

HEADQUARTERS  
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION  
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

<u>FIELD ORDER NO.</u>	<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
665	REIMS A/D REIMS M/Y ROSIERES A/D MONTDIDIER A/D	20 MAY 1944

DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 510001, 27 Sep 58

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

- ANNEX 1 - ROUTES
- ANNEX 2 - BOMBING
- ANNEX 3 - ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE
- ANNEX 4 - ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS (NONE)
- ANNEX 5 - COMMUNICATIONS
- ANNEX 6 - STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION  
Office of Assistant Chief of Staff A-2  
AAF 147 APO 558

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: SECRET :  
: By auth. of C. G. :  
: 2d Bomb Division :  
: Initials *SWP* :  
: Date *14 June 1944* :  
: : : : :  
8 June 1944

SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, 20 May 1944

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

1. Data..

a. Date of Mission - 20 May 1944.

b. Primary Targets:

Reims A/D - 96th and 20th Combat Wings  
Reims M/Y - 2nd Combat Wing

c. Secondary Targets:

Rosieres A/D - 96th and 20th Combat Wings  
Montdidier A/D - 2nd Combat Wings

d. Last Resort Target - Any airdrome in occupied territory not adjacent to built-up area.

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

2. Narrative.

a. 177 aircraft from three Combat Wings, each Wing led by two PFF ships, were dispatched to visually attack the marshalling yards and airdrome at Reims. Three Groups of P-51's and one Group of P-38's provided fighter support.

b. Assemblies were accomplished with difficulty due to contrails and cloud layers. The 448th Group was unable to take off because of fog in the base area. The 93rd and 467th Bomb Groups, after becoming separated from their Wing formation, were forced to abandon the mission and return to their bases; remaining units departed the English coast on time. The route was flown generally as briefed.

c. All Groups visually attacked the assigned primary targets. Three Groups bombed the marshalling yards at Reims with excellent to fair results. Three Groups attacked the airdrome at Reims with excellent to good results.

d. Meager accurate Gunfire was encountered over the target area. Meager Gunfire was seen over Brussels and at the enemy coast. No enemy aircraft were seen and fighter support was excellent throughout the entire mission. Losses and claims were nil.

For the Commanding General:

*Charles B. Westover*  
CHARLES B. WESTOVER,  
Colonel, GSC,  
Chief of Staff.

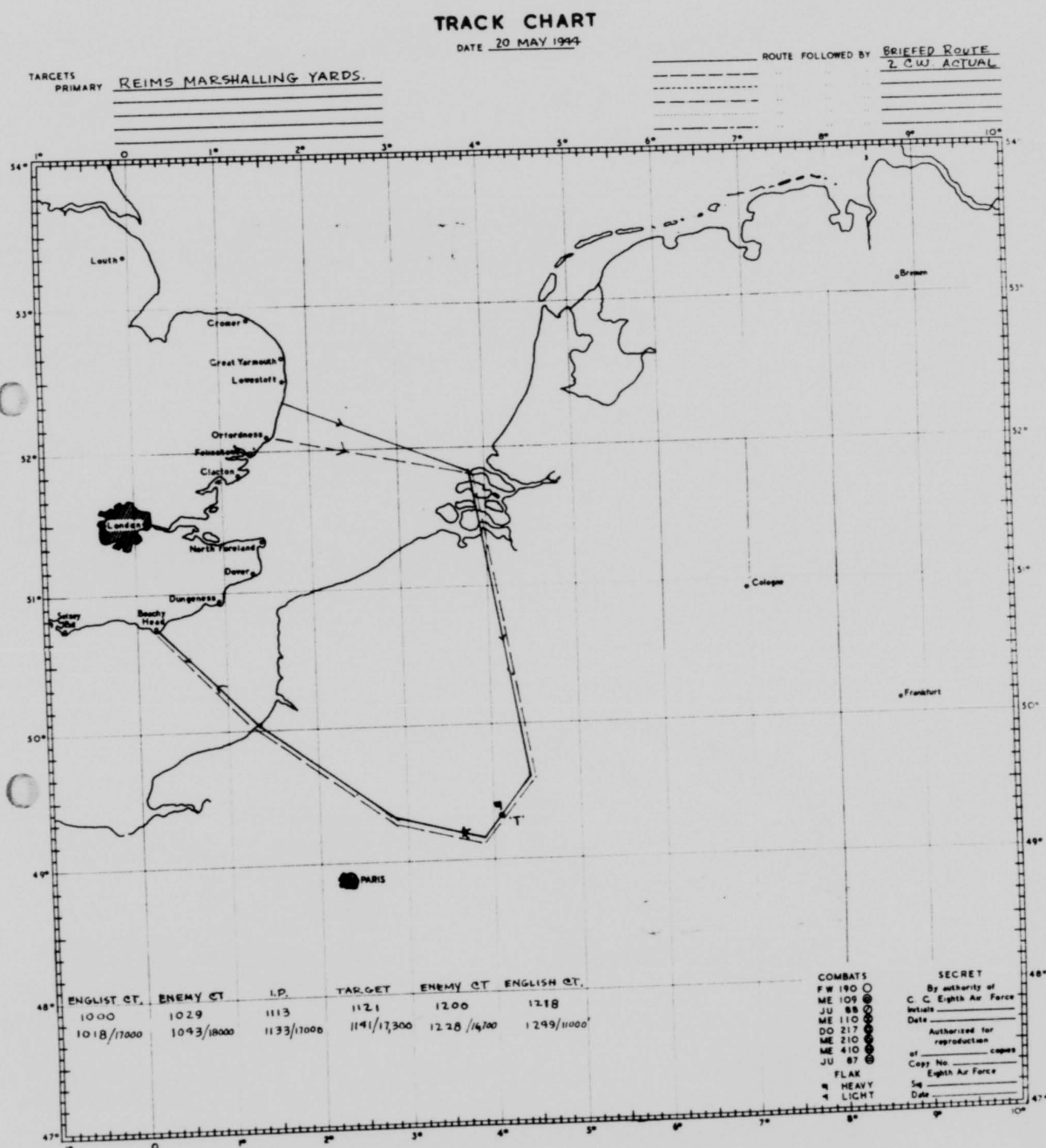
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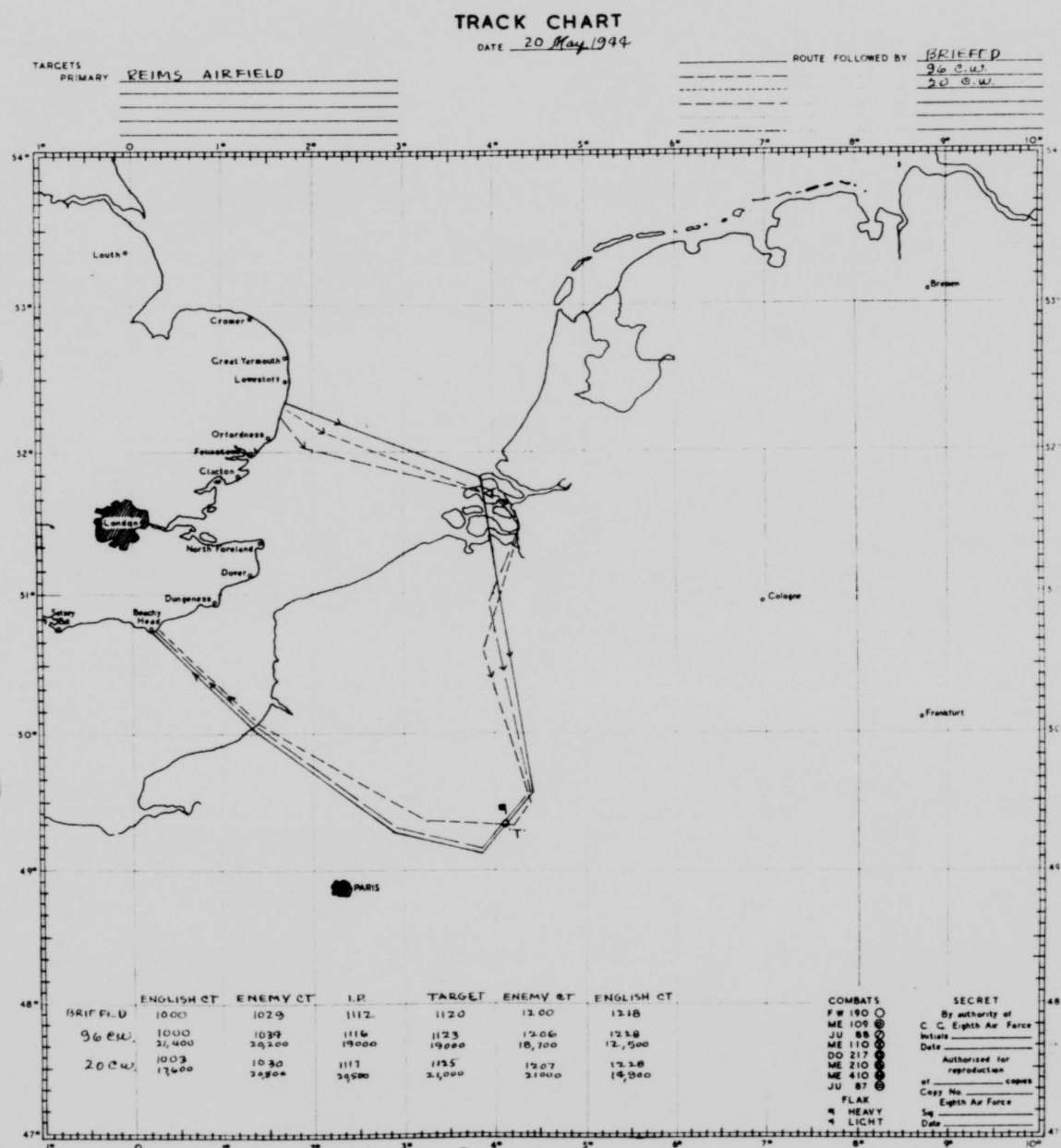
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## S E C R E T

## TACTICAL BOMBING MISSION REPORT - 20 May 1944

GROUP	DIR. OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLEW AUTO-PILOT	FLEW MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLEC.	RANGE	NUMBER A/C BOMBED
<u>RHEIMS A/D</u>									
466	220°		18,000'	1122		X	Dropped on Lead PFF		15 / 2 PFF
458	230°	4 min.	19,000'	1123½	X		1	1	15
458	240°	3 min.	19,800'	1124½	X		1	1	9
446				1125		X	Dropped on Lead PFF		12 / 2 PFF
446	240°	1½ min.	21,000'	1125½	X		1	2	10
<u>RHEIMS M/Y</u>									
453	233°	3 min.	18,000'	1140		X	Dropped on Lead PFF		9 / 2 PFF / 1 A/C of 467th
453	238°	3 min.	17,700'	1140	X		1	1	10
445	235°	3 min.	18,600'	1141	X		1	1	13
389	240°	1½ min.	20,000'	1140	X		1	2	14
389	242°	1½ min.	21,000'	1142	X		1	1	11

1. The assigned primary targets for this mission were the A/D at Rheims and the M/Y at Rheims.
2. The Rheims A/D was attacked by three Groups bombing by squadrons and the Rheims M/Y was attacked by three groups bombing by squadrons. The lead group of each wing was led by two PFF A/C. Three groups abandoned the mission to the Rheims A/D due to bad weather conditions. One aircraft of a group which abandoned the mission continued with the mission and bombed with an attacking group on the M/Y at Rheims.
3. One aircraft failed to bomb due to personnel error and two other aircraft failed to bomb due to rack malfunctions.
4. The bombing results of this mission were very good on both targets.

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## Tactical Report of Mission, 20 May 1944

3. Anti-aircraft Fire.

## a. Reims A/F and M/Y

- (1) The 466th and 458th Groups encountered meager to moderate and fairly accurate predictor control fire during their attack on the A/F, but the 446th Group which was following closely behind encountered only meager and inaccurate fire.
- (2) The 453rd Group led the attack on the Marshalling Yards which took place 15 minutes later, and encountered a fairly accurate predicted concentration. The 389th and 445th Groups encountered meager but fairly accurate predictor control fire.
- (3) Crews estimated that there were approximately 8 guns in the target area.
- (4) Several rockets were seen in the target area, and these were believed to have been fired from a small wood just north of the airfield.
- (5) Meager gunfire was encountered at a few places on route which could not be pinpointed on account of the weather conditions.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 20 May 1944

5. Communications.

a. W/T and R/T channels were satisfactory with the exception of poor reception on base HF/DF channels of two groups. All frequencies in the 3000-5000 Kc band are becoming progressively more crowded. "Window" was discharged by the lead Combat Wing and the lead groups of following Combat Wings. PFF (APS-15) aircraft were dispatched but bombing was visual. Two sets had malfunctions apparently due to poor pressurization and automatic frequency control trouble. One indicated a dead spot on the scope at 280° to the lubber line.

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FORM V-11		20 May 1944									STATISTICAL SECTION 24 BOB DIVISION
UNIT		2BD	389	389PFF	445	453	93	446	458	466	
AIRCRAFT	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	177	27	6	15	19	15	26	28	25	STATISTICAL SECTION 24 BOB DIVISION
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	177	27	6	15	19	15	26	28	25	
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	126	25	6	13	19	-	22	24	16	
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	51	2	-	2	-	15	4	4	9	
	NO. A/C SORTIES	132	26	6	13	19	-	23	27	17	
BOBS	NO. A/C	126	25	6	13	19	-	22	24	16	
	NO. & TYPE	52x100IB 345x1000GP 636x500GP	150x1000GP	4x1000GP 16x500GP	78x1000GP	113x1000GP	-	220x500GP	240x500GP	160x500GP	
	TONNAGE	334.1	75	6	39	56.5	-	55	60	40	
	TARGET	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	NO. OF A/C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	NO. & TYPE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	TONNAGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	334.1	75	6	39	56.5	-	55	60	40	
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	A/C LOST TO E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
RESULTS	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	FIELD OF: STATISTICAL CONTROL 24 BOB DIVISION
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, LIA CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB. DAME, NO CLAIM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	2-3-0-0	1-1-0-0	0-2-0-0	-	-	-	-	-	1-0-0-0	



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Page #2

FORM V-11

20 May

1944

UNIT		467									
AIRCRAFT	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	16									
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	16									
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	1									
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	15									
	NO. A/C SOMETIMES	1									
BOBS	NO. A/C	1									
	NO. & TYPE	52x100IB									
	TONNAGE	2.6									
	TARGET	-									
	NO. OF A/C	-									
BATTLE RESULTS	NO. & TYPE	-									
	TONNAGE	-									
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	2.6									
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	-									
	A/C LOST TO E/A	-									
BATTLE RESULTS	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A	-									
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-									
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-									
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED	-									
	SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, ETC.	-									
BATTLE RESULTS	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED,	-									
	PROB. DOWN, NO CLAIM	-									
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	-									
	OTHER COMMENTS	-									
		-									

TACTICAL REPORT OF DIVISION  
6 STAFF PLANT & G OF OPERATIONSPREPARED BY:  
TACTICAL CONTROL  
24 BOB DIVISION

HEADQUARTERS  
STATION 123 APO 558  
OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

21 MAY 1944

SUBJECT: S-2 REPORT, MISSION 20 MAY 44 (REIMS A/D)  
TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, AAF 123, APO 558.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT OPPOSITION

1. NO E/A OPPOSITION ENCOUNTERED.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE

2. AA WAS SCATTERED MEAGER AND INACCURATE IN BRUSSELS AREA, AND ALSO MEAGER AND INACCURATE IN TARGET AREA. TWO OF OUR A/C SUFFERED MINOR BATTLE DAMAGE.

OBSERVATIONS

3. EIGHT S/E AIRCRAFT PARKED NEAR HANGARS AT POIX A/D. AND AIRFIELD WAS NOTED NORTH OF NOYON, IT WAS WELL CAMOUFLAGED AND THE DISPERSAL AREAS WERE IN GREEN FIELDS, HOWEVER, NO RUNWAYS COULD BE SEEN.

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

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

SECRET  
AUTH CO 4286P  
INITIALS CH  
DATE 21 May

21 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Operations Officer's Report, Mission of 20 May 1944.

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

1. General Narrative - See the enclosed Command Pilot's Narrative.
2. Aircraft Not Attacking - Twenty eight (28) aircraft took off and left our base in the formation plan shown in the enclosed formation diagram. One (1) aircraft, 41-29359, left the formation before becoming dispatched. Twenty seven (27) aircraft were dispatched.
3. Of the twenty seven (27) aircraft being dispatched, all went over the target or made deep penetration into enemy-held territory and are credited with sorties.
4. One (1) aircraft, 41-29596, left the formation before reaching the target. Two (2) aircraft, 42-100365 and 42-50279, went over the target but did not drop bombs due to rack malfunctions. Thus, twenty four (24) aircraft are credited with an attack.
5. All twenty four (24) aircraft attacking dropped bombs on the primary target, the Rheims airdrome.
6. A detailed explanation of reasons for failure to attack is given in a separate report on aircraft not attacking.
7. 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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AUTH: 0942866

INITIALS: JCM

DATE: 20 May 1944

HEADQUARTERS  
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Group Operations Officer  
APO 568  
AAF 123

20 May 1944

SUBJECT: Lead Pilot's Narrative, Mission of 20 May 1944.  
TO : Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H)  
AAF 123, APO 568.

1. The lead ship took off at 0805. An instrument take-off plan was used, with top of the overcast being reached at approximately 10,000 feet. Assembly was effected over Splasher #5 at 14,000 feet. Departure was made from Splasher #5 with the 458th Group flying high right on the 465th Group. The Wing formation arrived over Cromer at 0945 at 18,000 feet.

2. At 1000, position 5240N-0152E, a climb was made to 22,000 feet, in order that we might clear a dense layer of clouds, the tops of which were at approximately 21,500 feet. After crossing, a let-down was made to 19,000 feet. During the let-down, the enemy coast was crossed at 1024, position 5143N-0344E.

3. The briefed route was followed, and very little flak was seen. However, at 1032, we were fifteen (15) miles to the left of our course, but after advising the Wing Commander, a turn to the right brought us back on course.

4. Weather conditions were extremely hazy, with an overcast of 8/10 to 10/10 all the way in. Tops of the overcast averaged about 10,000 feet.

5. The I.P. was reached at 1116. The target was reached and bombs were away at 1123. Weather had cleared in the immediate vicinity of the target, making a visual run possible. Bombing was accomplished with excellent results.

6. The route home was followed with but slight deviations. No flak was seen since leaving the target.

*John C. McCoullough*  
JOHN C. MCCOULLOUGH  
1st Lt, Air Corps  
Lead Pilot

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Mission of 20 May 1944

MISSION #54

McCullough-JA Roche-Shamis

K-21 812 : 7V-D

Schulze-Hinkley-Daly

K-21 366 : 25 B

DeNeffe

K-21:183-J4-U

Robeson

K-20:705 J4-H

Cragun

K-21 117 : 7V-M

D

Umphrey

K-21:489 J4-I

Thompson

272:J4-K

Nyman

K-20 : 942-7V-U

Davidson

K-22:320-J4-J

Shaw

116:J4-U

Gulick

219:7V-W

Haydon

177:7V-S

Nedrow

K-20:946 7V-R

Schaaf

K-21:314-7V-L

Stout

050-7V-J

SECTION II

Barton-Henson-Campbell

K-21 : 172 : 2-5-D

C

Brauer

K-21: 165-25-S

Taylor

K-21 365-7V-B

Davis

K-20:279-25-T

Burtis

K-20:097-J3-T

D

Weller

008:J3-R

Olney

K-21:359-J3-P ABORT

Gentry

K-20:288-J3-L

Watson

163:25-K

Hanson

596-25-R ABORT

Melton

K-21:425-J3-D

Curtis

316:J3-N

Simes

K-20:005-25-H

SPARES

Jay

311 7V

733 J4

096 25

470 J3

## 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-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	BARTON	43	12	HENSON	L2	42-110172	172	D	Z5	8	UNKNOWN 017	NAV - CAMPBELL
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	BRAUER	43	18			42-95165	165	S	Z5	4	COOKIE	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	BURTIS	43	24			42-51097	097	T	J3	5	UNKNOWN 022	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	CRAGUN	43	23			42-95117	117	M	7V	5	YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	CURTIS	43	10			42-95316	316	N	J3	1	PRINCESS PAT	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	DAVIDSON	43	14			42-50320	320	J	J4	12	UNKNOWN 018	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	DAVIS	43	24			42-50279	279	T	Z5	12	ENVY OF 'EM ALL	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	DeNEFFE	43	22			42-95183	183	U	J3	5	BRINEY MARLIN	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	GENTRY	43	11			41-29288	288	L	J3	20	BIG-TIME OPERATOR	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	GULICK	43	22			42-95219	219	W	7V	2	PATCHIE	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	HANSEN	43	1			41-29596	596	R	Z5	6	HELL'S ANGEL'S	ABORT - SORTIE
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	HAYDON	43	1			42-95177	177	S	7V	7	BO II	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	McCARTHY	43	1			42-95272	272	K	J4	--	UNKNOWN 047	*LDF - THOMPSON on FP
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	McCOLLOUGH	43	20	LaROCHE	L1	42-109812	812	D	7V	17	UNKNOWN 016	NAV - SHAMIS
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	MELTON	43	21			42-95159	159	P	J3	3	ROUGH RIDERS II	42-100425 O 7V The Bird on FP
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	NEDROW	43	18			42-94946	946	R	7V	6	THE CAT'S (ASS)	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	NYMAN	43	17			41-28942	942	U	7V	1	HEAVENLY BODY	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	OLNEY	43	ABT			41-29359	359	P	J3	--	TAIL WIND	ABORT - SEVERE ICING, FROZEN CTRLS IN TURRETS
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	ROBESON	43	25			41-28705	705	H	J4	28	YE OLDE HELLGATE	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	SCHAAF	43	22			42-50314	314	L	7V	8	ETO PLAYHOUSE	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	SCHULZE	43	22	HINCKLEY	D1	42-100366	366	B	Z5	18	MIZPAH	NAV - DALY
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	SHAW, C	43	21			42-95116	116	U		1	JUNIOR	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	SIMES	43	10			42-95005	005	H	Z5	8	UNKNOWN 034	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	STOUT	43	8			42-95050	050	J	7V	8	GAS HOUSE MOUSE	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	TAYLOR, O	43	26			42-100365	365	B	7V	25	WOLFGANG (maybe)	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	UMPHREY	43	24			41-29489	489	I	J4	4	UNKNOWN 014	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	WATSON	43	23			42-95163	163	K	Z5	3	DIXIE BELLE	
20-May-44	RHEIMS A/D	WELLS	43	24			42-95008	008	R	J3	6	UNKNOWN 035	