

HEADQUARTERS 2d POMBARDMENT DIVISION : 2d Bomb Div

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By Auth of CG
DIVISION: 2d Bomb Div
APO 558: Initials
Date

25 June 1944

SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, 28 May 1944.

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

1. Data.

- a. Date of Mission 28 May 1944.
- b. Primary Targets:

Zeitz Synthetic Oil Refinery - 14th and 96th Combat Wings. Merseburg Synthetic Oil Refinery - 2nd and 20th Combat Wings.

c. Secondary Targets:

Eisenach Notor Works - 14th and 96th Combat Wings. Risenach (Stockhausen) Notor Works - 2nd and 20th Combat Wings.

- d. Last Resort Target All Combat Wings any military objective positively identified as being 50 miles inside Germany.
- e. Units Participating 96th CBW (466th, 467th, 458th BG).

 14th CBW (44th, 492nd, 392nd BG).

 2nd CBW (389th, 445th, 453rd BG).

 20th CBW (448th, 446th, 93rd BG).

2. Narrative.

a. Planning called for the 96th and 14th Combat Wings to attack the Zeitz Synthetic Oil Refinery, and the 2nd and 20th Combat Wings to attack the Merseburg Synthetic Oil Refinery. 312 aircraft were dispatched for this mission. Escort was furnished by two Groups of P-47s, two Groups of P-38s and one Group of P-51s.

b. Assemblies were accomplished without incident and routes flown as planned.

c. Bombing at Zeitz was of outstanding excellence. Severe damage was done to the refinery plants and storage tanks; the gas treatment plant, a pump house, several stills, and the compression and carbon dioxide removal plant were badly damaged. Bombing was fair at Merseburg; damage extended across the central portion of the works, installations of the synthetic oil section, the fertilizer section, boiler houses and gas plant. Further damage southwest of the target area affects the complex railway system outside the works. Smoke screens, smoke from the target and haze caused difficulty at the targets, causing four Squadrons to attack Zeitz instead of Merseburg. Eleven targets of opportunity were attacked with forces of from one to ten aircraft.

d. All units attacking Merseburg encountered moderate to intense and accurate predictor control fire. Only four inaccurate bursts of anti-aircraft fire were seen at the Zeitz Refinery. Gunfire was encountered enroute at Jena, Le Culot, Koblens and the Durmer Lake areas. Losses were three aircraft, two lost to flak and one to unknown causes. Claims were nil. Fighter support was very good.

For the Commanding General:

CHARLES B. WESTOVER
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

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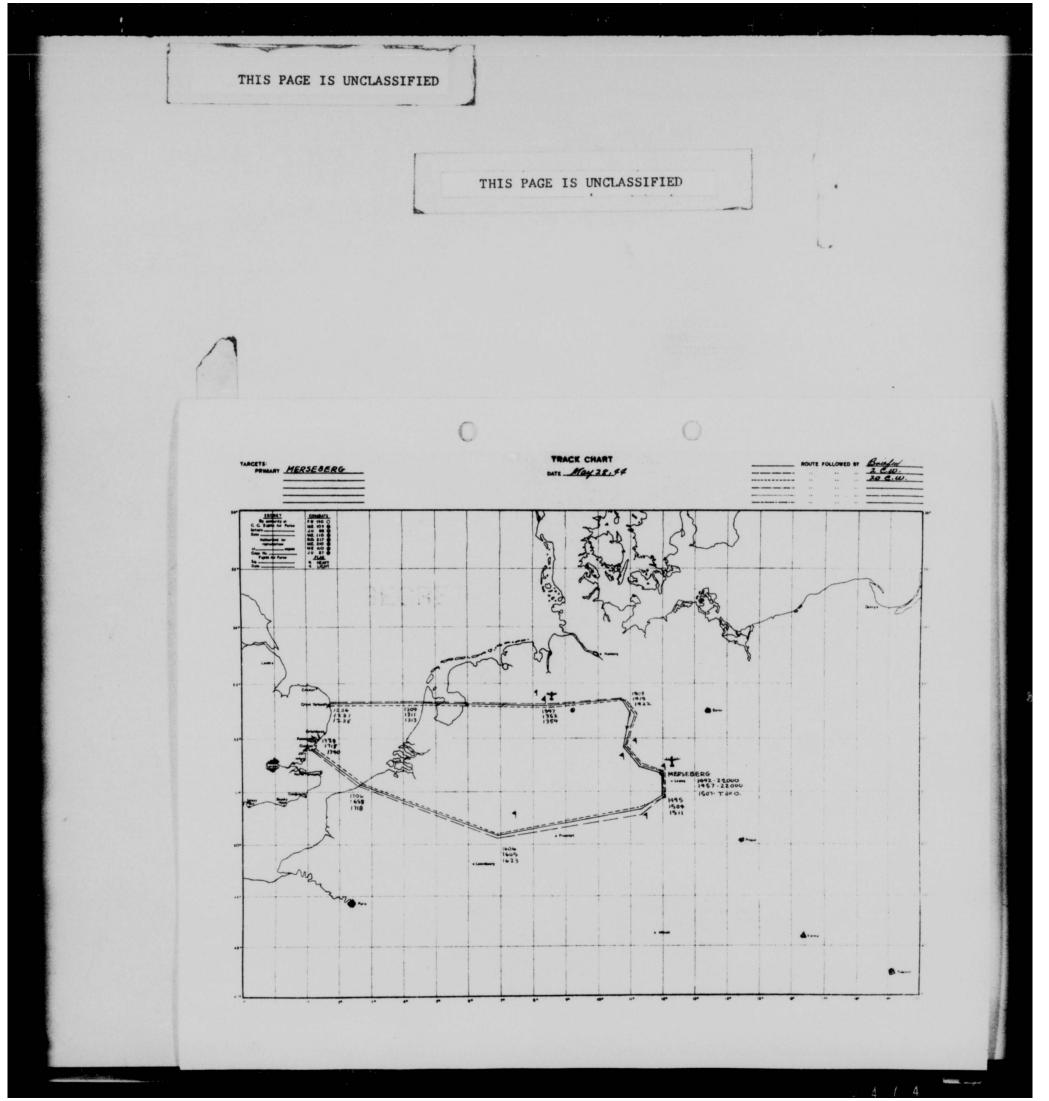
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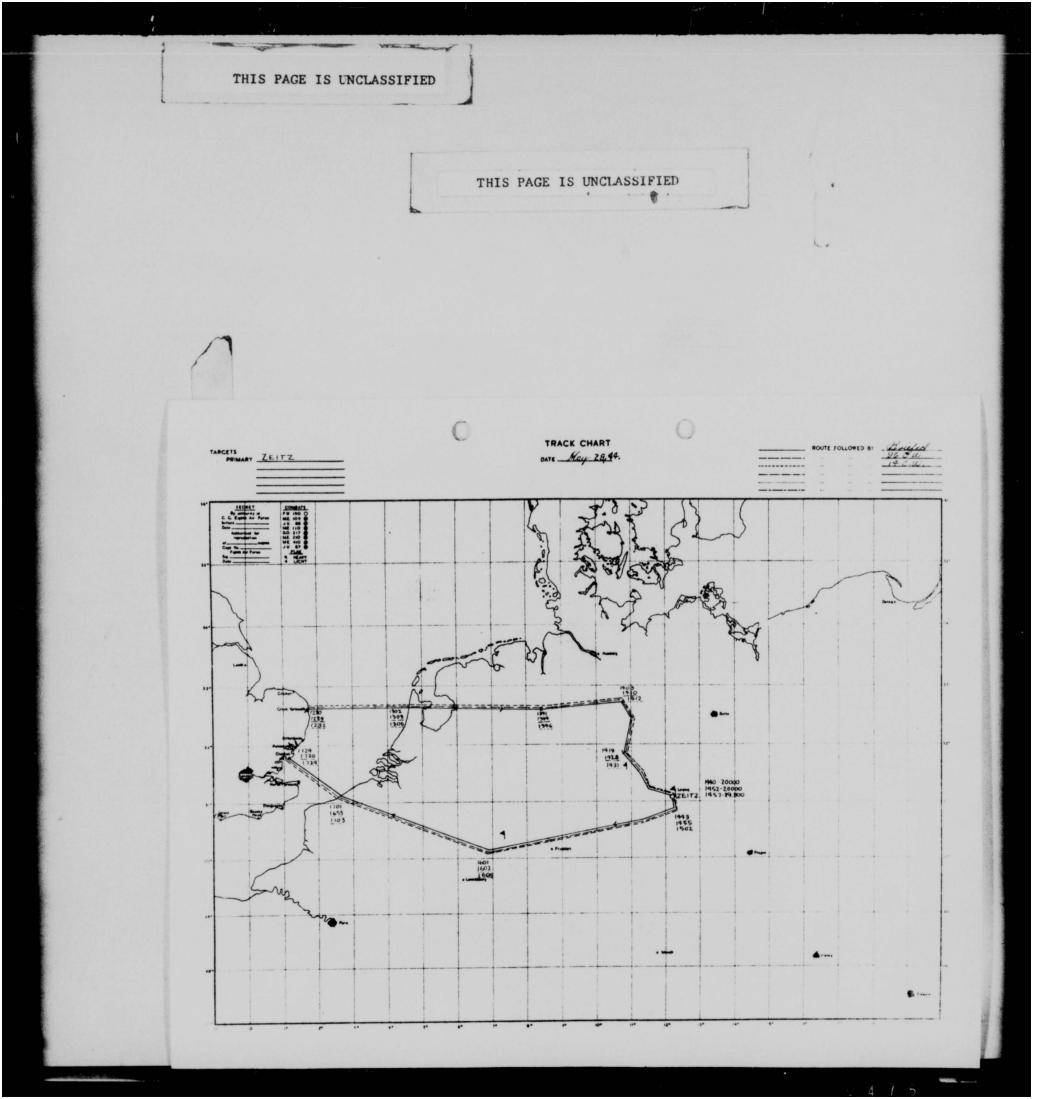
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Tactical Bombing Report of Mission, 28 May 1944

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENC TH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLEW AUTO PILOT	FLEW MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLECT	RANGE	NULEER A/C BOMBED
GREEF	OF Itoli				!ÆRSEBUR	G			
115	108	45 500.	22,000	1456	X	-	2	2	25
445				1458	Y		2	2	22
369	104	12 min.	23,000		, A		1	7	12
453	100	2 min.	22,300	1458	Α		-	-	**
					ZEITZ			,	21
466	130	25 acc.	20,000	1452	X		2	4	24
400			20,500	1452	X		2	2	22
467	116	15 sec.		1453	У		2	2	26
458	110	2 min.	21,000		**		5	2	15
492	115	ly man.	19,000	1457	Y			~	25
	70	45 sec.	21,000	1500	X		4	~	2/ / 2 / /2 - 6 / 52
44 392	70	1 min.	21,000	1501	X		2	4	26 / 1 A/C of 453r
392	70	T 111711.0	21,000		ZEITZ - LAST	RESORT			
	10000000		07 000	7.50/	Y		1	1	12
453	150	2 min.	21,300	1504	A.		2	1	22
448	153	2 min.	22,000	1507	Χ		-	7	14
446	180	1 min.	19,200	1510	X		1	1	+4

- a. The assigned primary targets for this mission were the oil refineries at Merseburg and Zeitz, Germany.
- b. Merseburg was to be attacked by six Groups bombing by Squadrons, but due to bomb smoke of preceding Groups and interference from other Groups, it was attacked by three Groups plus 7 m/C of other Groups. Zeitz was attacked by fix Groups bombing in Squadron formation. Four Squadrons, with Merseburg as their assigned primary, bombed Zeitz as a last resort target due to the difficulties stated above.
- c. The following last resort targets were attacked due to the before mentioned difficulties. 10 A/C Limburg, 8 L/C Meiningen, 1 A/C Trirlis, 1 L/C Ulzen, 1 A/C Egmund, 1 A/C Altenburg, 1 A/C Vechta. Due to a bomtsight calfunction, 8 L/C bombed Saalfeld. 1 A/C attacked Diepholz, 1 A/C attacked the A/D at Meppel and 1 A/C attacked an unidentified target. 1 A/C failed to bomb due to battle damage.
- d. The remarks of hombing at Merseburg was fair. The assigned MPI was not hit but scattered concentrations did some damage to the refinery. The results of bombing at Zeitz were very good with direct hits on the MPI.

Tactical Report of Mission, 28 May 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. Targets Merseburg
 - (1) All Groups in the 2nd Wing encountered moderate to intense and accurate predictor control fire from Merseburg.
 - (2) The Looth Group led the attack on Zeitz and encountered only four inaccurate bursts of AA fire. No AA fire was encountered at this target by either of the other Groups in this Wing or by any Group in the 14th Wing. However, the 20th Wing approached the target from the north and encountered intense and accurate gunfire from the defenses of Merseburg during their bombing runs.
 - (3) Moderate to intense gunfire was encountered on route at Jena and Le Culot.
 - (1) Meager to moderate gunfire was encountered on route at Wernigerode, Koblenz, Vechta, Dummer Lake, Lingen and Halberstadt. Crews believed that the gun positions in the Dummer Lake area were situated near the railway between the Lake and Diepholz A/F, and also in the vicinity of Damme, but they were unable to pinpoint them exactly.
 - (5) Balloons were seen at Saalburg, Saalfeld, and from some barges on the Rine at 50 12'N 07 40'E. The balloons at Saalfeld were seen round a dam.
 - (c) One A/C of the 445th Group was shot down at Merseburg at 21000 ft, and one A/C of the 44th Group was shot down near the Dummer Lake at 21000 ft.

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4. Enemy Aircraft Encounters.

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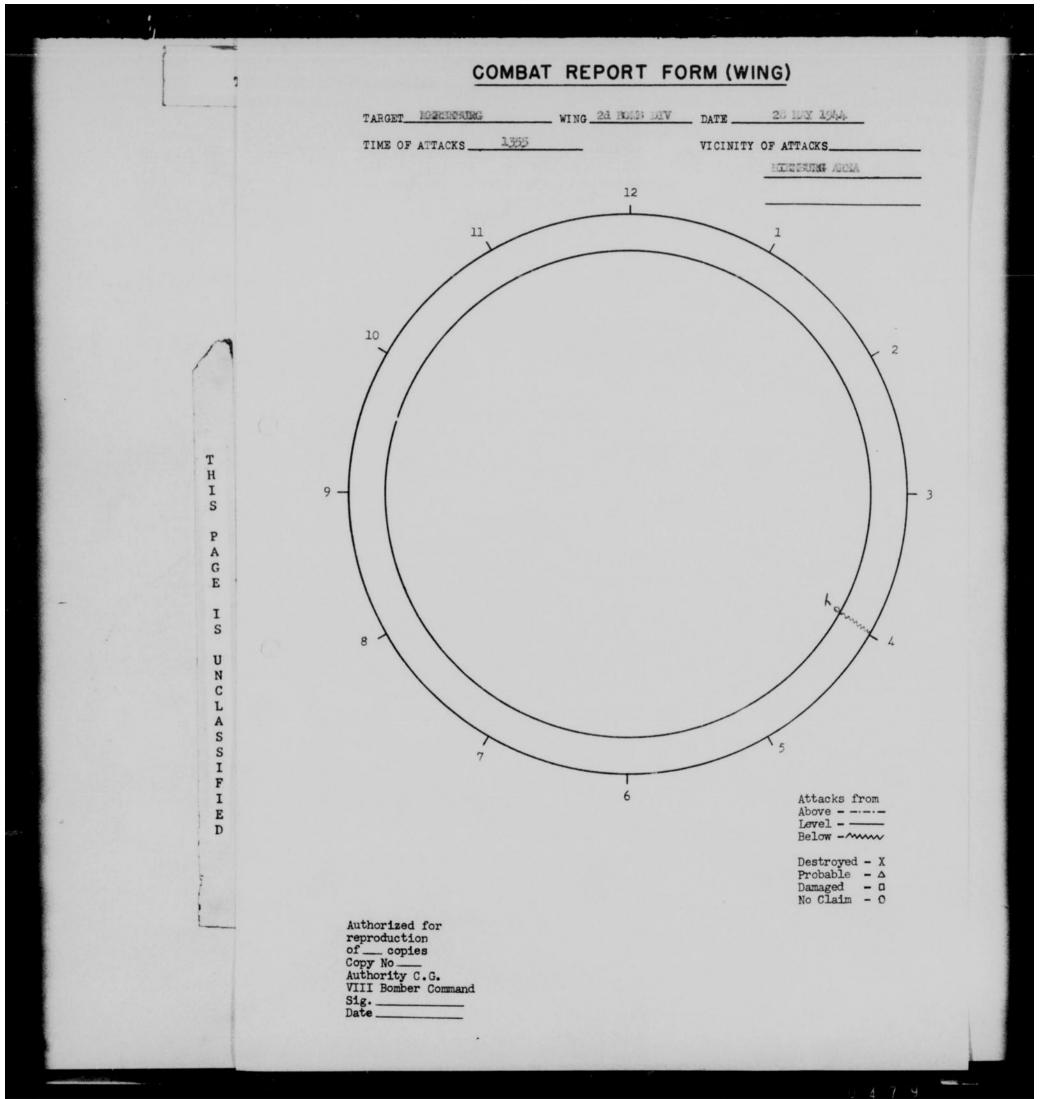
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a. There were no E/A attacks against the Division; however, one ME 410 was observed in the Nienburg area doing 360 degree turn. This E/A came to within 600 yards of one Group and was fired upon, although not actually attacking the Group.



Tactical Report of Mission, 28 May 1944

5. Communications.

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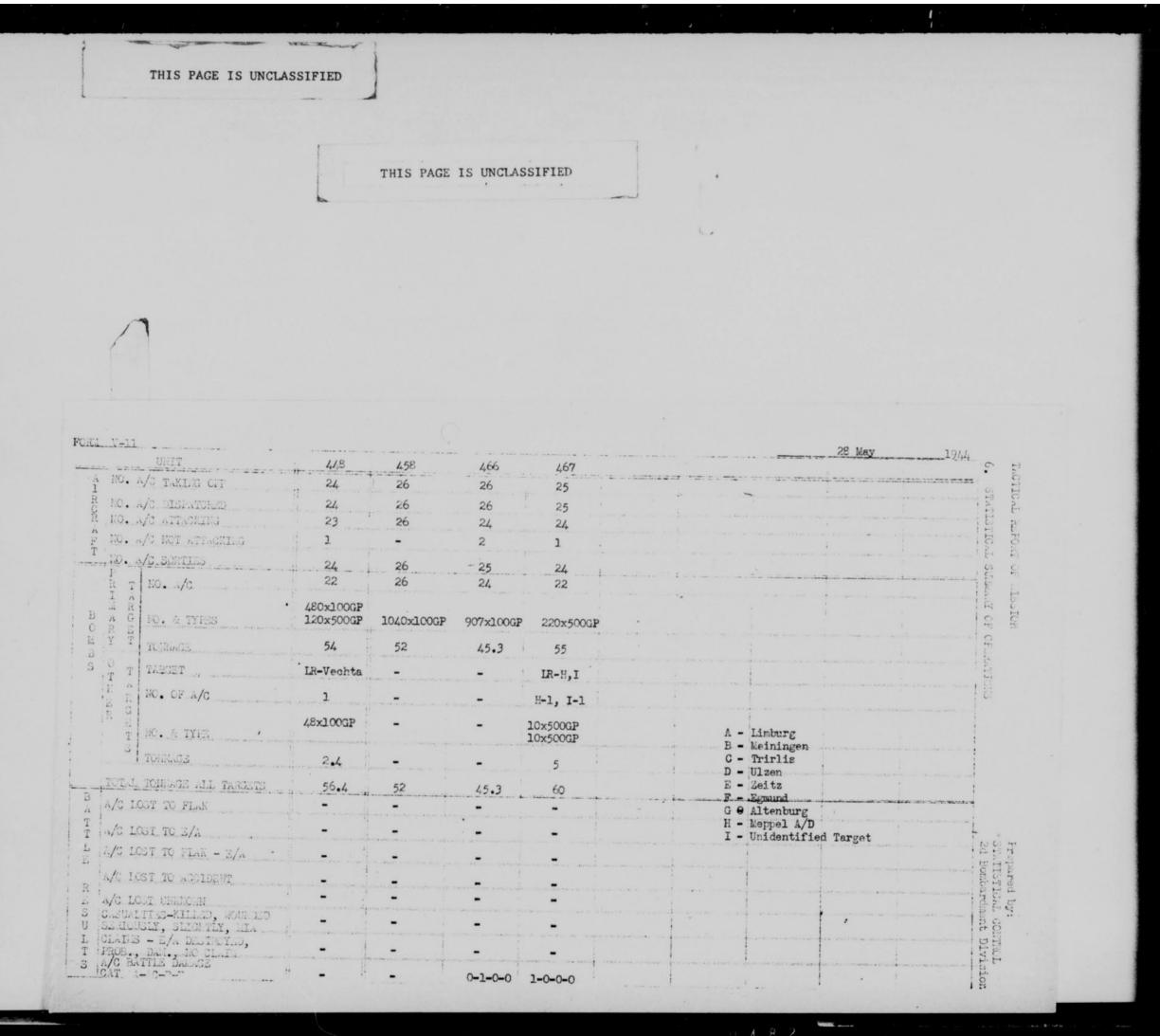
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a. W/T and R/T communications were satisfactory, with the exception of an irregular malfunction of the VHF ground receiver at Division Headquarters. Trouble on this was cleared immediately. "Window" and "Carpet-blinker" were used as RCM. Carpet jamming caused enemy radars to change frequency and forced some radars to change from tracking to searching. Equipment performed satisfactorily. Requirements indicated for a directional blinker receiver antenna which will exclude signals lateral to and in rear of formation, and a filter which will exclude PRF's other than G/L radar. Development work on this has been initiated.

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED FORCE V-11 28 A NO. A/C TAKING CIT 24 26 26 27 28 312 NO. A/C DISPATCHAD 21 NO. A/C ATTACKING 25 NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING 26 226 6476x100GP 50x500GP 1348x100GP 180x500GP 20x500GP 1300x100GP 250x500GP 506x100GP 895x100GP 840x500GP NO. & TYPES 45 67.4 25.3 533.8 TONNINGE. IR-Saalfeld IR-A,B,C,D IR-E,F,G A-10, B-8 E-14, F-1 8 C-1, D-1 G-1 100x500GP 140x500GP LR-Zeitz LR-Diepholz 13 61 NO. OF A/C 10x500GP 664x100GP 96x500GP 10x500GP 572x100GP 44x100GP T NO. & TYFE 476x500GP 28.6 152.2 2.2 69 67.4 53.9 TOTAL TORRINGE ALL TARGETS A/C LOST TO FLAK A/C LOST TO B/A A/C LOST TO FLAK - B/A A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT A/C LOST UNKNOWN 0-0-1-0 CASUALTIAS-KILLAD, ACURALD SERIOUSLY, SLICHTLY, ALA 1-0-1-37 CLAIDS - E/A DESTROYER, PROB., DAT., NO CLAID A/C BATTLE DADLOB CAT A-AC-B-R 1-1-0-0 1-0-0-0 3-3-0-0 3-0-0-0



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HEADQUARTERS STATION 123 APO 558 OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

29 MAY 1944

SUBJECT: S-2 REPORT, MISSION 28 MAY 44 (ZETTZ)

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, AAF 123, APO 558.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT OPPOSITION

1. NO EA ENCOUNTERED.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE

2. FLAK WAS SEEN IN THE DISTANCE AT NUMEROUS POINTS BUT NONE BURST NEAR THE FORMATION. NO BATTLE DAMAGE SUFFERED.

OBSERVATIONS -

3. NEW A/D N.W. OF SOIGNES.
A/D UNDER CONSTRUCTION NORTH OF WEPPEL AND AT HOOGEUEEN (5246-0622).
BALLOON BARRAGE PROTECTING WOODED AREA AT 5038-1145, INDICATING POSSIBLE CONCENTRATION OF SUPPLIES.

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

HEADQUARTERS U58TH BOSHARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF 123 APO 558

Co 47866

29 May 1944.

SUB JECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 28 May 1944.

To: Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (NI).

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

. 10	Group			9 0	· ·	* *	 ٠	4 2	458
B.	Division F.O. Ho.					8 E		6 0	311
C.	Date of Operation								28 May 1944
D.									Zeitz Synthetic Oil Plant
E.	A/C Taking Off								
Po	WC Disputched								
G.	Sorties								
He	A/C Attacking								
	A/C Not Attacking								
	A/C Attacking - P								
				-					1040 bombs
K.	No Attacking - S	econdar	y Ta	rgot		* *			
	A/C Attacking - L								
	A/C Attacking - 0								
	MC Lost - Flak .								
0.	A/C Lost - Flak a								
P.	A/C Lost - E/A								
Q.	A/C Lost - Accide	nt					 *		1111
23	A/C Lost - Cause								01.21

FOREPH S. WILLIAMS

lat Lt. AC

Group Statistical Officer

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

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29 May 1944.

SUB JECT: Operations Officer's Narrative, Mission of 28 May 1944.

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

- 1. General Narrative See the enclosed Command Pilot's narrative.
- 2. Aircraft Not Attacking Twenty six (26) aircraft took off and left our base in the formation shown in the enclosed formation diagram. All aircraft were dispatched, received sortic credit, and dropped all bom bs on the primary target, Zeitz Synthetic Oil Plant.

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3. Lost Aircraft - None of our aircraft were lost. All returned saf ely to base.

CHARLES H. BOOTH, Capt, AC

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

30 May 1944

SUBJECT: Command Pilot's Narrative, Mission of 28 May 1944e

T 0 : Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H)

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The 458th Bemb Group lead the *B* Group of the 96th Combat Wing with a lead Squadron and a lew left Squadron plus a high right Squadron furnished by the 467th Group.

The 458th Group took off at 1030 hours for an assembly at 17,000 feet over Splasher #5. The assembly was made by 1147 hours and the Wing assembly was accomplished. The 96th Wing departed Splasher #5 for Buncher #5, the belanding of the Division assembly line. Immediately on leaving Splasher #5, we had difficulties with a Wing of B-17's coming from the west. By maneuvering through their Wing, we were able to make our times good at the Division assembly line.

The 96th Combet Wing lead the Division on the mission and we were the first Wing of the Division out. We were about two (2) minutes late at CP 1 and on course. The clamb was started at this point and continued until 23,000 feet was reached. We were three (3) minutes late at CP 2 and on course. At CP 3, we were approximately four (4) minutes late, but on course and at reference altitude, 21,600 feet. The maneuver at the I.P. was accomplished without trouble. The primary target was attacked with fair results. The rally after the target was normal and the withdrawal was along the briefed route.

No enemy fighters were seen although our fighter support reported some in t he area. Going in to the target and coming out, we saw no fighters.

Our fighter support was excellent and all fighter rendezvous points were made and fighters contacted.

The weather was as briefed except for contrails encountered just inside a new coast. Three to four tneths cloud coverage in the target area with

JOHN A. HENSLER Major, Air Corpe Command Pilot

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SECTION 1

Glenn-La Roche-Craig K-21 433 J3-B

Monahan

MELER HIS Gibson

K-20 320 J3-W

mineral Company of the second of the second

Brudos

Zimmerman K-21 7V 110-P Urbaniak

Hathaway X-21 455 7V-0

Walker

Moodward-Daly K-21 366 Z5-B

<u>Vermorion</u> <u>Hansen</u> 96 Z5-R <u>K-21</u> 070 Z5-1

106 Z5-L

95 25-Q

Ourtis 316 J3-N

Stewart 516 J3-K

A/C Disp

470-0 Disp 470-0 17

FORMATION OVER ENGLISH COAST + TARGET SAME AS

458th Pilots and Aircraft as listed on Formation Plans

Date	Target	Pilot	458th	Pilot	Cmd Pilot	Ld	Serial	Last 3	RCL	Sqdn	A/C Msn	A/C Name	Comments
			Msn	Msn									
		BRAUER	49	23			41-28682	682	ı	Z5	30	UNKNOWN 003	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	BRUDOS	49	24			41-29288	288	L	J3	21	BIG-TIME OPERATOR	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	CRAGUN	49	26			42-95179	179	Χ	7V	3	HERE I GO AGAIN	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	CURTIS	49	13			42-95316	316	N	J3	6	PRINCESS PAT	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	GIBSON, S	49	2			42-50320	320	V	J3	16	UNKNOWN 018	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	GLENN	49	22	LaROCHE	L1	42-100433	433	В	J3	24	BIG DICK HARD TO HIT	NAV - CRAIG
28-May-44	ZEITZ	HANNAMAN	49	7			42-51097	097	Т	J3	10	UNKNOWN 022	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	HANSEN	49	5			42-110070	070	E	Z 5	3	ELMER / LADY LUCK	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	HATHAWAY	49	6			42-52455	455	0	7V	31	PLUTOCRAT	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	HEMRICH	49	3			41-28719	719	Q	J3	28	PADDLEFOOT	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	HOPKINS, H	49	1			42-95096	096	F	Z 5	1	BOMBS AWAY	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	JONES, E	49	2			42-51095	095	Q	Z5	2	SHOO SHOO BABY	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	JUDGE	49	1			42-95163	163	K	Z 5	8	DIXIE BELLE	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	LARSON	49	2			42-95106	106	L	Z 5	2	MISS PAT	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	MONAHAN	49	1			42-95219	219	٧	7V	7	PATCHIE	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	SCHAAF	49	27			42-50314	314	L	7V	12	ETO PLAYHOUSE	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	SIMES	49	14			42-95005	005	Н	Z5	12	UNKNOWN 034	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	STEWART	49	25			42-7516	516	K	J3	11	GATOR	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	STILSON	49	20			42-95165	165	S	Z 5	9	COOKIE	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	THOMPSON	49	4			42-100311	311	Α	7V	24	YOKUM BOY	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	URBANIAK	49	2			41-29340	340	N	7V	20	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	VERMEIREN	49	5			41-29596	596	R	Z5	10	HELL'S ANGEL'S	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	WALKER	49	2			41-29489	489	Т	7V	8	UNKNOWN 014	
28-May-44	ZEITZ	WHITLOW	49	19			42-100407	407	Α	J3	19	LITTLE LAMBSY DIVEY	NAV - GRIBI
28-May-44	ZEITZ	WOODWARD	49	20		L2	42-100366	366	В	Z 5	22	MIZPAH	NAV - DALY
28-May-44	ZEITZ	ZIMMERMAN	49	21			42-51110	110	Р	7V	5	TOP O' THE MARK	