

HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

595

TARGET

MANHEIM

DATE

25 APRIL 1944

T
H
I
S

P
A
G
E

I
S

U
N
C
L
A
S
S
I
F
I
E
D

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

- ANNEX 1 - ROUTES
- ANNEX 2 - BOMBING
- ANNEX 3 - ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE
- ANNEX 4 - ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS
- ANNEX 5 - COMMUNICATIONS
- ANNEX 6 - STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 52009, 27 Sep 58

COPI NO. 2

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AAF 147 APO 558

SECRET
By Auth of OG
2d Bomb Div
Initials *158*
Date *22 May 1944*
111111

21 May 1944

SUBJECT : Tactical Report of Mission, 25 April 1944.

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

1. Data.

- a. Date of Mission - 25 April 1944.
- b. Primary Target - Mannheim, Marshalling Yards.
- c. Secondary Target - Mannheim, Center of City.
- d. Last Resort Target - Kaiserslautern, Marshalling Yards and Railroad Workshops.
- e. Units Participating - 96th CBN (453th, 466th, 467th BG).
2nd CBN (453rd, 389th, 445th BG).
20th CBN (93rd, 446th, 448th BG).

2. Narrative.

a. Nine Groups from three Combat Wings dispatched 200 aircraft to visually attack the marshalling yards at Mannheim, Germany. Four Groups of P-47s, two Groups of P-51s, one Group of P-38s and one Group of A-1 Mustangs provided escort.

b. Assemblies were accomplished without incident. Units departed the English coast five minutes early and the briefed route was flown to the enemy coast. Cloud cover and wind differential other than briefed prevented the lead navigator from doing exact navigation, and units were flown south of course. The navigator finally pinpointed himself through a break in the clouds and corrected the course to pick up the IP. From this point the route was flown as briefed.

c. The target areas were covered with 9/10 cloud and the following units were unable to attack and returned with bombs: 20th Combat Wing, 467th Bomb Group, 389th Bomb Group and the lead Squadron of the 466th Bomb Group. The second Squadron of the 466th Bomb Group attacked the Marshalling Yards at Mannheim with good results. The 445th Bomb Group attacked the Marshalling Yards at Landau, a target of opportunity, with fair results. The 453rd Bomb Group jettisoned its bombs in an open field northwest of Mannheim to conserve fuel.

d. Flak was generally meager and accurate along the route and moderate and accurate in the target area. Light and accurate gunfire was encountered over the Pas de Calais area on withdrawal. Approximately twenty enemy fighters attacked the Group landing the Division near Vitry, France. Fighter support was good along the entire route. Losses were three to flak and two to unknown causes. No claims were made.

For the Commanding General:

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

S E C R E T

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

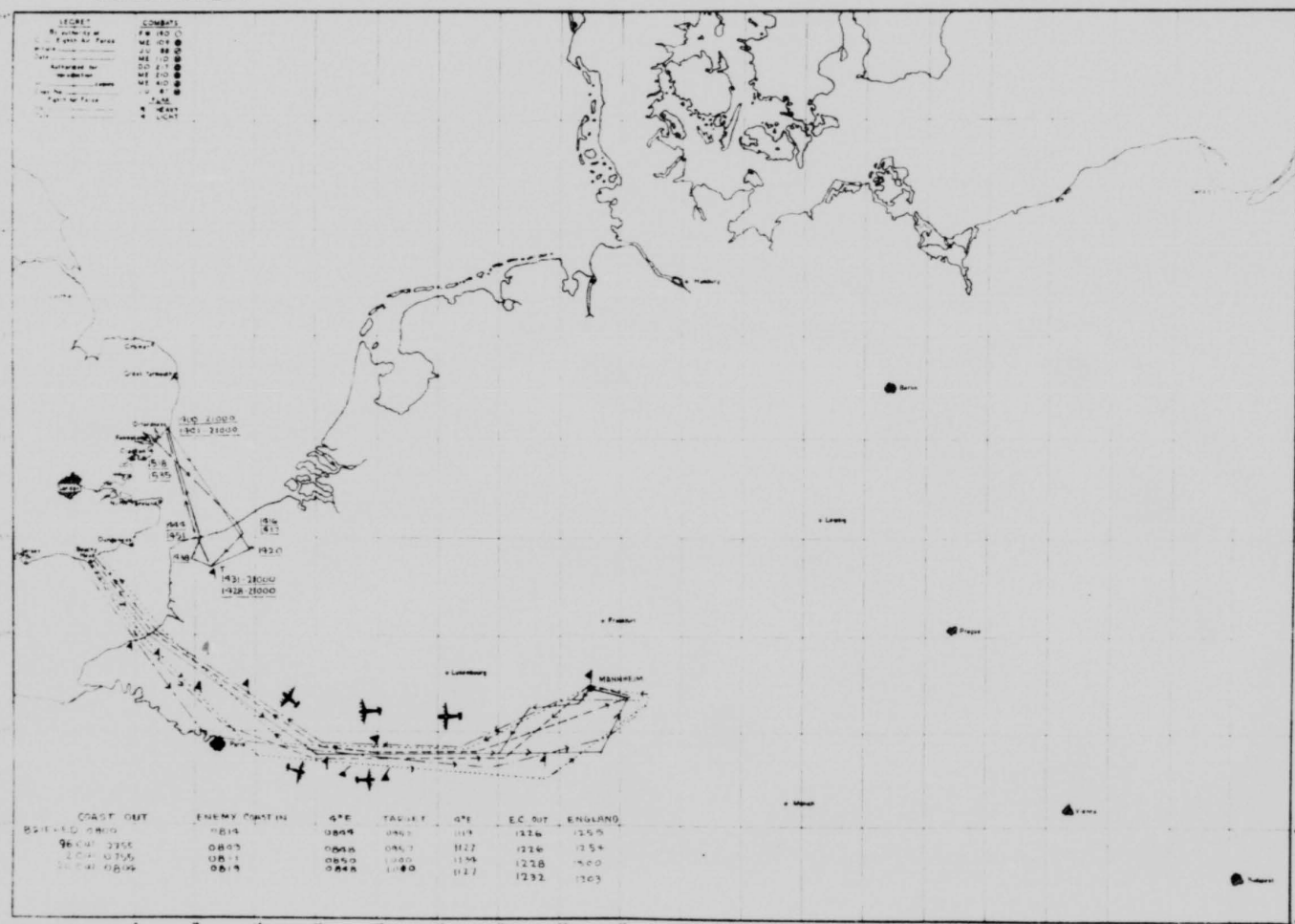
THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

TARGETS
PRIMARY MANNHEIM 40 2 10 W
SECONDARY LAKE 292 04

TRACK CHART

DATE April 25, 1944

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY BRIEFED
392 B.G.
94 C.W.
7 C.W.
20 C.W.



THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

Tactical Report of Mission, 25 April 1944

2. Bombing.

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLYING AUTO PILOT	FLYING MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLECT	RANGE	NUMBER A/C BOOMED
<u>MANHEIM</u>									
458	Did not bomb								
466	350°	2 min.	19,500 ft	1013		X	1	1	7
467	Bombed Targets of Opportunity								5
453	Jettisoned in open fields			1020					13
93	Did not bomb								
446	Did not bomb								
448	Did not bomb								
<u>LANDAU H/V</u>									
445	276°	50 secs.	19,500 ft	1019	X		1	1	16

- This mission was briefed as visual with the primary target at Mannheim.
- Due to the undercast at the primary the Groups were unable to attack. Only one Squadron of 7 A/C managed to pick up the target and bomb. One Group attacked the Landau H/V. One Squadron jettisoned its bombs in open fields about 14 miles NW of Mannheim in order to conserve gasoline. Various targets of opportunity were attacked by single A/C on returning route.
- Two A/C jettisoned their bombs at 4847-0436 due to battle damage. Two A/C jettisoned bombs also due to battle damage at 4855-0630.

SECRET

SECRET

TI

Tactical Report of Mission, 25 April 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

a. Target - Targets of Opportunity.

- (1) The 466th Group was the only formation to attack Mannheim, and they encountered intense and accurate predictor control fire. This AA was probably a mixture of "seen" and "unseen" fire, and although "Chaff" was dropped, it is unlikely that a sufficient concentration was obtained.
- (2) No AA fire was encountered at Landau.
- (3) Moderate Gunfire was encountered on route at Soume Sous, Dieppe, Amiens, Strasbourg, and Vitry le Francois.
- (4) Meager Gunfire was encountered at Neufchatel, Beauvais, Compiègne, St. Dizier and Bar le Duc.

T
H
I
S

P
A
G
E

I
S

U
N
C
L
A
S
S
I
F
I
E
D

SECRET

U 1-14

SECRET

Tactical Report of Mission, 25 April 1944

4. Enemy Aircraft Encounters.

- a. The Group flying the lead position of the leading Combat Wing report sightings of about 15 Me 109s and 10 FW 190s at 0855 in the vicinity of Vitry and St. Dizier. 8 to 10 Me 109s, after simulating fighter escort, attacked the lead Squadrons in waves of three or four E/A abreast. Some of these E/A continued on through the formation, turned, and attacked again from beam and rear positions. The Group in the low left position was not attacked but sighted 6 Me 109s and one FW 190 in the St. Dizier area on the way in to the target. There were no attacks. The Group flying the high right position report some encounters and many sightings. At 0900 this Group was attacked by 12 black FW 190s and Me 109s in the Bar le Duc area. The attacks came from 11 to 12 o'clock high but were not pressed, the E/A breaking off at about 600 yards. At 0901 in the same area 4 dark colored Me 109s with light colors along the leading and trailing edge of the wing attacked from 5 o'clock high. These attacks were unaggressive and were broken off at about 700 yards by the split S. Friendly fighters were pursuing in both the above cases. Other sightings included 40 to 50 SE types between 0830 and 1100 hours. These sightings included 20 to 30 FW 190s at about 0900 near Bar le Duc. These were being chased by our escort. At 1015 hours near Sembach one JU 88 was seen.
- b. The Group flying the low left position in the next Combat Wing sighted about 15 to 20 Me 109s and about 5 FW 190s east of Paris on the route in to the target. It was also reported that one Me 109 followed the formation across the channel to about the English coast, then returned to enemy territory.
- c. The trailing Combat Wing report sightings of twelve Me 109s near Nancy and of three FW 190s near Beauvais on the route in to the target. No attacks were made.
- d. It is estimated that a total of 80 E/A were seen by units of this Division. 45 Me 109s and 35 FW 190s is the estimated breakdown. One JU 88 was also observed. Practically all sightings and encounters took place over France. Attacks were directed against our formation only on the route in to the target, but these were unaggressive and only one B-24 is credited to enemy action. Other losses were due to AA fire and reasons unknown. The 2d Division was leading the Eighth Air Force on this mission and from indication the enemy received early warning of the approach of our formations since he was able to have many A/C airborne for interception shortly after our crossing of the French coast. The lack of coordinated effort in interception may be due to the excellence of our fighter support. The enemy seemed unable to effect a concentration at a point where he could outnumber our fighter support. The Me 109 reported as following our formation back to the English coast may have been employed as an observer to report on conditions existing on the trip across the channel with regard to our fighter support and our formation flying as we neared friendly territory.

T
H
I
S

P
A
G
E

I
S

U
N
C
L
A
S
S
I
F
I
E
D

SECRET

SECRET

THIS

Tactical Report of Mission; 25 April 1944.

5. Communications.

- a. W/T and R/T communication was satisfactory, with considerably less than usual traffic on VHF channels. RCM "Window" was used for a period of 29 minutes in the target area. Railing type jamming, multiple blips and fading signals were evident on GEE equipment.

T
H
I
S

P
A
G
E

I
S

U
N
C
L
A
S
S
I
F
I
E
D

SECRET

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

FORM V-11

25 April

1944

UNIT		230	309	445	453	93	446	448	450	466
A T T R I B U T E	NO. A/C TAKEN AWAY	218	19	25	26	26	27	24	26	23
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	200	17	22	23	26	24	23	23	20
	NO. A/C TP. 1113	30	2	16	-	-	-	-	-	7
	NO. A/C NOT AT 1113	188	17	9	26	26	27	24	26	16
	NO. A/C SCOTTED	197	17	22	23	26	24	22	22	20
B C O U N T S	NO. A/C	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
	NO. 6 TMS	252:100GP 50:100IB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	252:100GP 50:100IB
	TMS-3	16.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.6
	IR-1000 rgh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TU-Unknown	-	-	IR-London	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NO. CP A/C	23	2	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
	100:500GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	200:100GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	60:100IB	-	20:500GP	160:500GP	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TMS-3	58.0	5.0	40.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
B A T T L E	TOTAL TMS-3	74.6	5.0	40.0	-	-	-	-	-	16.6
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
	A/C LOST TO S/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO FLAK - S/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
	CASUALTIES-KILLS, WOUNDS	1-0-0-19	-	-	0-0-0-20	-	-	1-0-0-19	0-0-0-10	-
	CLAIMS - S/A LOST - 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	PAGE., DE., NO CLAIM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	23-1-0-0	1-1-0-0	4-0-0-0	4-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	2-1-0-0	3-0-0-0	2-1-0-0	5-0-0-0

Tactical A/C of Action

Tactical A/C of Action

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

FORM V-11

25 April

1944

UNIT		467
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	22
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	22
	NO. A/C TIED UP	5
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACHED	17
	NO. A/C SORTIES	21
B O M B I N G S	NO. A/C	-
	NO. & TYPE	-
	TONNAGE	-
	TARGET	5 TO(s)
	NO. OF A/C	5
	NO. & TYPE	200x100GP 60x100IB
	TONNAGE	13.0
	TOTAL BOMBING ALL TARGETS	13.0
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	-
	A/C LOST TO E/A	-
B A T T L E	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A	-
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, IN	-
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DUB., NO CLAIM	-
R E S U L T S	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	1-0-0-0
	GrT-A-C-B-R	

Tactical Report of Action
6 of 11 Initial ReportFILED BY:
STANDARD CONTROL
ED HO B DIVISION

SECRET

HEADQUARTER S
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
AAF 123 APO 558

SECRET
AUTH CO 4586P
INITIALS SW
DATE 27 Apr.

27 April 1944.

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of operations, Mission of 25 April 1944.

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

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A. Group	458
B. Division F.O.	272
C. Date of Operation	25 April 1944
D. Ordered Primary Target.	Mannheim RR Marshalling Yard
E. A/C Taking Off.	26
F. A/C Dispatched.	23
G. Sorties	22
H. A/C Attacking	Nil
I. A/C Not Attacking	26
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	1
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, AC
Group Statistical Officer

SECRET

25 April 1944

Barton-ISBELL-Sawyer
K-21 : 362 A

C
Kingsley
K21 : 305 N ABORT

Woodward-WRIGHT-Marchand
K-21 : 366 B NTD

Gombs
K-20 : 335 R

D
McNamara
: 288 L

Wells
K-21 : 441 I

Gentry
K-20 : 342 S

Melton
K-21 : 719 Q

Steward
K20 : 008 R

Goldsmith
ABORT : 738 O

Brauer⁶
K-20 : 682 I

Gaines
ABORT : 735 S

Davis
ABORT 300 M

Weber-HENSLER-Nosarzewski
K21 : 365 B

C
Nefrow
K-21 : 303 H

Claggett-FREEMAN
K-21 : 812 D

Clark
K-20 : 431 B

Zimmerman
K-21 : 457 Q ABORT

D
Manker
: 706 F NTD

Cragg
K-20 : 455 O

Schaaf
K21 : 302 P

Andrew
: 733 P

Davidson
K20 : 341 A

Gulick
ABORT : 340 N

Taylor
K 20 : 718 M

Robeson
: 705 H

Shaw
: 721 L

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
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	ANDREW	27	6			41-28733	733	P	J4	19	RHAPSODY IN JUNK	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	BARTON	27	6	ISBELL	L1	42-100362	362	A	Z5	8	SWEET LORRAINE/BOOMERANG	NAV SAWYER
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	BRAUER	27	15			41-28682	682	I	Z5	21	UNKNOWN 003	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	CLAGGETT	27	9	FREEMAN	D2	42-109812	812	D	7V	12	UNKNOWN 016	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	CLARK	27	11			42-100431	431	B	J4	13	BOMB-AH-DEAR	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	COMBS	27	FTR			42-52335	335	R	Z5	21	ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER	FIGHTERS
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	CRAGUN	27	13			42-52455	455	O	7V	18	PLUTOCRAT	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	DAVIDSON	27	9			42-100341	341	A	J4	12	SATAN'S MATE	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	DAVIS	27	ABT			41-29300	300	M	J4	--	LORELEI	ABORT - OXY LEAK - LOSS OF ALL OXY
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	GAINES	27	ABT			41-28735	735	S	J4	--	UNKNOWN 005	ABORT - #1, 3 ENG's ON FIRE
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	GENTRY	27	2			41-29342	342	S	J3	10	ROUGH RIDERS	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	GOLDSMITH	27	ABT			41-28738	738	O	Z5	--	MEAT AROUND THE CORNER	ABORT - #4 ENG OIL LEAK, CAUGHT FIRE
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	GULICK	27	ABT			41-29340	340	N	7V	--	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	ABORT - CP ILL, LAND AT AROS COVE
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	HANNAMAN	27	5			41-29359	359	J	J3	18	TAIL WIND	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	KINGSLEY	27	ABT			41-29305	305	N	Z5	--	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	ABORT - NO BOMB SIGHT LATE T/O
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	MANKER	27	NTO			41-28706	706	F	J4	--	DREAM BOAT/SPARE PARTS	NO TAKE OFF - #1 SUPER CHGR REG OUT
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	McNAMARA	27	2			41-29288	288	L	J3	7	BIG-TIME OPERATOR	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	MELTON	27	15			41-28719	719	Q	J3	16	PADDLEFOOT	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	NEDROW	27	9			41-29303	303	H	Z5	19	LIBERTY LIB	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	ROBESON	27	18			41-28705	705	H	J4	20	YE OLDE HELLGATE	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	SCHAAF	27	17			41-29302	302	P	7V	14	NOKKISH	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	SHAW, C	27	12			41-28721	721	L	J4	17	DOWNWIND LEG	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	STEWART	27	13			42-95008	008	R	J3	1	UNKNOWN 035	SPELLED "STEWART"
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	TAYLOR, O	27	17			41-28718	718	M	7V	23	BO	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	WEBER	27	12	HENSLER	L2	42-100365	365	B	7V	16	WOLFGANG (maybe)	NAV NOSARZEWSKI
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	WELLS	27	14			42-52441	441	I	J3	20	LAST CARD LOUIE	
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	WOODWARD	27	NTO	WRIGHT	D1	42-100366	366	B	Z5	--	MIZPAH	NO TAKE OFF - NAV MARCHAND
25-Apr-44	MANNHEIM A/F	ZIMMERMAN	27	ABT			42-52457	457	Q	7V	--	FINAL APPROACH	ABORT - #2 ENG RUNNING ROUGH