

HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

<u>FIELD ORDER NO.</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>DATE</u>
591	LEIPZIG A/F GUELINGEN A/F	24 APRIL 1944

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2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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: S E C R E T
: By Auth of CG
: 2d Bomb Div
: Initials [Signature]
: Date 17 May 64

By Auth of CG
2d Bomb Div
Initials XXX
Date 17 May 64

16 May 1944

SUBJECT : Tactical Report of Mission, 24 April 1942.

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

1. Date.

- a. Date of Mission - 24 April 1944.
- b. Primary Targets: Leipheim and Gablingen Airfield and Airpark.
2nd and 20th Combat Wings - Motor Transport Yards and Hangars
at Airfield at Gablingen.

96th Combat Wing "A" and 96th Combat Wing "B" - Hangars and
Workshop at Airparks at Leipheim.
- c. Secondary Targets: Neckarsulm and Kaiserslauten engine work-
shops.

2nd and 20th Combat Wings - Engine workshops at Neckarsulm.

96th Combat Wing "A" and 96th Combat Wing "B" - Hangars and
workshops at airpark at Gablingen.
- d. Last Resort: All Combat Wings - machine shops at Kaiserslauten.
- e. Units Participating - 20th CLW (446th, 448th, 93rd BG).
2nd CBW (389th, 445th, 459rd BG).
96th CBW "A" (467th, 400th BG).
96th CBW "B" (458th, 392nd BG).

2. Narrative.

- a. Ten Groups from three Combat Wings dispatched 230 aircraft to attack targets at Leipheim and Gablingen. Six Groups of P-47s, three Groups of P-51s and one Group of P-38s provided excellent fighter support.
- b. Assemblies were accomplished without incident and the mission was flown as briefed.
- c. The 2nd and 20th Combat Wings bombed the motor transport yards and hangars at the airfield at Gablingen with excellent results. The hangars and workshops at the air park at Leipheim were bombed by the 96th Combat Wing with excellent results.
- d. Flak was moderate to heavy and accurate in the target area. Fifteen single-engined and twin-engined fighters attacked the 20th Combat Wing between Leige and Brussels. The losses were four aircraft, one to flak, one to enemy aircraft and two to unknown causes. One enemy aircraft is claimed as destroyed.

For the Commanding General:

CHARLES B. WESTOVER
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

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Tactical Report of Mission, 24 April 1944

2. Bombing.

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	PILOT FLEW AUTO FLEW MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLECT	RANGE	NUMBER A/C BOMBED
					<u>GABLINGEN</u>			
446	120	2 min.	18,000 ft	1344	X	2	2	26
448	110	2 min.	19,500 ft	1344	X	2	2	24
93	106	3 min.	18,000 ft	1346	X	2	2	23
389	118	3 min.	18,000 ft	1350	X	1	1	13
453	122	1½ min.	17,000 ft	1351	X	1	1	13
445	122	3½ min.	18,500 ft	1352½	X	2	2	21
					<u>LEIPHEIM</u>			
467	128	2 min.	18,000 ft	1346	X	2	2	26
466	130	4 min.	19,000 ft	1347	X	2	2	22
458	120	4 min.	18,000 ft	1349	X	2	2	24
392	132	3 min.	19,000 ft	1351	X	2	2	25

- The assigned primary targets for this visual mission were the Gablingen and Leipheim airfields.
- Gablingen was attacked by six Groups with excellent results. Four Groups attacked Leipheim also with excellent results. One A/C jettisoned its bombs at 4825-0634 due to battle damage. Another A/C dropped its bombs on the Margny A/D upon return early.
- Lead A/C of one Group had only one bomb release electrically and had to salvo the rest of the load.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 24 April 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. (1) The 446th Group encountered an inaccurate predicted concentration during the bombing run on Gablingen, and the 448th and 93rd Groups encountered meager and inaccurate predictor control fire. The 389th Group encountered moderate to intense and fairly accurate predictor control fire during their bombing run, but the 445th Group which was following closely behind encountered only meager fire. The 453rd Group encountered moderate and inaccurate predictor control fire.
- (2) No flak was encountered at Leipheim.
- (3) Moderate heavy flak was encountered on route at Foucarmont, Liege, Lille, Heilbrunn, Neufchatel, Strasbourg, Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Dunkirk and Ostend.
- (4) Meager heavy flak was encountered at St. Dizier, Courtrai, Dieppe, Somme Sous area, Chievres, Trier, Vitry le Francois, Nivelles and Le Culet.
- (5) Rockets were seen in the target area.
- (6) Green, yellow and blue smoke puffs were seen at Liege and Lille.
- (7) Heavy flak bursts were seen at Ostend which emitted five or six small projectiles which burst again.
- (8) One A/C was shot down west of Courtrai at approximately 18,000 ft.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 24 April 1944.

4. Enemy Aircraft Encounters.

- a. The 2nd Combat Wing did not see any E/A.
- b. The Group flying the lead position of the 20th Combat Wing report sighting three or four SE E/A in the Brussels area on the route back to base. No attacks were made. The Group in the high right spot report 15 ME 109s and FW 190s and 2 ME 410s in an area between Huy and Brussels on the route out. The SE E/A simulated escort tactics and attacked, queued up from six o'clock breaking off with a split S. Particular attention was given to straggling aircraft. Yellow noses and red and black checkerboard were the colors of the SE E/A. The Group flying low left position report sighting 4 FW 190s making an attack on a formation to the rear in the vicinity of Liege on the route out.
- c. No sightings of E/A were reported by the remaining units of the Division.
- d. It is estimated that a total of 15 E/A were observed by units of this Division, predominantly ME 109s. A few FW 190s and the two ME 410s make up the remainder of the total. The enemy's effort against units of this Division was very weak. The few attacks which took place did so in the Liege-Brussels area on the route back to base.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 24 April 1944

5. Communications.

- a. VHF R/T communications was excellent. Reception from aircraft at control point two, a distance of 175 miles, was loud and clear. The usual railing type of jamming was evident on GEE from enemy coast inland.

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FORM V-11

24 April

1964

UNIT		2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH	9TH	446	448	458
AIRCRAFT	NO. A/C TAKEN OFF	246	14	24	15	28	28	28	27	26
	NO. A/C DITCHED	230	13	21	15	26	26	26	25	24
	NO. A/C TIED UP	212	13	21	15	26	23	26	24	24
	NO. A/C NOT TIED UP	27	1	3	2	2	5	2	3	2
	NO. A/C SQUISHED	228	13	21	15	26	26	26	25	24
BOAT	NO. A/C	217	13	21	13	25	23	26	24	24
	NO. & TYPE	1513-1000P							110-5000P	
	NO. & TYPE	1089-1000P							475-1000P	239-5000P
	NO. & TYPE	2580-1000P	130-5000P	1092-1000P	130-5000P	1296-1000P	1190-1000P	1040-1000P		
	TOTAL	527.1	32.5	54.6	32.5	67.5	59.5	52.0	51.3	59.3
	TOTAL	-	-	-	-	4825H	-	-	-	-
	NO. OF A/C	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	NO. & TYPE	10-5000P				52-1000P	-	-	-	-
	NO. & TYPE	52-1000P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	5.1	-	-	-	2.6	-	-	-	-
BATTLE	TOTAL FOR ALL 1-30-64	532.2	32.5	54.6	32.5	67.5	59.5	52.0	51.3	59.3
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO E/A	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, GUNDED									
	CLAIMS - E/A LOST TO FLAK	0-0-0-10	-	0-0-0-10	-	0-0-0-30	-	-	0-0-0-10	-
	CLAIMS - E/A LOST TO FLAK	1-0-0-0	-	1-0-1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	21-5-0-0	3-0-0-0	6-0-0-0	-	1-1-0-0	1-1-0-0	-	1-1-0-0	-

National A/C of Losses

 Form V-11
 National A/C of Losses
 24 April 1964

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AUTH: CO 42868

INITIALS: JSW

DATE: 25 Apr.

HEADQUARTERS
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
AAF 123 APO 558
Office of the Operations Officer

25 April 1944.

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 24 April 1944.

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

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A. Group	458	
B. Division Field Order No	271	
C. Date of Operation	24 April 1944	
D. Ordered Primary Target.	Leipzig A/F	
E. A/C Taking Off.	26	
F. A/C Dispatched.	25	
G. Sorties	24	
H. A/C Attacking	24	
I. A/C Not Attacking	2	
J. A/C Attacking - Primary Target.	24	23 - 10 X 500 GP 1 - 9 X 500 GP (One bomb hung- salvoed)
K. A/C Attacking - Secondary Target.	N11	
L. A/C Attacking - Last Resort Target.	N11	
M. A/C Attacking - Opportunity Target.	N11	
N. A/C Lost - Flak	N11	
O. A/C Lost - Flak and E/A	N11	
P. A/C Lost - E/A	N11	
Q. A/C Lost - Accident	N11	
R. A/C Lost - Cause Unknown.	N11	

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

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MISSION # 40

24 APRIL 1944

Tooman-O'Neill-Wiggins
 K 21 431 | B
 De Neffe
 K 20 300 | M
 Keck-Moore-Groes
 K 21 341 | A
 Robeson
 K 20 705 | H
 Taylor
 K 20 718 | M
 Alvestad
 K 21 812 | D
 Davidson
 721 | L **ABORT**
 Geines
 735 | S **ABORT**
 Andrew
 733 | P
 Crasun
 352 | K
 Gulick
 340 | N **NTD**
 Schaff
 K 20 302 | P
 Almerman
 457 | Q
 McCollough
 455 | O

SECTION II

Slaton-La Roche
 K 21 407 | A
 Glenn-Olsen
 K 21 433 | B
 Schulze
 K 21 33 | R
 Claggett
 K 21 511 | A
 Melton
 719 | C
 Wells
 441 | I
 Watson
 738 | O
 Gentry
 342 | S
 Weber
 K 20 345 | B **NTD**
 Breuer
 682 | I
 Olney
 K 21 359 | J
 Kingley
 K 21 303 | N

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
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	ALVESTAD	26	13			41-28706	706	F	J4	11	DREAM BOAT/SPARE PARTS	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	ANDREW	26	5			41-28733	733	P	J4	18	RHAPSODY IN JUNK	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	BRAUER	26	14			41-28682	682	I	Z5	20	UNKNOWN 003	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	BRUDOS	26	14			41-29288	288	L	J3	6	BIG-TIME OPERATOR	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	CLAGGETT	26	8			42-100311	311	A	7V	15	YOKUM BOY	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	CRAGUN	26	12			41-29352	352	K	7V	15	WOLVE'S LAIR	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	DAVIDSON	26	ABT			41-28721	721	L	J4	--	DOWNWIND LEG	ABORT - PILOT RPT TAIL FLUTTER
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	DeNEFFE	26	13			41-29300	300	M	J4	20	LORELEI	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	GAINES	26	ABT			41-28735	735	S	J4	--	UNKNOWN 005	ABORT - GAS LEAK AROUND FILLER CAPS
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	GENTRY	26	1			41-29342	342	S	J3	9	ROUGH RIDERS	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	GLENN	26	11	OLLUM	D2	42-100433	433	B	J3	12	BIG DICK HARD TO HIT	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	GULICK	26	NT0			41-29340	340	N	7V	--	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	NO TAKE OFF - BOMB DOOR HANG OPEN
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	KECK	26	13	MOORE	D1	42-100341	341	A	J4	11	SATAN'S MATE	NAV - GROSS
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	KINGSLEY	26	9			41-29305	305	N	Z5	13	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	McCOLLOUGH	26	12			42-52455	455	O	7V	17	PLUTOCRAT	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	MELTON	26	14			41-28719	719	Q	J3	15	PADDLEFOOT	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	OLNEY	26	6			41-29359	359	J	J3	17	TAIL WIND	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	ROBESON	26	17			41-28705	705	H	J4	19	YE OLDE HELLGATE	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	ROUBAL	26	16			42-109812	812	D	7V	11	UNKNOWN 016	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	SCHAAF	26	16			41-29302	302	P	7V	13	NOKKISH	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	SCHULZE	26	16			42-52335	335	R	Z5	20	ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	SLATON	26	7	LaROCHE	L2	42-100407	407	A	J3	8	LITTLE LAMBSY DIVEY	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	TAYLOR, O	26	16			41-28718	718	M	7V	22	BO	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	TOOMAN	26	8	O'NEILL	L1	42-100431	431	B	J4	12	BOMB-AH-DEAR	NAV - HIGGINS
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	WATSON	26	12			41-28738	738	O	Z5	11	MEAT AROUND THE CORNER	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	WEBER	26	NT0			42-100365	365	B	7V	--	WOLFGANG (maybe)	NO TAKE OFF - BRAKES LOCK WHEN TAXIING
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	WELLS	26	13			42-52441	441	I	J3	19	LAST CARD LOUIE	
24-Apr-44	LEIPHEIM A/F	ZIMMERMAN	26	9			42-52457	457	Q	7V	16	FINAL APPROACH	