# T IMADQUARTERS 2d BOWBAFO ENT DIVISION LFO 558 TACTICAL LISSION REPORT DATE FIELD ORDER NO. Bohlen Oil Refineries 12 MAY 1944 654 Zeitz Oil Refineries T Air Park At Eschwege S P A G E I TABLE OF CONTENTS S 2d BOLLARDMENT DIVISION U ANNEX 1 - ROUTES N C ANNEX 2 - BOURING L A ANNEX 3 - ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE S S ANGEX 4 - ENELY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS I ANNEX 5 - CONTUNICATIONS I ANNEX 6 - ST.TISTIC.L SUMMERY OF OPER.TIONS E D COPY NO.

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HEADQUARTERS 2d BONDARDIENT DIVISION :Ey auth. of GG

Office of Assistant Chief of Staff A-2:2d Eonb Division

AAF 147

APO 553:Initials

Date /-fire Oth

4 June 1944

SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, 12 May 1944.

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

### 1. Pata.

- a. Date of Mission 12 May 1944
- b. Primary Targets:

Bohlen Oil Refineries - 96th and 20th CEW's Zeitz Oil Refineries - 2nd and 14th CEW's

c. Secondary Target:

Air Park at Eschwege - All Combat Wings

- d. Last Resort Target Any military objective positively identified as being fifty miles inside Germany,
- e. Units Participating 96th CEW (466th, 467th, 458th EG)
  2nd CEW (445th, 389th, 453rd EG)
  20th CEW (93rd, 446th, 448th EG)
  14th CEW (44th, 392nd, 492nd EG)

## 2. Narrative.

a. 265 aircraft were dispatched by four Combat Wings to visually bomb the Bohlen and Zeitz synthetic oil refineries. Three Groups of P-47's, twelve Groups of P-51's and two Groups of P-38's furnished fighter support.

b. Assemblies were accomplished without incident and routes flowr generally as planned. Wind velocities were stronger than briefed, causing formations to be approximately twenty-five minutes late at the target.

- c. As the formations entered the target area, they were forced to S and fly to the left of course because of a B-17 force flying on their course. This caused the lead Squadron of the 45th Group, which was leading the Division, to miss the IP and primary target, bombing an oil refinery near Merseberg, a target of opportunity, with fair results. Following Groups were able to bomb the primary targets. Four Groups attacked the Bohlen refineries with fair results. The Zeitz target was attacked by six Groups with results varying from excellent to poor. Two Squadrons and nine aircraft tombed targets of opportunity with results varying from fair to unobserved.
- d. No anti-aircraft fire was observed at Zeitz. Anti-aircraft fire was moderate to intense and accurate at Bohlen. Mcderate to heavy gunfire was also encountered on the outskirts of Leipzig as formations turned away from the target. Some gunfire was encountered enroute which was meager to heavy. Light fighter opposition seemed reluctant to attack formations and centered their attention on stragglers. Losses were three aircraft, two to enemy fighters and one to anti-aircraft fire. Claims were five destroyed, one probable and one damaged. Friendly fighter support was good.

For the Commanding General:

Charles B. Westover, Colonel GSC, Chief of Staff.

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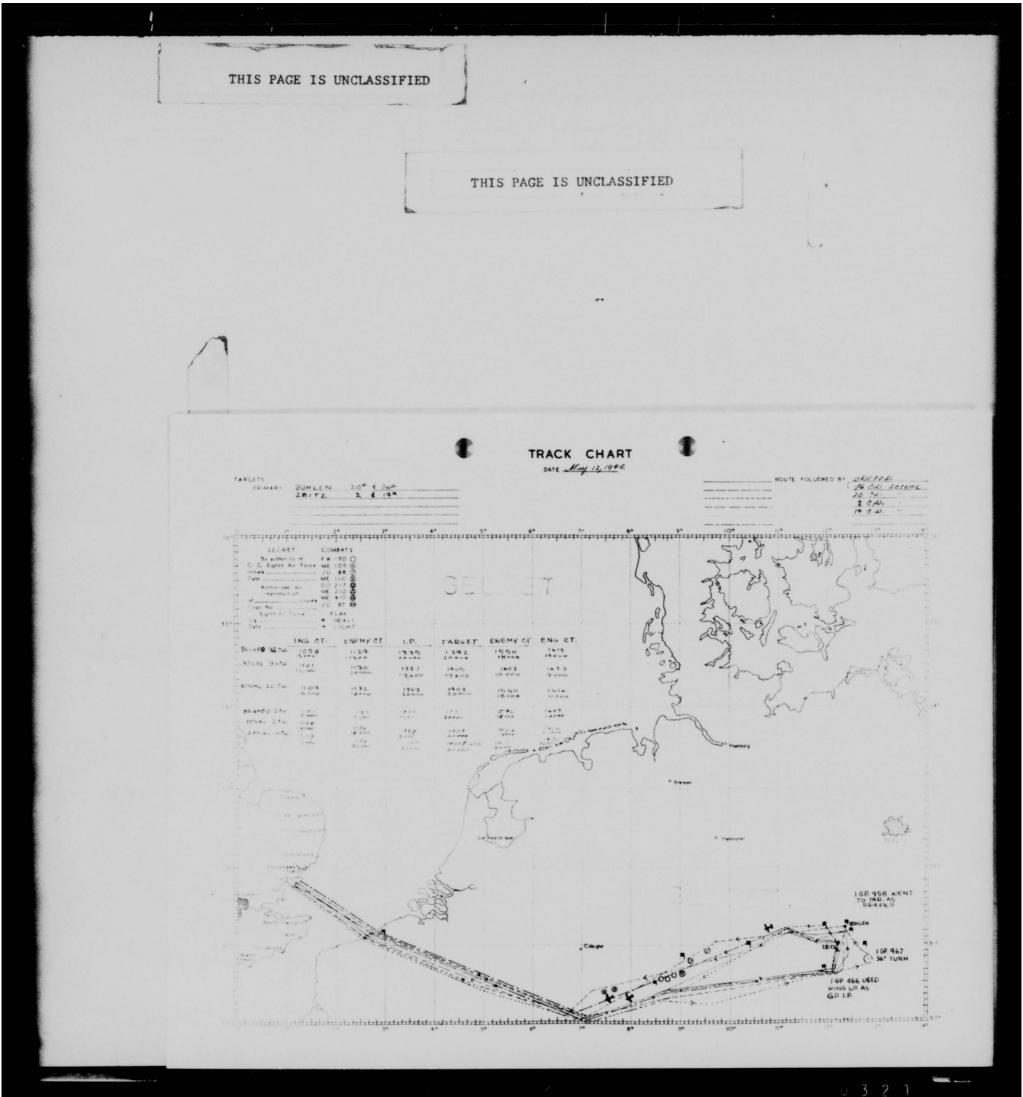
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S E C R E T

TACTICAL BONBING REPORT MISSION - 12 May 1944

GROUP	DIR, OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLEW AUTO- PILOT	FLEW MANUAL	RANGE & DUFLEC.	RAMGE	NUMBER A/C BONSHID
CILLYDIA				BCHLE	N				
458	0500	70 sec.	21,0001	1409		X	1	1	20 / 11 A/C of 467th
93	0200	4 min.	20,0001	1412		X	2	2	23 / 2 FFF
448	0100	40 sec.	20,8001	1415	Х		1	2	9
446	0120	1 min.	21,7001	1413	Х		2	4	15 / 6 A/C of 4/8th
440	-	2	,	ZEITZ					
445	0130	2 min.	19,500!	1403	Х		2	2	20 4 2 PHF
	0160		20,700'	1402	X		1	1	12
453		là min.		1406	*	Х	2	2	21
389	0220	22 min.	22,0001		v	Α.	1	1	10
392	oc2 <sup>c</sup>	3 min.	19,000'	1410	X		7	2	15 / 5 A/C of 392nd
44	2000	2 min.	20,500'	1410	Х		2	2	
								_	2 FFF
492	0020		21,500'		Х		2	2	24 / 1 FFF
				MERSI	EBERG				
492	3300	lo min.	23,5001	1423	X		1	1	12
467	3580	30 sec.	21,8001	1411	Х		1	2	10 / 1 A/C of 458th
		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		LUEN	4				
466	020°	1 min.		1410		ped on Le	ad PFF		11 / 2 FFF

- 1. The assigned primary targets for this mission were Bohlen and Zeitz, Germany.
- 2. The target at Bohlen was attacked by four Groups bombing by Squadrons and the target at Zeitz was attacked by six groups bombing by Squadrons. 9 A/C of one Group bombed an unknown target and there was no photo coverage of this bombing. Three Squadrons bombed unassigned targets, one due to navigational error and two due to mistaken identity of the target.
- 3. One A/C failed to bomb due to breaking of bomb rack linkage and one A/C failed to bomb due to being out of formation.

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Tactical Mission Report, 12 May 1944

## 3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. No Gunfire was encountered at Zeitz.
- b. All Groups of the 96th Wing encountered moderate to intense and accurate predictor control fire at Bohlen. The lead and last Groups of the 20th Wing also encountered moderate to intense and accurate predictor control fire during their bombing run, but the second Group of this Wing were not engaged until after bombs were released. Moderate Heavy Gunfire was also encountered from the outskirts of Leipzig as Groups turned away after bombing, but this appears to have been fired mainly in the form of a fixed barrage.
- c. Intense Heavy Gunfire in the form of fixed barrages was encountered at Merseburg and Halle. Meager to moderate Heavy Gunfire was also encountered at Kirtorf, Kirchain, Ostend, Giessen, Gotha, Zeulenroda and Nieuport. Heavy Gunfire was also encountered from barges off Ostend.
- d. Barrage Balloons were seen at Saalburg (50030'N, 11044'E).
- e. One A/C of the 93rd Group was damaged by Gunfire at Bohlen and was subsequently shot down by enemy fighters,

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Tactical Report of Mission, 12 Map 1944.

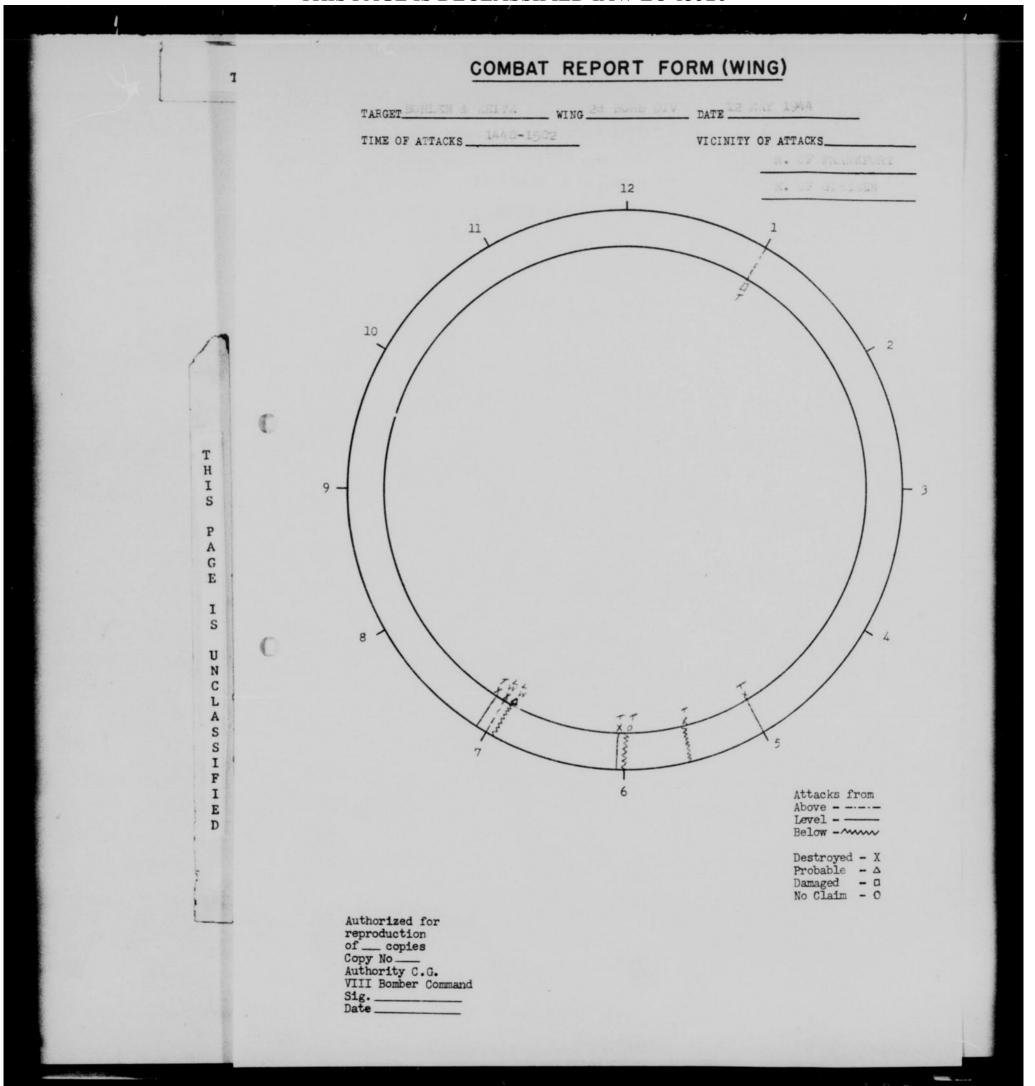
## 4. Enemy Aircraft Encounters.

- a. The lead Group of the leading Combat Wing report sightings of 10 15 FW 190's, 6 8 Me 109's, and 2 JU 88's. The E/A were first observed at the IP and followed the formation on the bomb run and enroute out, although no attacks were made at the time. In the vicinity of Frankfurt about six FW 190's and five Me 109's made a one pass attack going through the lead Squadron. The Group flying as the high right Squadrons on the lead and high right Groups of the Combat Wing report sightings but no attacks. Eleven FW 190's were seen 20 miles Northeast of Frankfurt at 25,000 ft heading East, and four Me 109's seventeen miles west of Bohlen at 21,000 ft heading Southwest. The high right Group did not report any E/A.
- b. The twelve A/C of the Group flying high right on the lead Group of the second Combat Wing sighted about 20 Me 109's in the vicinity of Frankfurt on the route out but no attacks were made.
- c. The lead Group of the third Combat Wing sighted four JU 88's and four Me 410's about 20 miles North of Frankfurt at 1500 hours on the route out. Attacks by these E/A were on stragglers and were generally from the rear, level, low, and alove. The E/A were thought to have taken off from Langensalza at 1435 hours, one JU 88 and one Me 410 teamed up to make a coordinated attack as follows: The JU 88 circled the formation and came in from six o'clock high while the Me 410 attacked from six o'clock low. The Me 410 was black. The 12 A/C of one Group flying as high right Squadron on the lead Group report two JU 88's at 1440 hours in the vicinity of Eisenach, and four Me 410's in the vicinity of Coblenz on the route out. One attack was made from six o'clock low by one E/A which is claimed as destroyed. The Group flying high right report about 15 JU 88's Me 410's and Me 109's seen from Bohlen to just past the target area. The E/A were concentrating on stragglers.
- d. The lead Group of the last Combat Wing composed of a composite of two Groups report three to six FW 190's at 1503 hours just North of Frankfurt on the route out. They centered their attention on stragglers in attacks coming generally from six o'clock low. Two FW 190's were seen at 1600 hours about 20 miles South of Brussels. The E/A were observed similating escort tactics prior to attacking. The Group flying echeloned right on the lead Group report one he 110 et about Eisenach on the route out and one JU 88 in the Zeitz area. No attacks were made on this Group but observations of attacks on other Croups were reported. These attacks were mostly against stragglers.

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## 5. Communications.

a. W/T and R/T channels were satisfactory. One radio operator reported intercepting the following traffic:

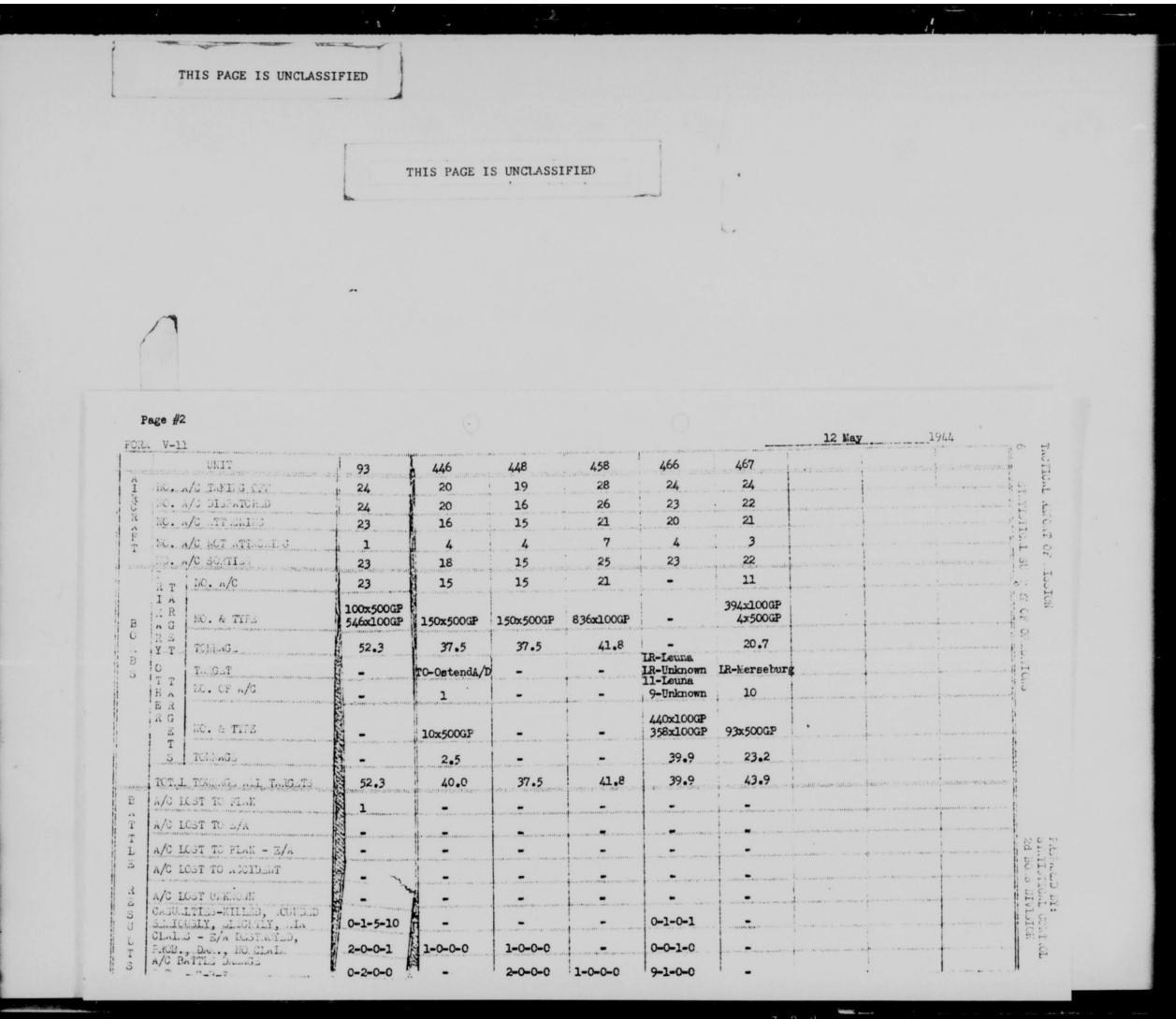
Aircraft c/s PEXE call 7BV (Division W/T ground station)
7EV answered and challenged. At this time another station
with different tone called PEXE using 7EV as c/s. Both
7EV and the unknown station called PEXE several times.
The unknown station did not challenge.
Radio operator intercepting this believes it may have been
an enemy station attempting to confuse our transmissions.
Operators at 7EV confirm this unusual occurence.

b. H2X equipped aircraft were flown, but bombing was done visually. Some difficulty was experienced in target recognition by E2X.

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THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED 12 May FOR. V-11 44PFF 492 392 453 UNIT 445 389PFF 2BD 389 18 16 3 26 14 HO. A/C TAYLO CO 285 25 38 17 16 13 23 NO. A/J DISPATORED 23 15 15 12 20 MO. A/C .TT.Chic 21 243 2 3 2 6 NO. A/C NOT ATTACKED 37 17 15 3 13 . . ./C SU.TI. 22 23 262 24 15 15 12 20 21 200 60x300GP 318x100G 171x250G 652x500G 42x100GP 261x250GP 8x500GP I. R 240x500GP 24x300GP 24x300GP 285x250GP NO. & TYPE 361x250GP 228x250GP 12x250GP 336x300@P В A G A B Y T 60.0 36.2 3.0 35.6 28.5 50.4 TOLLING .. 454.3 IR-Merseburg OTT T. C.T 12 EC. OF n/C H A E R 43 IRG 223x500GP 120x500GP NO. & TYPE T 798x100GP 30.0 S TOWARD 95.6 36.2 90.0 35.6 28.5 45.1 50.4 5.6 TOTAL TON OUR OLL TONGETS 549.9 A/C LOST TO FLAK B 1 A/C LOST TO B/A A/C LOST TO FLAN - E/A L 3 A/C LOST TO .. DOIDLAT 3. A/C LOST UNKNOWN CASULTISS-KILLED, COTDED SALICUSIN, CLICKTLY, LA CLALES - E/A DESTRUYED, 0-0-0-10 0-0-0-12 1-0-0-0 5-1-1-1 0-1-0-0 FACE., Da., NO CLAIM A/C BATTLE D.L.G. 2-2-0-0



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# HEADQUARTERS STATION 123 APO 558 OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

13 MAY 1944

SUBJECT: S-2 REPORT, MISSION 12 MAY 44 (BOHLEN REFINERY)

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, AAF 123, APO 558.

## ENEMY AIRCRAFT OPPOSITION

1. NO E/A OPPOSITION ENCOUNTERED.

## ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE

2. MEAGER, INACCURATE AA OF THE CONTINUOUS FOLLOWING VARIETY WAS ENCOUNTERED AT OSTEND UNDER VISUAL CONDITIONS ENROUTE TO TARGET. MODERATE, FAIRLY ACCURATE OF THE VISUAL VARIETY WAS SEEN AT THE TARGET. NO FLAK WAS ENCOUNTERED ON ROUTE OUT.

## OBSERVATIONS .

3. INEFFECTIVE SMOKE POTS AT TARGET WERE LIT AFTER BOMBS WERE DROPPED. CREWS REPORT CEMENT RUNWAYS ON FLORENNES A/D REPARIRED, AND ONE TWIN ENGINE E/A SEEN ON THE RUNWAY. MUCH SHIPPING ACTIVITY WAS NOTED ON THE RHINE ABOVE KOBLENZ.

JOHN H. DAVIS, CAPT. AC, GROUP S-2 OFFICER

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

SECRET AUTH: CO 458 66 INITIALS: ADV DATE: 14 YUAN

14 May 1944.

S UBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 2 12 May 1944.

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

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Ae	Group
B.	Division F. O. No 293
G.	Date of Operation
D.	Ordered Primary Target Bohlen Synthetic Oil
1000000	Refinery.
Ea	A/C Taking Off
Fe	A/C Dispatched 26
G.	Sorties
H.	A/C Attacking 21
	A/C Not Attacking 7
	A/G Attacking - Primary Target 20 A0 X 100 GP
9.0	
100	1 36 x 100 GP (4 bombs hung)
	A/C A ttacking - Secondary Target Nil
Le	A/C Attacking - Last Resort Target
Me	A/C Attacking - Opportunity Target Nil
N.	A/C Lost - Flak Nil
0.	A/C Lost - Flak and E/A
	A/C Lost - E/A
0.	A /C Lost - Accident
	A/C Lost - Cause Unknown
46.	of a manual management of the state of a sta

Joseph S. WELIAMS
1st Lt. Air Corps
Group Statistical Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS 458TH BOMBAHDHENT GROUP (H) AAF 123 APO 558 AUTH CO 458 66 INITIALS DES

15 May 1944.

S UBJECT: Report of the Operations Officer, Mission of 12 May 1944.

- T 0: Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H).
  - 1. General Narrative See the enclosed Command Pilot's Report.
- 2. Aircraft Not Attacking Twenty eight (28) aircraft took off in the formation shown in the enclosed formation diagram. Two(2) aircraft, 4 2-100365 and 42-50320, left the formation before becoming dispatched. Thus, twenty six (26) aircraft were dispatched.
- 3. Of the twenty six (26) aircraft dispatched, one aircraft turned back before reaching the enemy coast and without being attacked. Thus, t wenty five (25) aircraft received sortic credit. 4/0 41-29300.
- 4. Of the twenty five (25) aircraft receiving sortie credit, four (4) aircraft, 41-29303, 41-28735, 41-29342, 42-95018, turned back before reaching the target. All four aircraft crossed the enemy coast, but d id not attack. Thus, twenty one (21) aircraft are credited with an attack.
- Of the twenty one (21) sircraft attacking, all dropped bombs on the primary target, the Bohlen synthetic oil refinery.
- A detailed description of reasons for failure to attack is given in the enclosed report on aircraft not attacking.
  - 7. Lost Aircraft None of our aircraft were lost.

Karles H. Booth

Capt, AC

Asst Gp Opns Officer

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SECRET: AUTH: CO 43868 INITIALS: GOV DATE: 14 May

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

14 May 1944

SUBJECT: Command Pilot's Narrative, Mission of 12 May 1944.

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

Take eff and assembly was normal. We were three (3) minutes late departing the English coast and six (6) minutes late crossing the enemy coast due to our position in the formation with respect to the Forts (which were also late). We continually "essed" all along the route, maintaining an indicate d airspeed of 155 MPH, in order to stay behind the Forts.

No flak was encountered, nor were any enemy fighters over the entire briefed route to the target or on the way home. However, there were a few burst of flak-meager and inaccurate--over the target area with no resulting damage to our aircraft. Wisibility in the target area was very low due to a thick haze. There were no clouds.

The pilotage navigator and bombardier were unable to definitely see the target until we were very close to it, at which time we found ourselves to the left of course. This necessitated a turn of about 30° to come onto the target. The bombardier had between 20 to 30 seconds to synchronize after we turned onto the target, therefore, we had a poor run and our bombs fell short.

A sharp left turn was made ten (10) seconds after "bombs away" and we followed the briefed course to our Rally Point. We were unable to effect a rendezvous with the lead Group. However, we saw B-24's and B-17's twenty to thirty miles away, heading toward home, which ultimately turned out to be the Second Combat Wing.

We followed the B-24's and B-17's slightly to the right of our briefed course in order of intercept and effect rendezvous with units shead at the next turn.

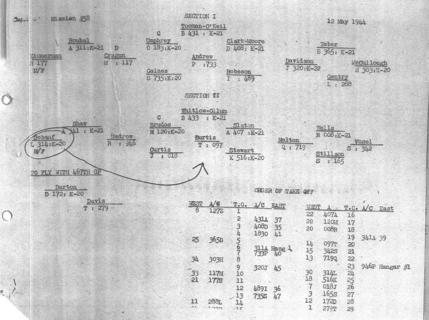
We avoided the flak area at Koblentz--rendezvous was made with other units south of Koblentz, and followed the briefed route home. The route was very well planned and briefed, and it is believed that all units of this Divisi on adhered strictly to the briefed plan empoute to the target.

JAMES H. ISBELL COLORD COMMAND PILOT

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### 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
12-May-44	BOHLEN	ANDREW	40	15			41-28733	733	Р	J4	26	RHAPSODY IN JUNK	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	BARTON	40	11			42-110172	172	D	<b>Z</b> 5	6	UNKNOWN 017	FLEW WITH 467TH
12-May-44	BOHLEN	BRUDOS	40	22			42-95120	120	М	J3	3	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	BURTIS	40	22			42-51097	097	Т	J3	2	UNKNOWN 022	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	CLARK	40	17	MOORE	L	42-100408	408	D	J4	17	BEASTFACE	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	CRAGUN	40	21			42-95117	117	М	7V	3	YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	CURTIS	40	7			42-95018	018	J	Z5	9	OLD DOC'S YACHT	ABORT - SORTIE FLAK HIT NOSE KNOCK OUT OXY
12-May-44	BOHLEN	DAVIDSON	40	ABT			42-50320	320	J	J4		UNKNOWN 018	ABORT - BOMBARDIER SEVERE TOOTH ACHE
12-May-44	BOHLEN	DAVIS	40	22			42-50279	279	Т	Z5	10	ENVY OF 'EM ALL	FLEW WITH 467TH
12-May-44	BOHLEN	GAINES	40	19			41-28735	735	S	J4	23	UNKNOWN 005	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	GENTRY	40	8			41-29288	288	L	J3	17	BIG-TIME OPERATOR	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	McCOLLOUGH	40	18			41-29303	303	Н	Z5	26	LIBERTY LIB	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	MELTON	40	19			41-28719	719	Q	J3	23	PADDLEFOOT	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	NEDROW	40	16			42-94946	946	R	7V	4	THE CAT'S (ASS)	
12-May-44	Bohlen	O'Neill, Frederick M	40	ACC			41-28671	671	K	J4		Unknown 001	Takeoff Accident Norwich
12-May-44	BOHLEN	ROBESON	40	24			41-29489	489	I	J4	2	UNKNOWN 014	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	ROUBAL	40	22			42-100311	311	Α	7V	21	УОКИМ ВОУ	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	SCHAAF	40	20			42-50314	314	L	7V	6	ETO PLAYHOUSE	(M/F)?
12-May-44	BOHLEN	SHAW, C	40	ABT			42-100341	341	Α	J4		SATAN'S MATE	ABORT - LATE T/O CNF (OPS RPT SHOWS 41-29300)
12-May-44	BOHLEN	SLATON	40	13			42-100407	407	Α	J3	15	LITTLE LAMBSY DIVEY	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	STEWART	40	21			42-7516	516	K	J3	9	GATOR	(M/F)?
12-May-44	BOHLEN	STILSON	40	16			42-95165	165	S	Z5	2	COOKIE	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	TOOMAN	40	14	O'NEILL	L	42-100431	431	В	J4	19	BOMB-AH-DEAR	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	UMPHREY	40	22			42-95183	183	0	J4	2	BRINEY MARLIN	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	VOGEL	40	20			41-29342	342	S	J3	20	ROUGH RIDERS	ABORT - SORTIE TURN BACK W/ENG TRBL LAND MANSTON
12-May-44	BOHLEN	WEBER	40	ABT			42-100365	365	В	7V		WOLFGANG (maybe)	ABORT - #4 SUPER CHG TROUBLE
12-May-44	BOHLEN	WELLS	40	22			42-95008	800	R	J3	4	UNKNOWN 035	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	WHITLOW	40	17	OLLUM	L	42-100433	433	В	J3	20	BIG DICK HARD TO HIT	
12-May-44	BOHLEN	ZIMMERMAN	40	15			42-95177	177	S	7V	5	BO II	M/F?