

HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

618

TARGET

BRUSSELS AND LIEGE

DATE

1 MAY 1944

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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

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COPY NO. 3

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AAF 147 APO 553: : : : : : : :
: S E C R E T :
: By Auth of CG :
: 2d Bomb Div :
: Initials *AKS* :
: Date *26 May 1944* :
: : : : : : : :

26 May 1944

SUBJECT : Tactical Report of Mission, 1 May 1944.

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

1. Data.

- a. Date of Mission - 1 May 1944.
- b. Primary Targets - Brussels and Liege.
- c. Secondary and Last Resort Targets - Any airbase in occupied territory not adjacent to a built-up area.
- d. Units Participating - 14th CBW (392nd, 44th BG).
96th CBW (467th, 466th, 458th BG).
2nd CBW (445th, 453rd, 389th BG).
20th CBW (448th, 446th, 93rd BG).

2. Narrative.

a. Eleven Groups dispatched 151 aircraft from four Combat Wings to attack targets at Brussels and Liege. Excellent fighter support was given by two Groups of P-47s and two Groups of P-38s.

b. Assemblies were accomplished without incident and the Division departed the English coast on time and on course. The 14th and 96th Combat Wings proceeded to their target at Liege as briefed. The 2nd and 20th Combat Wings were forced to make a 90° turn in order to make good the Combat Wing IP. Due to the sharp turn the 445th Group in the lead of the 2nd Combat Wing could not get back on course in time to make the run as briefed and turned on the bomb run south of the IP. One Squadron of the 389th Group, flying last in the lead Wing, believed the leader would overshoot the target, turned inside the lead Group and was forced off its bomb run when the 445th made its run.

c. In the 2nd Combat Wing, the 445th and 453rd Groups bombed Brussels with good to excellent results. The 389th did not bomb due to improper interval and was forced off its bomb run. In the 20th Combat Wing, the 448th and 93rd Groups attacked Brussels with poor results, and the 446th bombed with fair results. The 467th and 466th Groups of the 96th Combat Wing attacked Liege with good and poor results respectively. The bombs of the lead ship of the 458th Group hung up due to creepage of bomb bay doors and this Group did not bomb. In the 14th Combat Wing, the 44th Group bombed Liege with fair results. The 392nd Group could not pick up the target because of cloud cover and did not bomb.

d. Heavier to moderate and inaccurate flak was encountered enroute. In the Brussels and Liege areas there was moderate and inaccurate gunfire. No enemy aircraft were seen and there were no losses.

For the Commanding General:

Charles B. Mesrobian
CHARLES B. MESROBIAN
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

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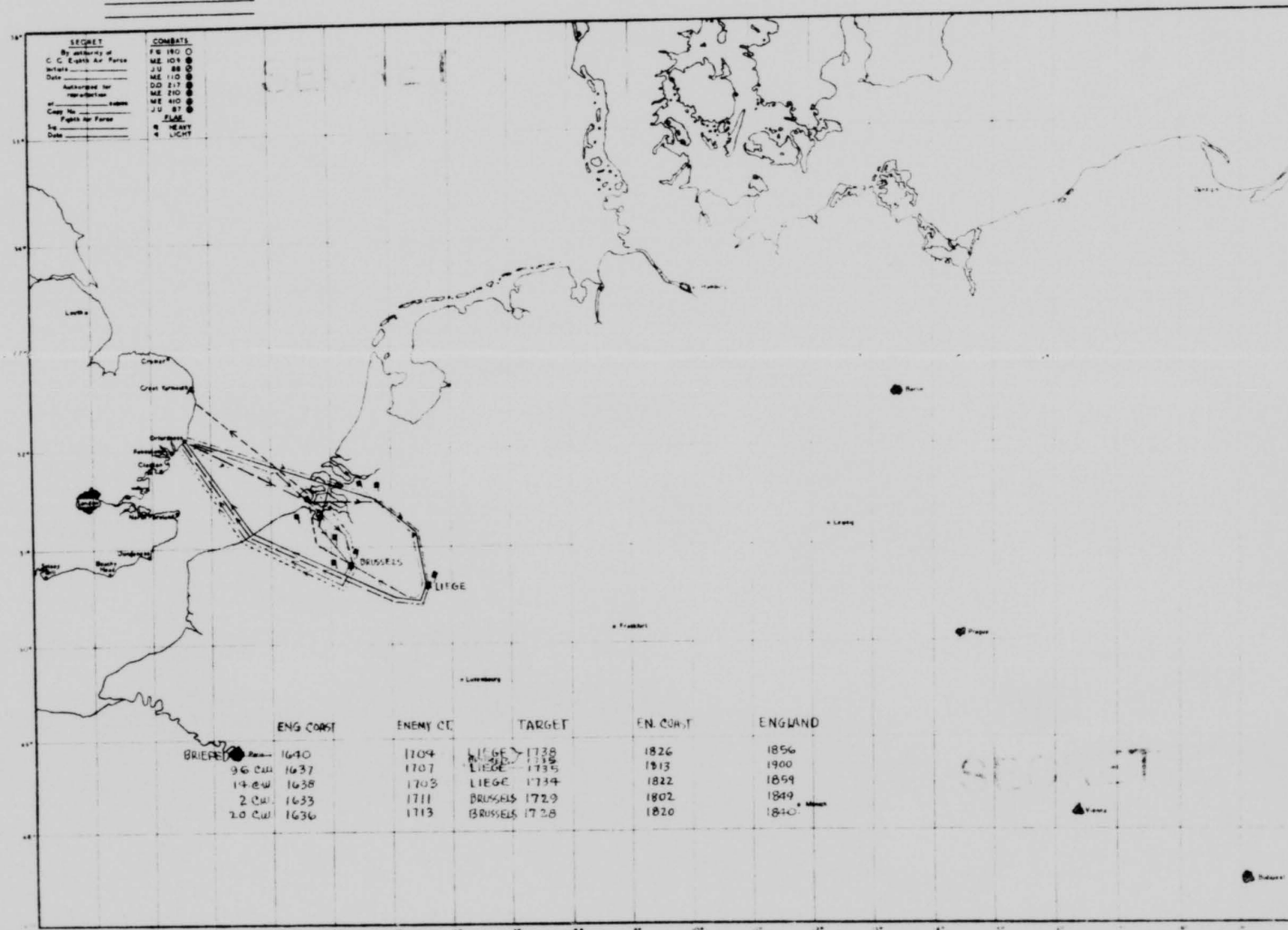
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TARGETS
PRIMARY BRUSSELS 2nd 420th
SECONDARY LIEGE 14th 23rd

TRACK CHART

DATE May 1944
Altitude Mission

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY
1. 1st 420th
2. 14th 23rd
3. 1st 420th
4. 14th 23rd



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Tactical Report of Mission, 1 May 1944.

2. Bombing.

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLY AUTO PILOT	FLY MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLECT	RANGE	NUMBER A/C BOMBED
						<u>LIEGE B/X</u>			
44	180	1½ min.	19,000'	1734	X		1	1	15
467	165	3 min.	17,100'	1735		X	1	1	14
456	173	1½ min.	16,300'	1736	X		1	2	11
						<u>BRUSSELS</u>			
445	144	1½ min.	18,000'	1726	X		1	1	12
453	125	2 min.	19,600'	1728	X		1	1	12
448	133	2½ min.	18,000'	1728		X	1	2	11
93	170	2½ min.	19,275'	1729		X	1	1	10
446	150	80 sec.	18,000'	1729½	X		1	2	12

- The assigned primary targets for this visual mission were Liege and Brussels.
- Liege was attacked by three Groups and five Groups attacked Brussels. One Group did not bomb because it failed to identify the target. Another Group failed to bomb because it was forced to abandon the bomb run when the lead Group began to fly a converging course.
- One Group failed to bomb because the lead A/C did not release due to bomb bay door creepage. One A/C failed to bomb due to a rack malfunction.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 1 May 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. Meager to moderate and accurate predictor control fire was encountered by the first five Groups at Brussels, but the last Groups only encountered inaccurate fire and it is doubtful whether this formation was ever actually engaged. The whole attack took place in less than three minutes, and it is very probable that the defenses became saturated.
- b. The 392nd Group did not bomb owing to cloud conditions, but they flew over Liege and encountered moderate and accurate gunfire at the end of their run. The 44th Group encountered meager to moderate and very inaccurate predictor control fire. The 467th and 466th Groups encountered moderate fairly accurate predictor control fire at this target, but the 458th Group, following closely behind, encountered only inaccurate fire. This attack also took place within three minutes, and the defenses again appear to have become saturated.
- c. Meager to moderate gunfire was encountered on route at Ostend, Flushing, Neuzen, Gilze Rijen, Ghent, Grammont and Zevenbergen. A gun position was also pinpointed on the canal just north of Goes.
- d. Several rockets were seen at Brussels which appeared to be fired from the northeast end of the marshalling yards.
- e. Rockets were also seen at Liege, one of which spun like a Catherine wheel giving off white smoke. A silver ball, approximately the size of a football, was also observed coming up from the ground, but was not seen to burst.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 1 May 1944

5. Communications.

- a. Communication facilities were normal with the exception of a relay fault in one VHF set, which caused the set to transmit tone on channel D (Air/Sea Rescue channel) and seriously jammed the channel. The fault has been rectified, but inasmuch as it resulted from a circuit designed to provide a tone for fighter fixing, efforts are required to modify all VHF equipment used in bombers for removal of this circuit.

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Page 1

FORM V-11

1 May 1944

UNIT		2 BN	309BG	445BG	457BG	443G	309BG	03BG	446BG	447BG
A I C R E D I T	NO. A/C TAKEN DOWN	152	12	12	12	15	24	12	12	12
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	151	12	12	12	15	24	12	12	12
	NO. A/C ATTENDING	99	2	12	12	15	-	10	12	11
	NO. A/C NOT ATTENDING	53	10	-	-	-	24	2	-	1
	NO. A/C SOWING	151	12	12	12	15	24	12	12	12
B C O U N T	NO. A/C	99	2	12	12	15	-	10	12	11
	NO. & TYPE	734-10000P	14-10000P	24-10000P	24-10000P	120-10000P	-	72-10000P	25-10000P	65-10000P
	TORWAG	367.0	7.0	12.0	12.0	60.0	-	39.0	17.5	32.5
	TARGET	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NO. OF A/C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B A T T L E	NO. & TYPE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TORWAG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL TORWAG, ALL TARGETS	367.0	7.0	12.0	12.0	60.0	-	39.0	17.5	32.5
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO S/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R E S U L T S	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED, MISSING, SLIGHTLY, IN CLAMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DUB., NO CLAM	5-0-0-0	-	-	-	-	-	5-0-0-0	-	-
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	16-1-1-0	1-1-0-0	1-1-0-0	-	-	1-1-0-0	-	-	-

Tactical Report of Action
6th Bombardment Group
24 May 1944FILLED BY:
SPECIALIST
24 May 1944

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Page #2

FORM V-11

1 May 1944

UNIT		458BG	466BG	467BG				
AIRCRAFT	NO. A/C LAUNCHED	15	12	14				
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	15	11	14				
	NO. A/C RETURNING	-	11	14				
	NO. A/C NOT RETURNING	15	1	-				
	NO. A/C SUNK	15	11	14				
BOMBERS	NO. A/C	-	11	14				
	NO. & TYPE	-	88x1000GP	106x1000GP				
	TORPEDO	-	44.0	53.0				
	TARGET	-	-	-				
	NO. OF A/C	-	-	-				
	NO. & TYPE	-	-	-				
	TORPEDO	-	-	-				
	TOTAL TON. OF ALL TARGETS	-	44.0	53.0				
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	-	-	-				
	A/C LOST TO E/A	-	-	-				
RESULTS	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A	-	-	-				
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-				
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-	-	-				
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED, MISSING, SLIGHTLY, IN CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DUB., NO CLAIM	-	-	-				
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	2-0-1-0	2-1-0-0	6-0-0-0				

Tactical Report of Action

Forwarded by:
Official Report
2d Bomb Division

HEADQUARTERS
STATION 123 APO 558
OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

2 MAY 1944

SUBJECT: S-2 REPORT, AFTERNOON MISSION OF 1 MAY 44, (LIEGE M/Y)
TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, AAF 123, APO 558.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT OPPOSITION

1. NO ENEMY FIGHTERS WERE SIGHTED.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE

2. EXCEPTIONALLY ACCURATE FLAK WAS ENCOUNTERED OVER THREE AREAS ALONG THE ROUTE OF THIS MISSION. ON THE WAY TO THE TARGET, INTENSE CONTINUOUS FOLLOWING FIRE WAS MET OVER SOUTHERN NETHERLANDS FROM OOSTERHOUT, BREDA, GILZE-RIJEN A/D, AND TILBURG. IN THE VICINITY OF THE TARGET, MODERATE BUT ACCURATE FIRE WAS SENT UP FROM BILSEN, ST. TROND AND LIEGE ITSELF. THEN, JUST BEFORE THE FORMATION RECROSSED THE ENEMY COAST, A HEAVY CONCENTRATION WAS ENCOUNTERED FROM NEUZEN, FLUSHING AND MIDDELBURG.

3. ONE OF OUR AIRCRAFT SUFFERED MAJOR BATTLE DAMAGE, AND ELEVEN OTHERS BUFFERED MINOR.

OBSERVATIONS

4. CONSIDERABLE NEW CONSTRUCTION AND EXCAVATION WORK WAS SEEN FIVE MILES NORTH OF BREDA AT 1715 FROM 19300 FEET.

CHARLES M. DERRY,
CAPT. AC,
GROUP S-2 OFFICER

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
AAF 123 APO 558

Secret
Auth *C0458 Sp*
Initials *SW*
Date *3 May*

3 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 1 May 1944.
(Liege Marshalling Yard)

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

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A. Group	458
B. Division F.O. No.	282
C. Date of Operation	1 May 1944
D. Ordered Primary Target.	Liege Marshalling Yards
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, AC
Group Statistical Officer

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SECRETHEADQUARTERS
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
AAF 123 APO 558**SECRET**AUTH CO 42866
INITIALS ju
DATE 3 May

3 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Report of the Operations Officer, Mission of 1 May 1944 (Liege).

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

1. General Narrative - See the enclosed Command Pilot's Narrative.
2. Aircraft Not Attacking - Fifteen (15) aircraft took off and left our base in the formation shown in the enclosed formation diagram. All aircraft taking off were dispatched.
3. All fifteen (15) aircraft taking off and being dispatched went over enemy territory in formation and are credited with sorties.
4. One aircraft, 42-109212, was hit by flak over enemy territory and was forced to return before reaching the target. The other fourteen (14) aircraft went over the target but did not drop their bombs due to a rack malfunction in the lead ship. Thus, none of the aircraft are credited with an attack.
5. The primary target, which was not hit, was the Liege marshalling yards.
6. Lost Aircraft - None of our aircraft were lost. All returned safely to base.

Charles H. Booth
CHARLES H. BOOTH
Capt, AC
Asst Gp Opns Officer

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

SECRET
 AVEN: CO 4586P
 INITIALS: *AW*
 DATE: 4 May

4 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Command Pilot's Narrative, Second Mission of 1 May 1944.
 (Liege)

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

1. The 458th Bombardment Group took off at 1508 with thirteen (13) aircraft to bomb the marshalling yards at Liege, in the second operational mission of May 1st. Information was late getting to the Group. However, the wing assembled over Splinter 5 in good shape and left on time for the division assembly.

2. We were flying high right on wing leader and experienced some difficulty in staying behind on the route into the target. The uncovering at the I.J. was made successfully and a good run was made on the target. Due to a mechanical malfunction, this group did not drop and bombs were returned.

3. On the route out the 14th Wing led us about twenty (20) miles north of course and over a heavy flak area for no apparent reason. Landing was made at Base at 1930.

4. Flak was moderate and accurate to moderate and inaccurate along the route over the target area. No enemy fighters were seen and fighter cover was very good.

5. Weather over the target was hazy and 6/10 cloud coverage.

James A. Hugo
 JAMES A. HUGO
 1st Col, AS
 Command Pilot

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FORMATION PLAN MISSION #

49

AFTERNOON 1 May 1944

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<u>Andrew</u>		C	<u>Woodward-Hogg-Sawyer</u>		<u>Nyman</u>	
S	735D		D K-21 408		K K-20 303	
<u>Griffith</u>	<u>Deneffe</u>	<u>Engelhard</u>	<u>Roubal-Hinckley-Gross</u>	<u>McNamara</u>	<u>Curtis</u>	
F 706 K-21	M 300	J K-21 018	400LT D K-21 812	J 320	L 288	
		<u>McCollough</u>				
		O K-21 455 D		<u>Olney</u>		
				O K-20 738		
		<u>Shaw</u>	<u>Zimmerman</u>	<u>Simes</u>	<u>Davis</u>	
		I 721	N 340	H 005	T 279	

Runway 23

Dis.	WEST	T.O.
21	812	2
7	018	3
29	455	4
34	303	5
28	340	7
11	288	9
5	738	13
2	279	14
6	005	15

Dis.	T.O.	EAST
35	1	408
47	6	735
43	8	721
45	10	320
38	11	300
36	12	706

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
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	ANDREW	33	11			41-28735	735	S	J4	18	UNKNOWN 005	
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	CURTIS	33	3			41-29288	288	L	J3	11	BIG-TIME OPERATOR	
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	DAVIS	33	17			42-50279	279	T	Z5	4	ENVY OF 'EM ALL	
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	DeNEFFE	33	17			41-29300	300	M	J4	24	LORELEI	
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	ENGLEHARDT	33	5			42-95018	018	J	Z5	5	OLD DOC'S YACHT	
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	GRIFFITH	33	2			41-28706	706	F	J4	15	DREAM BOAT/SPARE PARTS	
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	McCOLLOUGH	33	14			42-52455	455	O	7V	21	PLUTOCRAT	
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	NYMAN	33	12			41-29303	303	H	Z5	23	LIBERTY LIB	
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	OLNEY	33	11			41-28738	738	O	Z5	16	MEAT AROUND THE CORNER	
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	ROUBAL	33	18	HINCKLEY	L2	42-109812	812	D	7V	15	UNKNOWN 016	ABORT - SORTIE FUEL LINES SHOT OUT BY FLAK
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	SHAW, C	33	16			41-28721	721	L	J4	21	DOWNWIND LEG	
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	SIMES	33	3			42-95005	005	H	Z5	5	UNKNOWN 034	
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	WOODWARD	33	15	HOGG	L1	42-100408	408	D	J4	12	BEASTFACE	SAWYER - LEAD NAV
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	ZIMMERMAN	33	12			41-29340	340	N	7V	12	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	DAVIDSON	32	12			42-50320	320	J	J4	3	UNKNOWN 018	DAVIDSON FLEW SPARE?
01-May-44	LIEGE M/Y	McNAMARA	33	5			42-50320	320	J	J4	4	UNKNOWN 018	