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HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

961

TARGETS

NOMLL TARGETS

DATE

3 AUGUST 1944



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY OF MISSION

ROUTES

BOMBING

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

T
H
I
S

P
A
G
E

I
S

U
N
C
L
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I
F
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Date 3 Sept 44

HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AF 147 AF 558

1 September 1944

SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, NOBALL TARGETS, 3 August 1944

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

SUMMARY OF MISSION

1. Data.

- a. Date of Mission - 3 August 1944.
- b. Primary Targets and Order of Battle -

1st Force

2nd Combat Wing

445th Group - Paris (Digny)
453rd Group - Paris (Gonnevillers)
449th Group - Paris (Gonnevillers)

14th Combat Wing

492nd Group - Mersy Sur Oise
44th Group - Mersy Sur Oise

2nd Force

95th Combat Wing

491st Group - Madicourt, Blangermont, Villers L'Hospital
489th Group - Belloy Sur Somme, Avenas Chaussay, Bois St.
Pierre

96th Combat Wing

466th Group - Le Grand Vallee, La Houssaye
458th Group - Bois de Queue Contesse, St. Sylvestre

3rd Force

96th Combat Wing

467th Group - Marquette/Mambrechies, Lille/Sequedin

20th Combat Wing

466th Group - Courche Lettes

93rd Group - Harnes

443th Group - Harnes

14th Combat Wing

392nd Group - Lenso

- c. Secondary and Last Resort Targets - Any M/Y, any railroad bridge, any road bridge, any enemy column or convoy on the road, any concentration of troops or equipment. All above targets must not be adjacent to a built-up area, and must be positively identified as one of the above objectives. A visual sighting must be made.

2. Narrative.

a. Planning.

(1) Eighth Air Force called for a force of forty Squadrons to visually attack ten Noball targets in the Pas de Calais area and ten tactical targets - five in the Paris area and five in the Lille area. The tactical targets consisted of oil refineries, fuel and oil depots.

(2) Planning called for this operation to be flown in three separate forces, each going to a different area.

S E C R E T

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Tactical Report of Mission, 3 August 44 (cont'd)

TH

b. Execution.

(1) 1st Force -

(a) Assemblies were accomplished without incident.

(b) This force flew the mission as planned with the following deviations:

1. Weather encountered by the 2nd Combat Wing at landfall made search for T/O necessary.

2. 453rd and 445th Groups of 2nd Combat Wing withdrew from T/O to English coast on reciprocal route erratically, being five to twenty-five miles off the route.

(2) 2nd Force -

(a) Assemblies were accomplished without incident.

(b) This force flew the mission substantially as briefed.

(3) 3rd Force -

(a) Assemblies were accomplished without incident.

(b) This force flew the mission as planned with the following deviations:

1. 14th Combat Wing departed English coast ten miles west of briefed point and from landfall to target flew route substantially as briefed.

2. 446th and 448th Groups of the 20th Combat Wing withdrew from rally point to point on enemy coast seven to fifteen miles off track.

3. 93rd Group of the 20th Combat Wing withdrew from T/O and departed enemy coast thirty-five miles south of briefed point.

4. 14th Combat Wing entered enemy coast, fifteen miles south of briefed point.

3. Bombing Tactics and Results.

a. 1st Force -

(1) Two Squadrons of the 492nd Group visually attacked their assigned target. One Squadron of the 492nd Group was unable to attack its assigned target due to cloud cover.

(2) The 44th Group was unable to attack its assigned target due to clouds and returned to base with its bombs.

(3) The 453rd, 445th, and 389th Groups could not attack their targets because of cloud cover and attacked various targets of opportunity.

b. 2nd Force -

(1) All units of the 2nd Force visually attacked their assigned primary targets.

c. 3rd Force -

(1) Two Squadrons of the 467th Group visually attacked their assigned targets; one Squadron of the 467th Group did not attack due to cloud cover.

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SECRET

Tactical Report of Mission, 3 August 44 (cont'd)

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(2) Two Squadrons of the 93rd Group visually attacked their assigned target, but another Squadron of the 93rd Group did not attack the primary due to cloud cover and visually attacked a target of opportunity.

(3) The 448th Group and two Squadrons of the 392nd Group did not attack their assigned targets due to cloud cover but attacked various targets of opportunity. One Squadron from the 392nd Group was unable to pick up a target of opportunity and returned to base with its bombs.

d. Strike photographs show the following:

Primary Targets -

Villers L'Hospital - open fields.
Blangernont - MPI and Noball area.
Wadicourt - MPI and Noball area.
Avesnes Chaussée - MPI and Noball area.
Bois St. Pierre - open fields and roads.
Belloy Sur Somme - adjoining fields and target area.
La Grande Vallée - MPI and Noball area.
La Houssaye - MPI and woods.
St. Sylvestre - woods in Noball area.
Bois de Queue Contesse - fields and village.
Mersy Sur Oise - MPI and Noball area, slightly built-up area and roads.
Marquette - oil facilities.
Lille - built-up area and oil facilities.
Courches Lottes - Bridge, roads and fields.
Harnes - built-up area, fields and roads.

Targets of Opportunity -

Bridge 5028N-0400E - railroad and road bridge over canal.
Etampes A/F - highway, west dispersal area and landing ground.
Juvisy Bridge - possible hits on Juvisy/Paris bridge.
Melun A/F - railroad choke point and repair shops.
Conches A/F - east and west dispersal, fuel storage and landing ground.
Ghent M/Y - railroad yard, rolling stock, bridge and small factory buildings.
Douai railroad junction - railroad, bridge, roads, open fields

4. Anti-Aircraft Gunfire.

a. Moderate to intense and accurate predictor control fire was encountered at Mersy Sur Oise.

b. Moderate fairly accurate predictor control fire was encountered at St. Sylvestre, Marquette Wambrechies and Lille/Sequedin. One formation made a second bombing run on Lille/Sequedin and encountered no anti-aircraft, although they had been accurately engaged during their first run.

c. Meager fairly accurate gunfire was encountered at Villers L'Hospital, Blangernont, Wadicourt and Avesnes Chaussée.

d. No anti-aircraft was encountered at Courchelettes, Harnes, Ghent, Belloy sur Somme, Bois St. Pierre, Bois de Queue Contesse, La Grande Vallée and La Houssaye.

e. Moderate gunfire was encountered on route at Chievres, Le Treport, Pont de L'arche, Evreux, Bretigny, Mantos Gassicourt, Western Paris, Rouen, Melun/Villeroche, Amiens, St. Nicholas, St. Pol, Roosières en Santerre and Louviers.

f. Meager gunfire was encountered on route at Gramont, Alost, Termonde, Hulst, Falaise and Argentan.

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-3-

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SECRET

Tactical Report of Mission, 3 August 44 (cont'd)

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5. Enemy Aircraft Encountered and Fighter Support.

- a. No enemy aircraft were encountered.
- b. All units reported fighter support from good to excellent.

6. Losses and Claims.

- a. Two aircraft were lost to enemy anti-aircraft gunfire.
- b. Claims were nil.

For the Commanding General:

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

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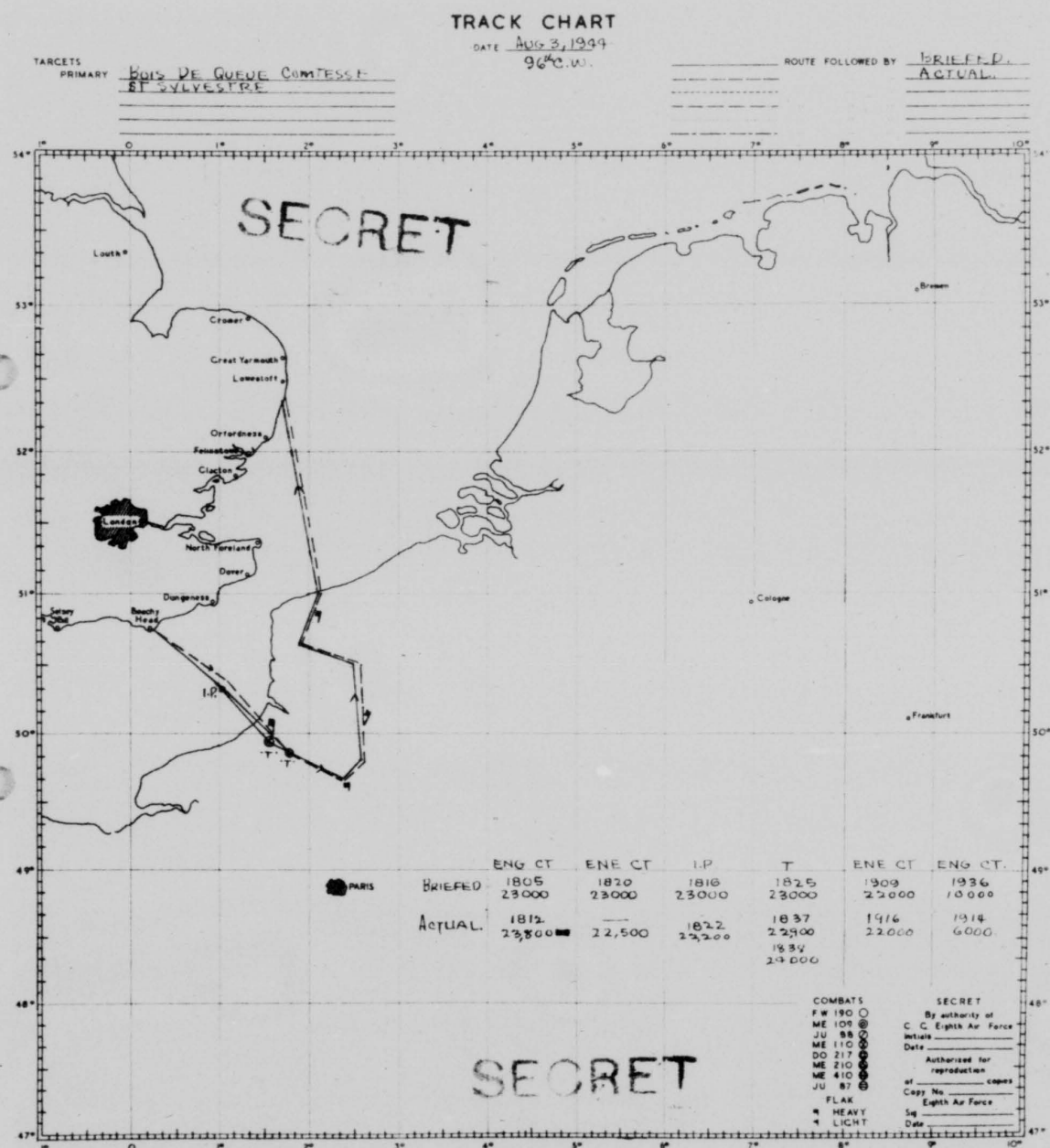
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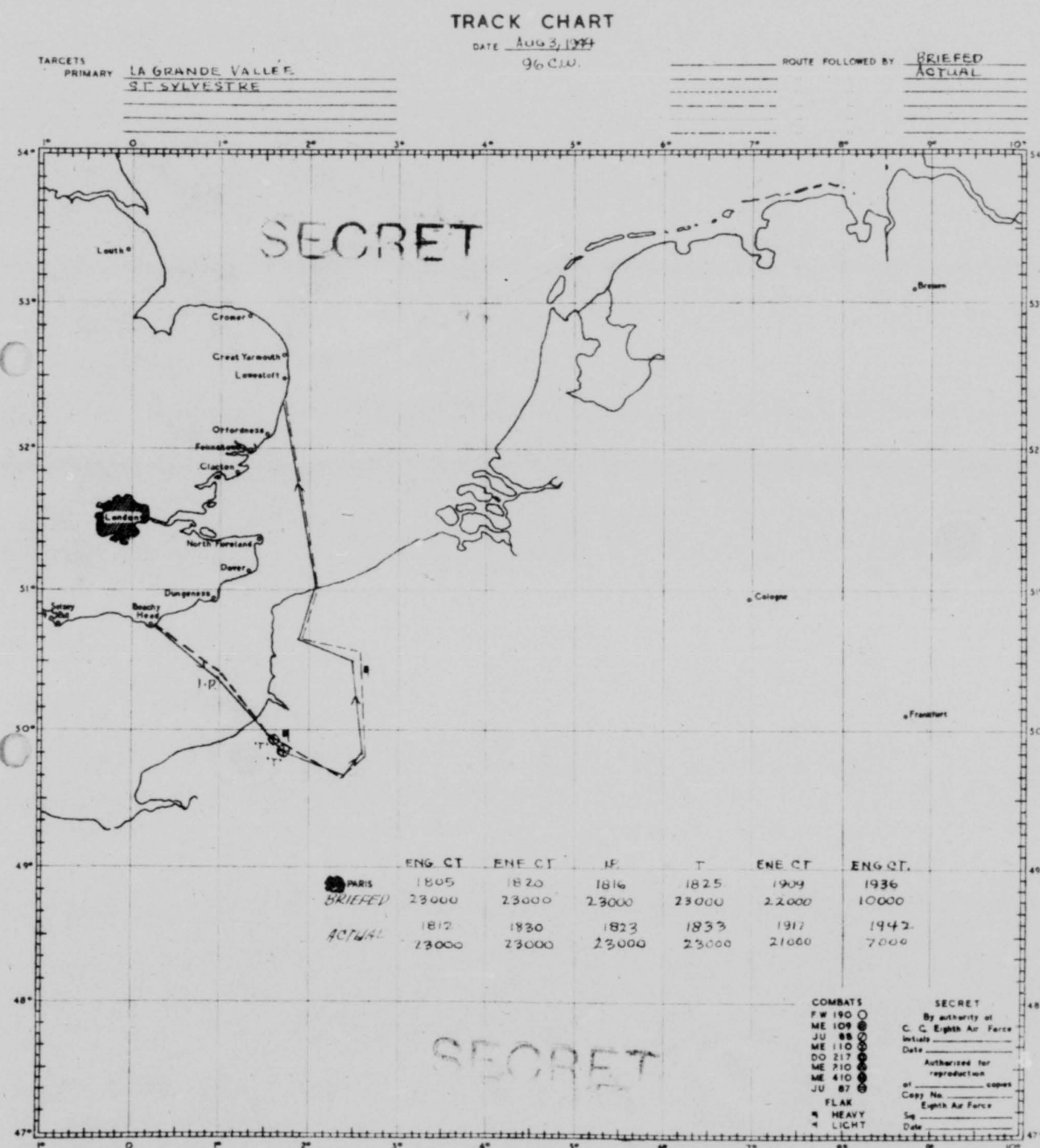
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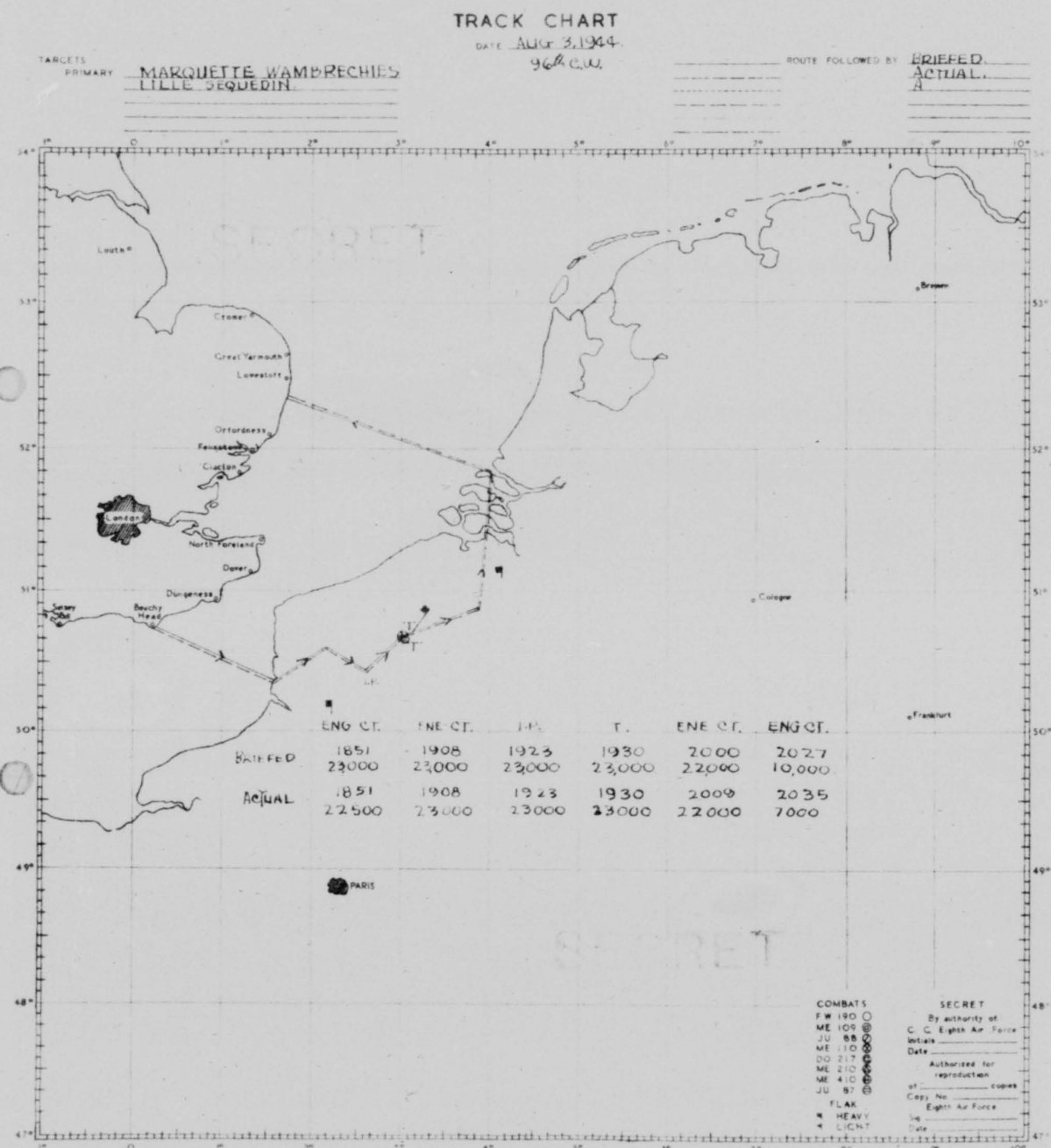
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Tactical Bombing Report of Mission, 3 August 1944

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENGTH (F RUN)	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLEN AUTO PILOT	FLEN RANGE & DEFLECT RANGE	TOTAL BOMBS & TYPE	NO. A/C DROPPED ON BOMBING	H2X OR GH	VISUAL
491	111	2 min.	23,000	1833	X	VILLERS L'HOSPITAL 1 1	262x250 / 12x500	13		X
491	105	1 min.	21,800	1834	X	BLANGERMONT 1 1	156x500	13		X
491	111	1 min.	24,000	1828	X	MADICOURT 1 1	144x500	12		X
489	132	2 min.	23,200	1834	X	AVESNES CHAUSSEY 1 1	286x250	12		X
489	158	1 min.	22,700	1834	X	BOIS ST. PIERRE 1 1	262x250 / 12x500	12		X
489	70	1 1/2 min.	24,000	1840	X	BELLOU SUR SOMME 1 1	120x500	10		X
466	149	10 min.	23,000	1833	X	LA GRANDE VILLE 1 1	225x250	11		X
466	54	20 sec.	21,500	1837	X	LA HOUSSEY 1 1	239x250	11		X
458	185	3 min.	23,000	1836	X	ST. SYLVESTRE 1 1	238x250	11		X
458	150	2 min.	24,000	1838	X	BOIS DE QUEUE COMTESSE 1 1	238x250	11		X
492	294	1 1/2 min.	24,000	1707	X	LENY SUR OISE 1 1	96x1000	12		X
492	80	80 sec.	25,000	1708	X	1 1	112x1000	14		X
492	Did not bomb - could not synchronize due to clouds.									
44	3 Squadrons did not bomb - mission abandoned due to clouds.									
467	Did not attack - Clouds									
467	73	5 min.	22,500	1930	X	ILLQUETTE/L. MIRECHIES 1 1	228x250	10		X
467	73	4 min.	23,500	1942	X	LILLE/SEQUEDIN 1 1	228x250	10		X
392	17	1 1/2 min.	21,900	2017	X	5028N-0400E BRIDGE NEAR GOES, HOLLAND (TO) 1 1	144x500	12		X
392	11	1 1/2 min.	21,200	2017	X	0 1	108x500	9		X
392	Did not bomb - could not pick up a T/O and returned bombs (Page 1)									

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Tactical Bombing Report of Mission, 3 August 1944 (cont'd)

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	PILOT	FLEW AUTO	FLEW MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLECT	RANGE	TOTAL BOIES AND TYPE	NO. A/C BOMBING	DROPPED ON GH OR H2X	VISUAL
445	240	1 min.	24,000	1645	X			ETAMPES A/F (TO)	H.E.	1 1 264x250	11		X
445	40	1½ min.	23,000	1641	X			JUVISY SUR ORGE BRIDGE (TO)		1 1 288x250	11		X
445	140	1 min.	24,600	1646	X			MEUN A/F (TO)		1 1 264x250	12		X
453	42		20,100	1734	X			CONCHES A/F (TO)		1 1 336x250	14		X
453	59		19,100	1738	X					1 1 312x250	13		X
453	Did not attack - bombsight malfunction												
446	91	30 sec.	23,000	1932	X			COURCHES LETTES		1 2 143x500	12		X
446	119	3 min.	24,000	1932½	X					1 2 96x500	8		X
446	118-	1½ min.	22,000	1933	X					1 2 96x500	8		X
93	110	2 min.	23,300	1943		X		HARNES		1 1 108x500	9		X
93	150	3 min.	22,700	1951	X					1 1 72x500	6		X
93	10	1½ min.	23,000	2006	X			CHIENT M/Y (TO)		1 1 132x500	3 / 3 A/C of 446th		X
448	142	45 sec.	23,800	1936½		X		DOULI RR JUNCTION (TO)		1 1 144x500	12		X
448	100	1 min.	24,400	1937	X					1 1 96x500	8		X
448	184	30 sec.	22,500	1938	X					1 1 132x500	11		X

- a. The assigned primary targets for this mission were the following Noball targets: Villers L'Hospital, Blanger mont, Wadicourt, Avesnes Chaussey, Bois St. Pierre, Bolloy Sur Saine, Le Grande Vallee, La Houssaye, St. Sylvestre, Bois de Queue Cantesse, Mary Sur Oise, and oil targets at Paris (Dugny), Gennevilliers, Marquette/Wambrechies, Lille/Sequedin, Lens, Courche Lettes and Harnes, France.
- b. Bombing was done visually by Squadrons. The oil targets in the Paris area assigned to the 453rd, 445th and 389th Groups could not be attacked due to clouds as well as the refinery at Lens assigned to the 392nd Group. The 448th Group did not attack their primary target at Harnes due to an error in target identification. Many targets of opportunity were attacked due to poor weather conditions in the primary target areas.

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Tactical Bombing Report of Mission, 3 August 44 (cont'd)

c. Five A/C did not bomb due to mechanical difficulties, two A/C due to release mechanism malfunctions and one A/C dropped 3x1000 GP bombs on a T/O at 4916N-0008E, a railroad line, when his Group abandoned the mission.

d. Results of bombing:

<u>Target</u>	<u>Effectiveness</u>	<u>What was hit</u>
Villers L'Hospital	Poor	Open fields
Blangermont	Very good	MPI and Noball area
Wadicourt	Good	MPI and Noball area
Avesnes Chaussey	Excellent	MPI and Noball area
Bois St. Pierre	Poor	Open fields and roads
Belloy sur Somme	Fair	Adjoining fields and target area
Le Grande Vallee	Very good	MPI and Noball area
La Houssaye	Very good	MPI and woods
St. Sylvestre	Fair	Woods in Noball area
Bois de Queue Contesse	Poor	Fields and village
Mery Sur Oise	Good	MPI and Noball area, slightly built-up area and roads
Marquette	Good	Oil facilities
Lille	Fair	Built-up area and oil facilities
Bridge 5028N-0400E	Excellent	Railroad and road bridge over canal
Etampes A/F	Good	Highway, west dispersal area and landing ground
Juvisy Bridge	Good	Possible hits on Juvisy/Paris bridge
Melun A/F	Fair	RR choke point, repair shops, residential area
Conches	Very good	East and west dispersal, fuel storage and landing ground
Courches Lettes	Poor to fair	Bridge, roads, residential area and fields
Harnes	Poor	Built-up area, fields and roads
Ghent M/Y	Good	RR yard, rolling stock, bridge and small factory buildings
Douai RR Junction	Good	RR, bridge, roads, and residential area and open fields

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

4 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 3 August 1944.

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

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	<u>SECT. I.</u>	<u>SECT. II.</u>
A. Group	458	458
B. Division F.O.	420	420
C. Date of Operation	3 August 1944	3 August 1944
D. Ordered Primary Target.	No Ball - St. Sylvestre	No Ball - Bois de Queue Comteasse
E. A/C Airborne.	12	12
F. A/C Sorties	11	11
G. A/C Attacking	11	11
H. A/C Not Attacking	1	1
I. A/C Attacking Primary Target.	11 - 238 X 250 GP 2 bombs ret'd. (2 A/C each Sqdn loaded long delay, 12 bombs per A/C)	11 - 240 X 250 GP
J. A/C Attacking Secondary Target.	Nil	Nil
K. A/C Attacking Last Resort Target.	Nil	Nil
L. A/C Attacking Opportunity Target.	Nil	Nil
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.	Nil	Nil
R. Time of Take Off.	1541	1543
S. Average Time of Flight.	4:22	4:28
T. Comments:	Bombed visually	Bombed visually

For the Commanding Officer:

JOSEPH S. WILLIAMS
1st Lt, AC
Statistical Officer

SECRET

147

MISSION # 147

FORMATION PLAN

3 August 1944

Bomb Load: 24 X 250 GP

Gas Load: 2900 galsLEAD SQUADRON (HIGH RIGHT ON 466th)

<u>LDF</u>		<u>C</u>		<u>HANSON-WILLIAMSON</u>			
<u>LEBEUF</u>		<u>GORRELL</u>	25 :578A	<u>MATZE</u>		<u>MCARDLE (11. P.)</u>	
25: 596R		7V :110P		J4 : 264K	<u>LDF</u>	J3 : 441I	
<u>NELSON</u>	<u>LIVERMORE</u>	K-21	<u>ALVESTAD</u>	K-20	<u>RUAPE</u>	<u>FRENCH</u>	
25 : 366B	25 :165S	<u>ABORT</u>	J4: 134R		J3 : 320W	J3 :342S	
K-21		<u>MCCARTHY</u>	<u>WINTERS</u>			K-22	
		J4 :163M	J4 :201N				

HIGH RIGHT (ON LEAD SQUADRON)

<u>LDF</u>		<u>C</u>		<u>HATHAWAY-SCHWARTZ</u>			
<u>MARTIN</u>		<u>TRACY</u>	7V : 487B	<u>HAYZLETT</u>	<u>LDF</u>	<u>BROWN</u>	
J3: 183U		J4 : 285H		7V : 812D	7V : 050J		
<u>FLOYD</u>	<u>HAUSER</u>	K-22	<u>JUDGE</u>	K-21	<u>GIDNEY</u>	<u>ASH</u>	
J3 : 288L	J3 : 179P		25 : 163K		7V : 457Q	7V :352K	
		<u>BARNHART</u>	K-21	<u>DWYER</u>	K-21		
		25 : 682I	<u>ABORT</u>	25 : 108M			
			K-20				

*LDF-Long Delay Fuses

ORDER OF TAKE OFF

<u>WEST</u>		<u>RUNWAY 05</u>		<u>EAST</u>	
<u>DISP</u>	<u>SHIP</u>	<u>N.</u>	<u>SHIP</u>	<u>DISP</u>	
768A	9	1			
		2	264K	47	
		3	110P	29	
487B	19	4			
812D	21	5			
		6	285H	39	
		7	134R	47	
441I	14	8			
596R	3	9			
		10	201N	38	
		11	163M	39	
342S	17	12			
320W	11	13			
165S	5	14			
366B	10	15			
163K	6	16			
		17	050J	31	
183U	18	18			
108M	4	19			
682I	6	20			
		21	352K	30	
		22	457Q	32	
179P	14	23			
288L	11	24			

SPARES

273T-J4-42
 288L-J3-11
 303H-7V-22
 107A-J3-22
 118E-7V-23

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
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	ALVESTAD	102	ABT			44-40134	134	R	J4	--	UNKNOWN 039	ABORT - #1 ENG OIL LEAK
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	ASH	102	8			41-29352	352	K	7V	45	WOLVE'S LAIR	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	BARNHART, E	102	ABT			41-28682	682	I	Z5	--	UNKNOWN 003	ABORT - #1 & 4 ENG's MALFUNCTION (719 & 425)
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	BROWN, W	102	9			42-95050	050	J	7V	34	GAS HOUSE MOUSE	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	DWYRE	102	4			42-95108	108	M	Z5	28	ENVY OF 'EM ALL II	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	FLOYD	102	2			41-29288	288	L	J3	43	BIG-TIME OPERATOR	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	FRENCH	102	15			41-29342	342	S	J3	35	ROUGH RIDERS	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	GIBNEY	102	4			42-52457	457	Q	7V	47	FINAL APPROACH	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	GORRELL	102	17			42-51110	110	P	7V	31	TOP O' THE MARK	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	HANSEN	102	19	WILLIAMSON	L1	42-50578	578	A	Z5	6	SKY ROOM	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	HATHAWAY	102	17	SCHWARTZ	L2	44-10487	487	B	7V	2	Girl on surfboard (no name)	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	HAUSER	102	23			42-51179	179	P	J3	27	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	HAYZLETT	102	11			42-109812	812	D	7V	33	UNKNOWN 016	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	JUDGE	102	30			42-95163	163	K	Z5	32	DIXIE BELLE	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	LeBEUF	102	20			41-29596	596	R	Z5	34	HELL'S ANGEL'S	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	LIVERMORE	102	9			42-95165	165	S	Z5	20	COOKIE	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	MARTIN, L	102	18			42-95183	183	U	J3	28	BRINEY MARLIN	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	MATZE	102	11			44-40264	264	K	J4	7	KISS ME BABY	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	McARDLE	102	19			42-52441	441	I	J3	45	LAST CARD LOUIE	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	McCARTHY	102	15			42-110163	163	M	J4	18	TIME'S A WASTIN	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	NELSON	102	14			42-100366	366	B	Z5	40	MIZPAH	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	RUARK	102	16			42-50320	320	W	J3	33	UNKNOWN 018	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	TRACY	102	11			44-40285	285	H	J4	20	TABLE STUFF	
03-Aug-44	2 NO BALLS	WINTERS	102	2			44-40201	201	N	J4	8	SILVER CHIEF	