

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

898

TARGETS

ERFURT/WORD
GOTHA
EISENHACH

DATE

20 JULY 1944

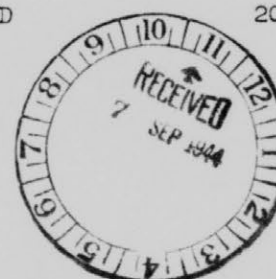


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2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AAF 147 APO 558: 2d Bomb Div :
: Initials *SLP* :
: Date *3 Aug 44* :
: : : : : : : :
24 August 1944SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, ERFURT, GOTH, EISENACH, 20 July 1944
TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, AAF 101, APO 634.SUMMARY OF MISSION1. Data

- a. Date of Mission - 20 July 1944
- b. Primary Targets - ERFURT/NORD (Airfield)
95th and 14th Combat Wings

GOTHA (Aircraft Factory) ..
2nd Combat Wing

EISENACH (2 Air Armament Factories)
20th and 96th Combat Wings
- c. Secondary Targets - ESCHWEGE (Air Park)
95th and 14th Combat Wings

FULDA (Rubber Works)
2nd Combat Wing

FULDA (M/Y)
20th Combat Wing

NIDDA (Air Park)
96th Combat Wing
- d. Last Resort Targets - Any military objective positively identified as being fifty miles within Germany.

2. Narrative

a. Planning

(1) The required force was to fly in the following order with two minutes from lead to lead of six-Squadron Combat Wings and three minutes from lead to lead of nine-Squadrons Combat Wings:

95th CEW (6 Sqdns) - 3 Sqdns, 489th Group and 3 Sqdns, 491st Group

14th CEW (6 Sqdns) - 2 Sqdns, 492nd Group; 2 Sqdns, 44th Group and 2 Sqdns, 392nd Group

2nd CEW (9 Sqdns) - 3 Sqdns, 453rd Group; 2 Sqdns 389th Group, and 3 Sqdns 445th Group

20th CEW (9 Sqdns) - 3 Sqdns, 93rd Group; 3 Sqdns, 448th Group and 3 Sqdns, 446th Group

96th CEW (9 Sqdns) - 3 Sqdns, 458th Group;
3 Sqdns, 467th Group and 3 Sqdns, 466th Group.

b. Execution

- (1) Assemblies were accomplished without difficulty.
- (2) The mission was flown essentially as planned.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 20 July 1944

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3. Bombing Tactics and Results

a. Three Groups were assigned to Gotha. Two attacked the primary and the third, the 389th Group, attacked the M/Y at Friedburg due to a bombsight malfunction in the lead H2X aircraft.

b. Five Groups were assigned to Erfurt/Nord Airfield. All Groups attacked the primary except one Squadron of the 492nd Group, which attacked an airfield two miles west instead of two miles north of Erfurt.

c. Six Groups were assigned the target at Eisenach, but due to adverse weather conditions, only two Squadrons of the 467th Group attacked the primary. One Squadron of the 446th Group and one Squadron of the 466th Group attacked the assigned secondary - the Fulda M/Y. The remainder attacked various last resort targets.

d. Six aircraft attacked various last resort targets after being forced to return early.

e. Strike photographs show the following:

Gotha - MPI areas completely covered - hits on main buildings, landing ground perimeter strips and hangars.

Friedburg - Hits on M/Y choke point.

Erfurt/Nord - Hits on main A/F buildings, dispersal areas, landing ground, parked aircraft, perimeter strips, hangar area and adjacent built up areas.

Eisenach - Hits on residential area and built-up area NW of MPI.

Schmalkalden - Bombfall mostly in fields and wooded areas and residential area.

Boppord - Hits on railroad and barges in river.

Fulda M/Y - Hits in M/Y and on rolling stock.

Berka - Few hits across M/Y.

4. Anti-Aircraft Gunfire.

a. Meager and inaccurate predictor control fire from approximately four guns was encountered at Gotha. A moderate and fairly accurate predicted concentration was encountered by the one Group which attacked Eisenach. No gunfire was encountered at Friedberg, Erfurt or Schmalkalden. A few rockets were seen, however, at Schmalkalden. Moderate to intense heavy gunfire was encountered on route at Frankfurt, Bonn, Koblenz, Aachen, and Gilsen Rijen. Meager heavy gunfire was encountered on route at Duren, Schowen, Langensalza, Wetzlar, Turnhout, and from the vicinity of 5130N-0430E. A gun position was seen at Duren one to two miles northwest of the town. Several rockets were seen at Glessen.

5. Enemy Aircraft Encountered and Fighter Support

a. No enemy aircraft were encountered and fighter support was excellent.

6. Losses and Claims

a. One A/C was lost to an unknown cause.

b. Claims were nil.

For the Commanding General:

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Charles B. Westover
CHARLES B. WESTOVER
Colonel GSO
Chief of Staff

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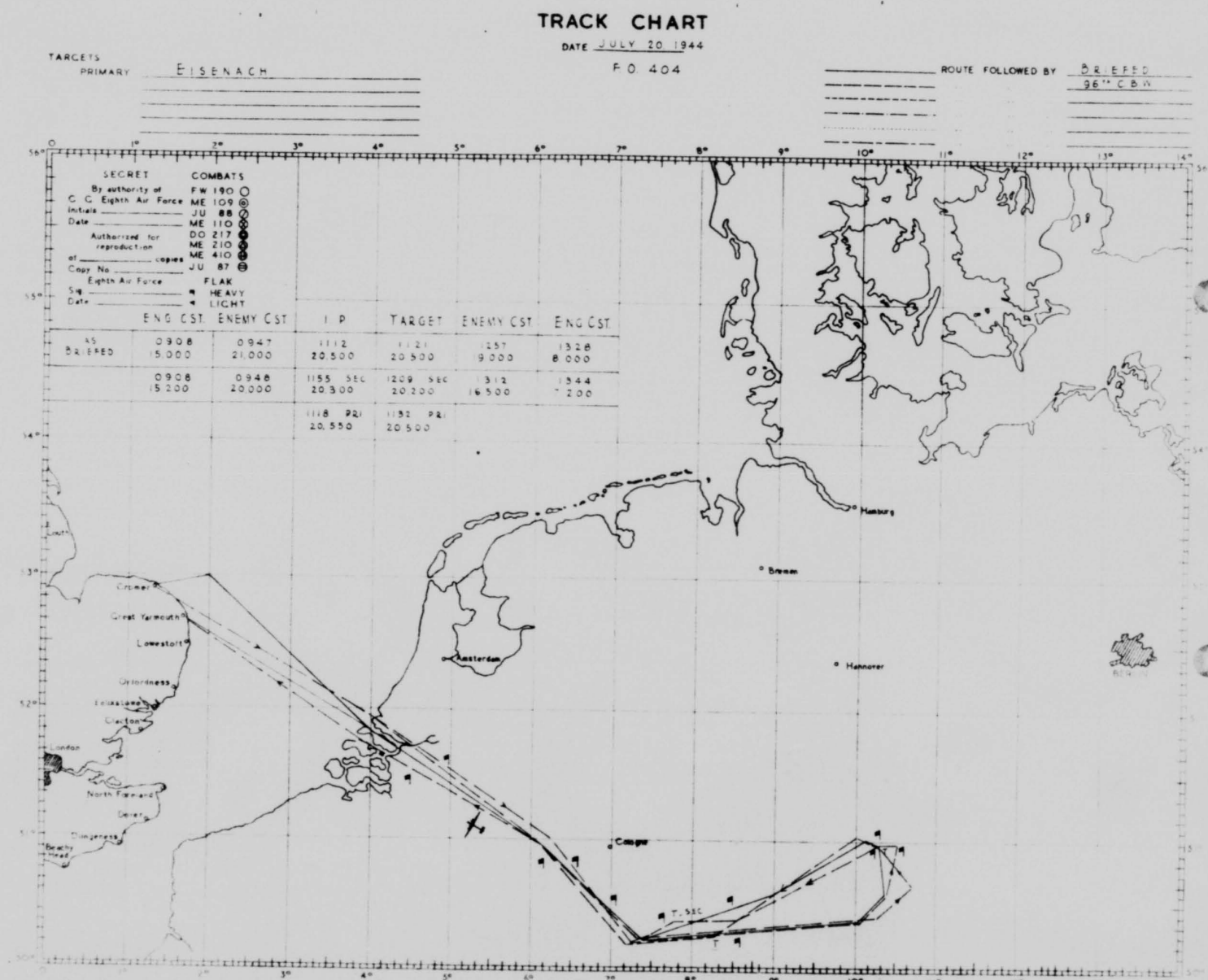
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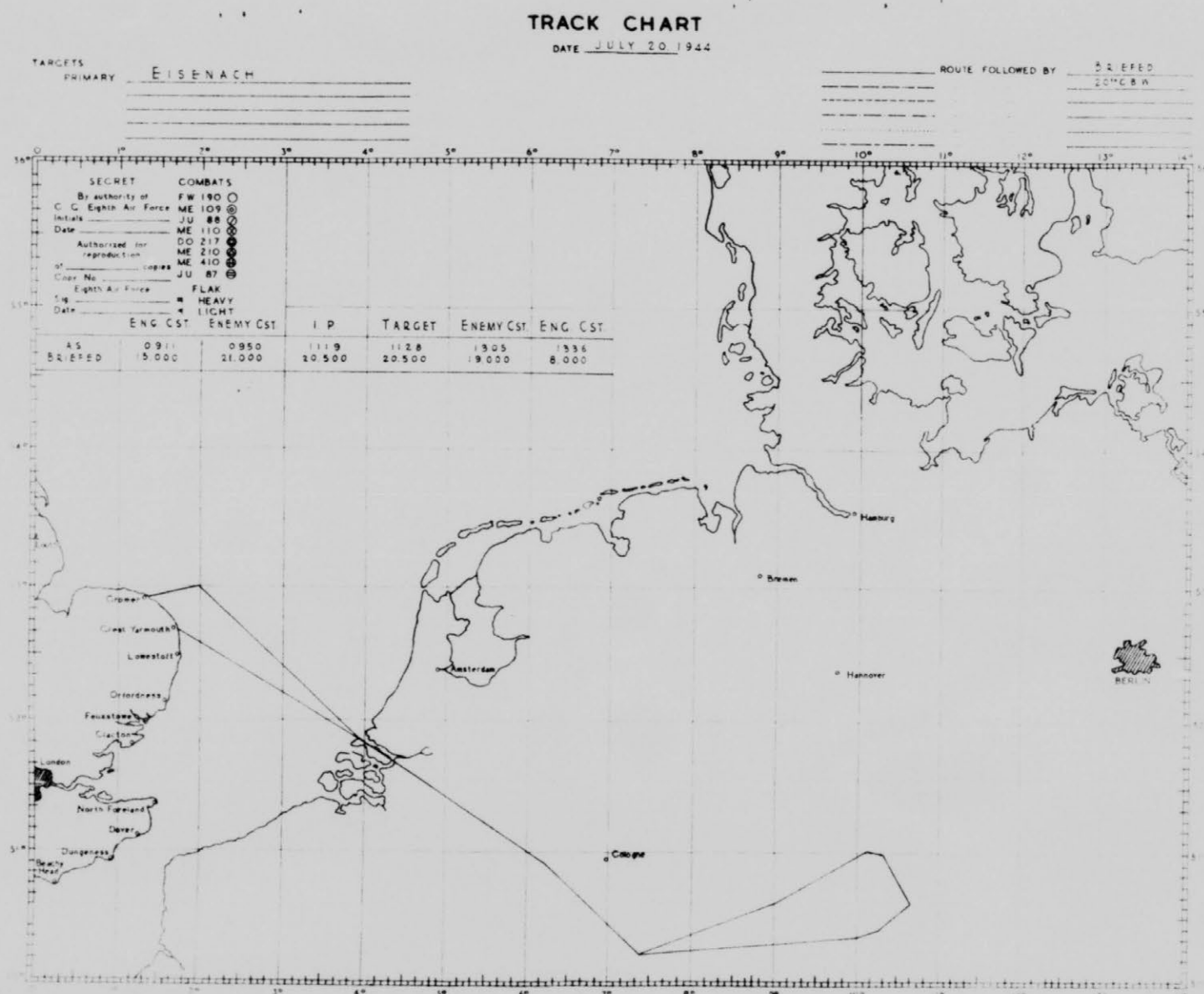
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SECRETTACTICAL REPORT OF BOMBING, MISSION 20 July 1944

GROUP	DIR. OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLEW AUTO-PILOT	FLEW MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLEC.	RANGE	TOTAL BOMBS AND TYPE	NO. A/C BOMBING	DROPPED ON H2X OR GH	VISUAL	
							GOTHA		HE INCEND FRAG				
453	336°	45 sec.	20,800'	1133	X		2	2	1196x100	23		X	
453	350°	45 sec.	21,500'	1135	X		2	2	252x500	23		X	
445	350°	2 min.	20,500'	1135	X		2	2	222x500	19		X	
445	310°	2 min.	21,500'	1137	X		1	1	360x120	9		X	
							FRIEDBURG T/O						
389	235°	4 min.	19,000'	1202	X		2	2	236x500	21 1/2	H2X	X	
							ERFURT/NORD A/F						
489	340°	1 1/2 min.	20,500'	1128 1/2	X		3	3	36x500	1360x120	37 1/2	H2X	X
491	335°	2 min.	20,500'	1131		X	1	1	440x120	11		X	
491	337°	2 min.	20,000'	1132	X		2	2	196x500	18		X	
392	300°	25 sec.	21,000'	1133 1/2	X		1	1	144x500	12 1/2	H2X	X	
392	335°		19,800'	1134	X		1	1	618x100	12		X	
44	358°	45 sec.	22,550'	1133	X		1	1	144x500	12		X	
44	321°	1 min.	22,500'	1136	X		1	1	624x100	12		X	
492	309°	1 1/2 min.	21,000'	1132	X		1	1	107x500	9 1/2	H2X	X	
							ERFURT/BINDERLEBEN A/F						
492	330°	3 min.	22,000'	1133	X		1	1	108x500	9		X	
							EISENACH						
467	330°	10 sec.	21,000'	1133	X		1	1	130x500	11		X	
467	330°	40 sec.	23,100'	1131		X	1	1	488x100	10		X	
							SCHWALKALDEN T/O						
93	003°	1 1/2 min.	21,000'	1129	X		1	2	239x500	20 1/2	H2X	X	
446	326°	1 min.	20,000'	1134	X		2	4	312x500	26		X	
448	318°	2 min.	20,500'	1131	X		3	6	1652x100	32 1/2	H2X	X	
							BOPPAED						
93	335°	3 min.	20,800'		X		1	1	72x500	6		X	
							FULDA M/Y						
446	245°	50 sec.	19,000'	1143 1/2	X		1	1	96x500	8		X	
466	267°	30 sec.	22,000'	1125	X	- 1 -	1	1	520x100	10		X	

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SECRETTactical Report of Bombing, Mission 20 July 1944 (Contd)

GROUP	DIR. OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLEW AUTO-PILOT	FLEW MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLEC.	RANGE	TOTAL BOMBS AND TYPE		NO A/C BOMBING	DROPPED ON H2X OR GH	VISUAL
									HE	INCEND FLAC			
467	340°	1 min.	20,500'	1132	X		1	1	120x500		10		X
458	270°	12 min.	20,000'	1209	X		1	1	72x500		6/2	H2X	X
458	250°	4 min.	22,200'	1202	X		1	1	144x500		12		X
458	305°	2 min.	20,000'	1131	X		1	1			9		X
466	332°	5 min.	21,500'	1125	X		1	1	107x500		9/1	H2X	X
466)	280°	20 sec.	22,000'	1130	X		1	1	312x100	466	466 6		X
458)									312x100	458	458 6		X

- The assigned primary targets for this mission were the A/C factories at Gotha and Eisenach and the Erfurt/Nord A/F.
- Three Groups were assigned to Gotha, two attacking the primary and the third attacking the H/Y at Friedburg due to a bombsight malfunction in the lead PFF A/C. Five Groups were assigned to Erfurt/Nord A/F, all Groups attacking the primary except one Squadron of the 492nd Group which attacked an A/F 2 miles west instead of 2 miles north of Erfurt. Six Groups were assigned to Eisenach. Due to adverse weather conditions only two Squadrons attacked the primary, two Squadrons the assigned secondary at Fulda H/Y, and the remainder attacked various last resort targets.
- All A/C over their respective targets bombed. Six A/C attacked various last resort targets after aborting.
- Results of bombing:

Gotha	Very Good	LPI areas completely covered - hits on main buildings, landing ground perimeter strips and hangars.
Friedburg	Fair	Hits on H/Y choke point.
Erfurt/Nord	Good	Hits on main A/F buildings, dispersal areas, landing ground, parked aircraft, perimeter strips, hangar area and adjacent built up areas.
Erfurt/Bindersleben		No photo coverage
Eisenach	Fair	Hits on residential area and built up area NW of LPI.

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Tactical Report of Bombing, Mission 20 July 1944 (Cont'd)

Schmalkalden	Poor	Bombfall mostly in fields and wooded areas and residential area.
Boppard	Fair	Hits on railroad and barges in river.
Fulda M/Y	Good	Hits in M/Y and on rolling stock.
Berka	Fair	Few hits across M/Y.
Koblenz		No photo coverage
Idstein M/Y	Poor	Bombfall in fields and a few hits on railroad.
Herleshausen M/Y	Fair	Hits on M/Y, tracks, and rolling stock.
Bad Salzungen	Fair	Hits on fields, houses, railroad, and possible factory.
Bad Nauheim	Poor	Hits on fields, houses and railroad.

5. Disposition of bombs by PFF A/C.

Friedburg	2 A/C	4x500GP	
Schmalkalden	2 A/C	2x500GP	10x100IB
Erfurt/Nord	3 A/C	8x500GP	10x120 Frag.
Koblenz M/Y	2 A/C	8x500GP	
Bad Salzungen	1 A/C	8x500GP	

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HEADQUARTERS
STATION 123 APO 558
OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

21 JULY 1944

SUBJECT: S-2 REPORT, MISSION 20 JULY 44 (EISENACH)
TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, AAF 123, APO 558.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT OPPOSITION

1. NO E/A ENCOUNTERED.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE

2. ENROUTE TO EISENACH, MEAGER INACCURATE VISUAL OF FLAK WAS ENCOUNTERED AT HELLEVOETSLUIS ON THE DUTCH COAST. MEAGER INACCURATE VISUAL FLAK WAS ENCOUNTERED OVER EISENACH AND BAD MAUHEIM. OUR FORMATION ENCOUNTERED MODERATE, ACCURATE FLAK OF THE VISUAL, OF VARIETY OVER FRIEDBERG AND KOBLENZ.

3. SEVEN OF OUR A/C SUFFERED MINOR BATTLE DAMAGE.

OBSERVATIONS

4. OUR A/C 117M, 752ND SQ. LEFT FORMATION AT 1015, AT 5100-0510, WITH NUMBER 2 ENGINE SMOKING AND LOSING ALTITUDE. NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS A/C.

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

SECRET

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

22 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 20 July 1944.

TO: Commanding General, 2d Bombardment Division.
Attention: Statistical Control.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Composite with 466th

A. Group	458	458
B. Division F.O. No.	404	404
C. Date of Operation	20 July 1944	20 July 1944
D. Ordered Primary Target.	Eisenach A/C Factory	Same
E. A/C Airborne.	34	6
F. A/C Sorties	28	6
G. A/C Attacking	27	6
H. A/C Not Attacking	7	Nil
I. A/C Attacking Primary Target.	Nil	Nil
J. A/C Attacking Secondary Target.	Nil	Nil
K. A/C Attacking Last Resort Target.	Nil	Nil
L. A/C Attacking Opportunity Target.	33 - 6 - Koblenz M/Y	
	72 - 1 - 500 M43	
	12 - Idstein M/Y	
	144 X 500 M43	
	9 - Herleshausen M/Y	
	108 X 500 M43	
	Bad Nauheim - - - 6	
	212 X 100 M47	
M. A/C Lost - Flak	Nil	Nil
N. A/C Lost - Flak and E/A	Nil	Nil
O. A/C Lost - E/A.	Nil	Nil
P. A/C Lost - Accident	Nil	Nil
Q. A/C Lost - Cause Unknown.	1	Nil
R. Time of Take Off.	0701	0721
S. Average Time of Flight.	6:55	7:00
T. Comments.	Nil	Nil

For the Commanding Officer:

JOSEPH S. WILLIAMS
1st Lt, AG
Group Statistical Officer

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MISSION OF 20 JULY 1944

PLAN OF FORMATIONLEAD SQUADRON

500# GP's

ENGLEHARDT-HOGG

C PFF : 910R

HOOVEN

25 : 018J

BROWN

7V : 942U

HARRIS-OLLM

PFF : 158S

MCARDLE

J3 : 120M

DANE

K-21

GABRIEL

25 : 682I

BEANS

J4 : 141U

BLUM

J3 : 342S

K-21

PREVOSTAbort J3 : 44JALVESTAD

J4 : 264K

FUSON

J4 : 288S

K-20

HIGH RIGHT SQUADRON 500# GP'sLAMERS-HENSON

25 : 578F

C

MARTIN

J3 : 183U

MANTER

J4 : 281Q

HANCOCK

J3 : 059E

WARNER

7V : 110P

KENYON

J3 : 516K

GLASS

J3 : 179P

K-20

JUDGE

25 : 163K

MONOHAN

7V : 117M

WALKER

7V : 314J

LIVERMORE

25 : 116V

K-22

K-21

CANADY

25 : 070E

LOW LEFT SQUADRON 500# GP'sMCCOULLOUGH-WRIGHT

7V : 479F

C

HAYDON

7V : 050J

KLOHE25 : 366E AbortHAYZLETT

7V : 311A

ANDREW

J4 : 408D

COYLE7V : 179X AbortSULLIVAN

7V : 340L

K-22

WAGNERJ3 : 316N Abort

K-21

MATZE

J4 : 134R

PISKIN

J4 : 27J

BOYLE

J4 : 705W

K-20

FRENCH

7V : 352K

K-21

HIGH RIGHT & LOW LEFT ELEMENT ON 166TH M-47 ID'sHIGH RIGHT COMPOSITE SQUADRON

364 T

: 466th

SPEER

J4 : 285H

K-20

336L

: 466th

560J

: 466th

MCCARTHY

J4 : 163M

MCCORMICK

J4 : 287J

MORFORD

J4 : 201N

387 E

: 466th

LOY

7V : 709I

ASH

7V : 457

K-21

370 K

: 466th

374 N

: 466th

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-Jul-44	EISENACH	ALVESTAD	95	16			44-40264	264	K	J4	4	KISS ME BABY	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	ANDREW	95	22			42-100408	408	D	J4	22	BEASTFACE	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	ASH	95	2			42-52457	457	Q	7V	43	FINAL APPROACH	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	BLUM	95	4			41-29342	342	S	J3	33	ROUGH RIDERS	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	BOYLE	95	10			41-28705	705	W	Z5	40	YE OLDE HELLGATE	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	BROWN, W	95	6			41-28942	942	U	7V	22	HEAVENLY BODY	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	CANADY	95	1			42-110070	070	E	Z5	21	ELMER / LADY LUCK	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	COYLE	95	ABT			42-95179	179	X	7V	--	HERE I GO AGAIN	ABORT - #4 BOOSTER PUMP, #1 PRP GOV RAN AWAY
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	DANE	95	ABT			41-29305	305	N	Z5	--	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	ABORT - TRANSFER FUEL PUMP BURNED OUT
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	ENGLEHARDT	95	11	HOGG	I	41-28910	910	R	T9	--	466BG/784SQ	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	EVANS	95	7			42-110141	141	U	J4	5	BREEZY LADY / MARIE / SUPERMAN	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	FRENCH	95	13			41-29352	352	K	7V	38	WOLVE'S LAIR	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	FUSON	95	7			44-40288	288	S	J4	5	BAD GIRL	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	GABRIEL	95	6			41-28682	682	I	Z5	48	UNKNOWN 003	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	GLASS	95	1			42-51179	179	P	J3	20	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	HANCOCK	95	15			42-110059	059	E	J3	29	UNKNOWN 056	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	HARRIS	95	--	OLLUM	L	42-51158	158	S	T9	--	466BG/784SQ	466BG/784SQ
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	HAYDON	95	22			42-95050	050	J	7V	31	GAS HOUSE MOUSE	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	HAYZLETT	95	9			42-100311	311	A	7V	37	YOKUM BOY	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	HOOVEN	95	6			42-95018	018	J	Z5	26	OLD DOC'S YACHT	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	JUDGE	95	25			42-95163	163	K	Z5	30	DIXIE BELLE	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	KENYON	95	7			42-7516	516	K	J3	20	GATOR	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	KLOHE	95	ABT			42-100366	366	B	Z5	--	MIZPAH	ABORT - #2 SUPER CHG QUIT FUNCTIONING
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	LAMERS	95	12	HENSON	L	42-50578	578	F	Z5	5	SKY ROOM	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	LIVERMORE	95	5			42-95116	116	V	Z5	23	JUNIOR	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	LOY	95	15			41-28709	709	I	7V	26	LUCKY STRIKE	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	MANKER	95	25			44-40281	281	Q	J4	6	A DOG'S LIFE	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	MARTIN, L	95	13			42-95183	183	U	J3	23	BRINEY MARLIN	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	MATZE	95	7			44-40134	134	R	J4	3	UNKNOWN 039	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	McARDLE	95	16			42-95120	120	M	J3	27	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	McCARTHY	95	11			42-110163	163	M	J4	11	TIME'S A WASTIN	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	McCOLLOUGH	95	31	WRIGHT	L	42-50499	499	F	7V	1	COOKIE/OPEN POST	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	McCORMICK	95	7			44-40287	287	J	J4	3	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	MONAHAN	95	FTR			42-95117	117	M	7V	33	YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU	FLAK
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	MORFORD	95	7			44-40201	201	N	J4	2	SILVER CHIEF	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	PISKIN	95	6			44-40273	273	?	J4	4	HOWLING BANSHEE	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	PREVOST	95	ABT			42-52441	441	I	J3	--	LAST CARD LOUIE	ABORT - TACH GEAR STRIPPED #2 SUPER CHG
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	SPEER	95	9			44-40285	285	H	J4	13	TABLE STUFF	
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	SULLIVAN, E	95	2			41-29340	340	L	7V	38	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	TYPO (S/B 340N or 314L)
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	WAGNER	95	ABT			42-95316	316	N	J3	--	PRINCESS PAT	ABORT - #1 ENG INTERNAL FAILURE
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	WALKER	95	16			42-50314	314	I	7V	37	ETO PLAYHOUSE	TYPO OR LOWER CASE L
20-Jul-44	EISENACH	WARNER	95	18			42-51110	110	P	7V	25	TOP O' THE MARK	