that flew that course reported but few bursts. Other aircraft, however, that went off on a tangent over western France ran into moderate to intense flak of continuous following variety that was extremely accurate. The main sources of this anti-aircraft fire were Glisy, Amiens and Abbeyville.

OBSERVATIONS

5. An effective smoke screen from pots along the shore of Lake Constance and from barges off shore was observed in the target area. At least two (2) four-engine seaplanes were anchored off Mansell.

*William H. Donnan, Jr. D.C.*  
for CHARLES M. DERRY  
Capt., AG  
Group S-2

SECRET

## 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
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	ALVESTAD	8	4	GRIFFITH	L	41-28671	671	K	J4	6	UNKNOWN 001	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	BITTLER	8	5			42-100365	365	B	7V	6	WOLFGANG (maybe)	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	BRUDOS	8	6			41-28678	678	M	J3	6	UNKNOWN 002	NOT SCHEDULED
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	BURTIS	8	4			41-29288	288	L	J3	5	BIG-TIME OPERATOR	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	CLAGGETT	8	3			42-100311	311	A	7V	5	YOKUM BOY	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	CLARK	8	4	O'NEILL	D1	42-100408	408	D	J4	4	BEASTFACE	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	COUCH	8	ABT			42-52353	353	J	Z5	--	UNKNOWN 049	ABORT - #3 PROP GOV RUNAWAY
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	CRAGUN	8	NTO			41-29352	352	K	7V	--	WOLVE'S LAIR	NO TAKE OFF - #1 ENG START SHFT SHEARED
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	DAVIS	8	1			41-28682	682	I	Z5	8	UNKNOWN 003	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	GAINES	8	ABT			41-28735	735	S	J4	--	UNKNOWN 005	ABORT - #2 ENG THROWING OIL, SMOKING
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	GOLDSMITH	8	NTO			41-28719	719	Q	J3	--	PADDLEFOOT	NO TAKE OFF - SORTIE?
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	GRANT	8	6			42-52382	382	J	7V	6	WURF'LESS	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	HETZLER	8	5			41-28667	667	F	7V	5	JAYHAWKER	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	KECK	8	5			42-52392	392	O	J4	3	WABBIT TWACKS	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	KOVICH	8	4			41-28733	733	P	J4	3	RHAPSODY IN JUNK	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	LAMB	8	4	FEILING	L1	42-100431	431	B	J4	3	BOMB-AH-DEAR	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	MANGERICH	8	5			41-29329	329	L	7V	5	FRITZI	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	MANKER	8	1			41-29276	276	T	J4	2	URGIN VIRGIN/The ROTTEN SOCK	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	McCOLLOUGH	8	2			42-109812	812	D	7V	4	UNKNOWN 016	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	NYMAN	8	NTO			42-52457	457	Q	7V	--	FINAL APPROACH	NO TAKE OFF - GUNS NOT INSTALLED IN A/C
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	PETERS	8	FTR			41-29331	331	F	J3	5	BLONDIE'S FOLLY	DITCHED IN CHANNEL
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	RAITER	8	6			41-29295	295	K	Z5	1	BOMB TOTIN' MAMA	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	ROBESON	8	5			41-28705	705	H	J4	7	YE OLDE HELLGATE	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	ROUBAL	8	5			41-29303	303	H	Z5	5	LIBERTY LIB	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	SCHAAF	8	5			42-52455	455	O	7V	3	PLUTOCRAT	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	SCHULZE	8	NTO			42-52335	335	R	Z5	--	ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER	NO TAKE OFF - #1 CARB JETS CLOGGED
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	SHAW, C	8	ABT			41-28721	721	L	J4	--	DOWNWIND LEG	ABORT - FUEL LEAK AUX FILLER CAPS
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	STEWART	8	2			42-52432	432	P	J3	6	BACHELOR'S PARADISE	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	STILSON	8	NTO			42-52404	404	Q	Z5	--	BELLE OF BOSTON	NO TAKE OFF - SORTIE?
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	STROUP	8	4			41-29342	342	S	J3	4	ROUGH RIDERS	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	UMPHREY	8	5			41-29300	300	M	J4	6	LORELEI	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	WELLS	8	4			41-29359	359	J	J3	4	TAIL WIND	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	WHITLOW	8	5	JAMISON	L2	42-100433	433	B	J3	4	BIG DICK HARD TO HIT	
16-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	WOODWARD	8	2	HINCKLEY	D2	42-100362	362	A	Z5	6	SWEET LORRAINE/BOOMERANG	