

HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

<u>FIELD ORDER NO.</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>DATE</u>
578	VARIOUS MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN FRANCE	20 APRIL 1944

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2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AAF 147 APO 558

S E C R E T

: By Auth of CG :
: 2d Bomb Div :
: Initials *WJP* :
: Date *13 May 44* :
: : : :
11 May 1944

SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, 20 April 1944

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, AAF 101, APO 634.

1. Data.

a. Date of Mission - 20 April 1944

b. Primary Target -

20th Combat Wing
93rd Bomb Group - Yvrench/Bois
446th Bomb Group - Flexecourt/Domart
448th Bomb Group - Bonnières

96th Combat Wing - Siracourt

2nd Combat Wing - Wizernes

14th Combat Wing - Mimoyecques

c. Secondary Target - None

d. Last Resort Target - None

e. Units Participating - 20th CBW (93rd, 446th, 448th BG)
96th CBW (458th, 467th, 466th BG)
2nd CBW (453rd, 445th, 389th BG)
14th CBW (392nd, 44th BG)

2. Narrative

a. Four Combat Wings dispatched 212 aircraft from eleven Groups to attack the Noball targets at Yvrench/Bois Carre, Flexecourt/Domart, Bonnières, Siracourt, Wizernes and Marquis-Mimoyecque. Excellent fighter support was given by five Groups of P-47's and two Groups of P-38's.

b. Assemblies were accomplished without incident and the routes to and from the target were flown as briefed.

c. The 2nd Combat Wing attacked Wizernes with fair results; one Squadron of the 453rd Bomb Group was unable to pick up the target and did not bomb. Clouds in the target area at Siracourt prevented the 96th Combat Wing from bombing and one Squadron dropped on Isbergues, believing it to be Siracourt, with poor results. The 14th Combat Wing found its target, Marquis-Mimoyecque, completely covered by cloud and did not bomb. One Squadron of the 392nd Group picked up the target through a small opening and bombed with unobserved results. Bonnières, the target of the 448th Bomb Group, was cloud covered and only two flights could bomb, results being poor. The 93rd Bomb Group attacked Yvrench/Bois Carre with poor results. The 446th Group attacked Flexecourt with fair results.

d. Flak was moderate to intense and accurate in the target area and accounted for our two losses. There were no enemy aircraft attacks.

For the Commanding General:

Charles E. Westover
CHARLES E. WESTOVER
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

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Tactical Report of Mission, 20 April 1944

2. Bombing.

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLEW AUTO PILOT	FLEW MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLECT	RANGE	NUMBER A/C BOMBED
93	240°	40 secs.	20,000 ft	1901	<u>YVRENCH/BOIS</u> X		4	4	13
446	60°	2 min.	19,500 ft	1859	<u>FLIXICOURT</u>	X	4	4	12
448	30°	20 secs.	20,500 ft	1857	<u>BONNIERES</u> X		2	2	6
466	48°	20 secs.	21,000 ft	1903	<u>ISBERGUES</u>	X	1	1	14
453	51°	1 min.	20,000 ft	1904	<u>WIZERNES</u>	X	1	1	8
445	54°	1 min.	18,500 ft	1900		X	2	2	26
389	35°	2 min.	21,000 ft	1902	X		2	2	26
392	83°	1 min.	19,000 ft	1905	<u>MARQUIS</u>	X	1	1	7

- The assigned primary targets for this visual mission were Flixicourt, Yvrench/Bois, Bonnières, Biracourt, Wizernes, and Marquis.
- Yvrench/Bois was attacked by one Group in four elements, the first element making two runs. Flixicourt was attacked in four elements, the first element making three runs due to cloud. Bonnières was attacked by two elements of one Group. Isbergues was attacked because of faulty target identification. Two Groups and one Squadron attacked Wizernes. One Squadron made two runs and attacked Marquis.
- Two Groups did not bomb due to clouds. One Squadron was off course and did not bomb. One flight failed to bomb because the lead was shot down and another flight failed to bomb due to clouds. One flight leader had his bombsight freeze and dropped on a preceding flight.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 20 April 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. Meager to moderate and accurate predictor control fire was encountered at Target No. 39.
- b. No AA was encountered at Target No. 85.
- c. Meager to moderate and accurate predictor control fire was encountered at Target No. 36.
- d. Moderate and accurate predictor control fire was encountered at Target No. 7. Gunfire was encountered almost continuously from Abbeville to the target.
- e. Moderate and accurate predictor control fire was encountered at Target No. 5.
- f. Moderate to intense and accurate predictor control fire was encountered at Target No. 9.
- g. Moderate and accurate gunfire was also encountered at Abbeville, Oisemont, Dieppe, Neufchatel, Amiens, St. Ouen and Calais. Rockets leaving smoke trails were seen at Le Treport.
- h. One A/C was shot down near St. Ouen at 19,000 ft, and the other missing A/C is believed to have been shot down at St. Omer at approximately 19,000 ft.

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5. Communications.

- a. Transmission and reception on both W/T and R/T channels was satisfactory, with only slight interference reported. Railing type jamming on GEE was encountered from enemy coast in to target area and return.

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FORM V-11		20 April 1944									
AIRCRAFT	UNIT	2BD	389	445	453	44	392	93	446	448	Tactical Unit of Action
	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	213	26	26	26	26	27	14	12	12	
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	212	26	26	25	26	27	14	12	12	
	NO. A/C ATTENDING	112	26	26	8	-	7	13	12	6	
	NO. A/C NOT ATTENDING	101	-	-	18	26	20	1	-	6	
	NO. A/C SIGHTED	211	26	26	25	25	27	14	12	12	
BOMBERS	NO. A/C	98	26	26	8	-	7	13	12	6	Statistical Unit of Action
	NO. & TYPE	536x1000GP 367x500GP	208x1000GP	208x1000GP	64x1000GP	-	56x1000GP	156x500GP	144x500GP	67x500GP	
	TONNAGE	359.8	104.0	104.0	32.0	-	28.0	39.0	36.0	16.8	
	TARGET	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	NO. OF A/C	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	NO. & TYPE	110x1000GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BATTLE RESULTS	TONNAGE	55.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	REMARKS BY STATISTICAL CONTROL 2D BOMB DIVISION
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	414.8	104.0	104.0	32.0	-	28.0	39.0	36.0	16.8	
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	A/C LOST TO E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
RESULTS	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	REMARKS BY STATISTICAL CONTROL 2D BOMB DIVISION
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, LIA	9-4-0-20	-	2-4-0-10	-	-	-	6-0-0-0	-	0-0-0-10	
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, FACED, DAM., NO CLAIM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Out of A/C-B-2	23-12-1-1	0-1-0-0	9-6-0-1	5-2-1-0	1-2-0-0	1-0-0-0	-	1-0-0-0	-	

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FORM V-11

20 April 1944

UNIT		2BD	458	466	467
AIRCRAFT	NO. A/C TAKING OFF		15	15	14
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED		15	15	14
	NO. A/C ATTENDING		-	14	-
	NO. A/C NOT ATTENDING		15	1	14
	NO. A/C SORTIES		15	15	14
BOBS	RT NO. A/C		-	-	-
	IR NO. & TYPE		-	-	-
	AG NO. & TYPE		-	-	-
	RE NO. & TYPE		-	-	-
	YT TONNAGE		-	-	-
	OT TONNAGE		-	TO-Bergues	-
	TT NO. OF A/C		-	14	-
	EA NO. & TYPE		-	110x1000GP	-
	RG NO. & TYPE		-	55.0	-
	ES TONNAGE		-	55.0	-
RESULTS	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS		-	55.0	-
	A/C LOST TO FLAK		-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO E/A		-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A		-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT		-	-	-
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN		-	-	-
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED		-	-	1-0-0-0
	SEVERELY, SLIGHTLY, IA		-	-	-
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED,		-	-	-
	PROB., DASH., NO CLAIM		-	-	-
RESULTS	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE		1-0-0-0	-	5-1-0-0
	CAT A/C R-R		-	-	-

Tactical Report of Action
6th Bombardment Group of OperationsPREPARED BY:
OFFICIAL REPORT
2d SOB DIVISION

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AUTH: C045860

INITIALS: JSW

DATE: 21 Apr.

HEADQUARTERS

458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)

AAF 123

APG 558

Office of the Operations Officer

21 April 1944.

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 20 April 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H), AAF 123, APG 558.

A. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A. Group	458
B. Division Field Order No	267
C. Date of Operations.	20 April 1944
D. Ordered Primary Target.	No Ball (Siracourt)
E. A/C Taking Off.	15
F. A/C Dispatched.	15
G. Sorties	15
H. A/C Attacking	Nil
I. A/C Not Attacking	15
J. A/C Attacking - Primary Target.	Nil
K. A/C Attacking - Secondary Target.	Nil
L. A/C Attacking - Last Resort Target.	Nil
M. A/C Attacking - Opportunity Target.	Nil
N. A/C Lost - Flak	Nil
O. A/C Lost - Flak and E/A	Nil
P. A/C Lost - E/A	Nil
Q. A/C Lost - Accident	Nil
R. A/C Lost - Cause Unknown.	Nil

Joseph S. Williams
JOSEPH S. WILLIAMS
1st Lt, Air Corps
Group Statistical Officer.

S E C R E T

Mission # 36

FORMATION PLAN

20 April 1944

~~WOBWARD~~ HOGG-ROGENMUSER

K-21 : 366 B

C

TILSON

K-21 : 404 Q

COMBS-HENSON-JOHNSON

K-21 : 357 D

CLAGGETT-HENSLEY

K-21; 311 A

C

GULICK

K-20: 340 N

WEBER-FREEMAN

: 365 B

OLNEY

: 359 J

BURTIS

K-21 : 441 I D

VOGEL

K-20 : 342 S

allway

MANIER

: 276 T

NEDROW

K-20 : 303 H

SHAW

: 721 L

D

CLARK

K-21 : 273 Q

CRAGUN

K-20: 352 K

GAINES

: 735 S

TAKE OFF ON RUNWAY # 23

Order of Take Off	
W366-10	1. E.
357-12	2.
404-3	3.
	4. 276-42
311-23	5.
441-14	6.
	7. 721-43
303-28	8.
365-25	9.

W.	E.
340-34	10.
342-17	11.
359-16	12.
	13. 273-45
	14. 735-47
352-33	15.

458th Pilots and Aircraft as listed on Formation Plans

Date	Target	Pilot	458th Msn	Pilot Msn	Cmd Pilot	Ld	Serial	Last 3	RCL	Sqdn	A/C Msn	A/C Name	Comments
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	BURTIS	24	13			42-52441	441	I	J3	17	LAST CARD LOUIE	
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	CLAGGETT	24	6	HENSLER	L2	42-100311	311	A	7V	13	YOKUM BOY	
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	CLARK	24	10			41-29273	273	Q	J4	20	FLAK MAGNET	
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	COMBS	24	9	HENSON	D1	42-100357	357	D	Z5	9	VALE OREGAN	JOHNSON (LEAD NAV?)
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	CRAGUN	24	11			41-29352	352	K	7V	14	WOLVE'S LAIR	
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	GAINES	24	11			41-28735	735	S	J4	12	UNKNOWN 005	
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	GULICK	24	10			41-29340	340	N	7V	7	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	MANKER	24	11			41-29276	276	T	J4	9	URGIN VIRGIN/The ROTTEN SOCK	
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	NEDROW	24	7			41-29303	303	H	Z5	17	LIBERTY LIB	
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	OLNEY	24	5			41-29359	359	J	J3	16	TAIL WIND	
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	SHAW, C	24	11			41-28721	721	L	J4	16	DOWNWIND LEG	
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	STILSON	24	11			42-52404	404	Q	Z5	11	BELLE OF BOSTON	
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	VOGEL	24	14			41-29342	342	S	J3	7	ROUGH RIDERS	
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	WEBER	24	10	FREEMAN	D2	42-100365	365	B	7V	14	WOLFGANG (maybe)	
20-Apr-44	SIRACOURT	WOODWARD	24	10	HOGG	L1	42-100366	366	B	Z5	11	MIZPAH	ROGENMUSER (LEAD NAV)