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HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558



TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

TARGETS

DATE

1010

AIRFIELDS IN FRANCE

12 AUGUST 1944

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2d Bomb Div

: Initials : Date / Sept 4

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7 September 1944

SUBJECT : Tactical Report of Mission, AIRFIELDS IN FRANCE, 12 August 1944.

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

SUMMARY OF MISSION

1. Data..

a. Date of Mission - 12 August 1944.

b. Primary Targets and Order of Battle -

Mourmelon Le Grand L/G - 96th "A" CBW (458th, 466th DG).

Mourmelon Le Grand L/G - 96th "B" CBJ (467th, 466th DG)

Juvincourt A/F - 14th "A" CBW (44th BG).

Juvincourt A/F - 14th "B" CSW (392nd BG).

Laon/Athies A/F - 95th "B" CBW (491st BG).

Laon/Couvron A/F - 20th "A" CBW (93rd, 466th BG).

Laon/Couvron A/F - 20th "B" CEM (2 Squadrons, 448th BG).

Laon/Athies A/F - 20th "B" CBW (1 Squadron, 448th BG).

c. Secondary Targets -

Romilly, Oil Storage - 96th "A" and "B" Combat Wings.

Belval L/G - 14th "A" and "B" Combat Wings.

Florennes A/F - 95th "A" and "B" and 20th "A" and "B" Combat Wings.

d. Last Resort Target - 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 twenty-four Squadrons to post-hole four airfields in France - six Squadrons per airfield.

b. Execution.

(1) Assemblies were hampered by poor weather over the UK, as a result the 20th Combat Wing was unable to gain its position in the Division formation until over France.

(2) The mission was flown as planned with the following deviations:

(a) 44th Group of the 14th "A" Combat Wing flew ten to fifteen miles north of course from Control Point 2 to the Common Point and twenty-five miles beyond Common Point, which caused it to miss Wing IP. From the common point to Group IP, a direct route was flown.

(b) 392nd Group of the 14th "B" Wing flew ten to fifteen miles north of course from Control Point 2 to the Cannon Point. From the Cannon Point to the target, the route maintained was substantially as briefed.

(c) 20th "A" and "B" Combat Wing departed enemy coast fifty miles east of briefed point in an effort to close on preceding Wings in the D.A.

(d) The 95th "A" and "B" Wings departed enemy coast fifteen miles south of briefed point for briefed return point.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 12 August 44 (cont'd)

3. Bombing Tactics and Results.

- a. All units visually attacked their assigned targets.
- b. Strike photos show the following:

Juvincourt - Runway post-holed and dispersal areas well hit.
 Laon/Athies - Runway and airfield area, dispersal areas hit.
 Laon/Couvron - all assigned areas post-holed.
 Mourmelon - hits on hangars and airfield installations, landing area post-holed.

4. Anti-Aircraft Gunfire.

- a. Five Squadrons attacked Juvincourt A/F. The first three Squadrons encountered no anti-aircraft gunfire, and the last two Squadrons encountered meager and very inaccurate gunfire after bombs were released.
- b. Meager, inaccurate gunfire was encountered at Laon/Couvron A/F.
- c. Moderate, fairly accurate predictor control and fixed barrage fire was encountered at Laon/Athies A/F.
- d. Meager, accurate predictor control fire was encountered at Mourmelon Le Grand A/F.
- e. Moderate gunfire was encountered on route at Rotterdam, Charleroi, and east of Vire.
- f. Meager gunfire was encountered on route at Brussels, Soissons, Chalons sur Marne, Coulamiers A/F and Meaux/Villendy.

5. Enemy Aircraft Encountered and Fighter Support.

- a. No enemy aircraft were encountered and fighter support was good to excellent for all units.

6. Losses and Claims.

- a. Two aircraft were lost to anti-aircraft gunfire and one to an unknown cause.
- b. Claims were nil.

For the Commanding General:

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

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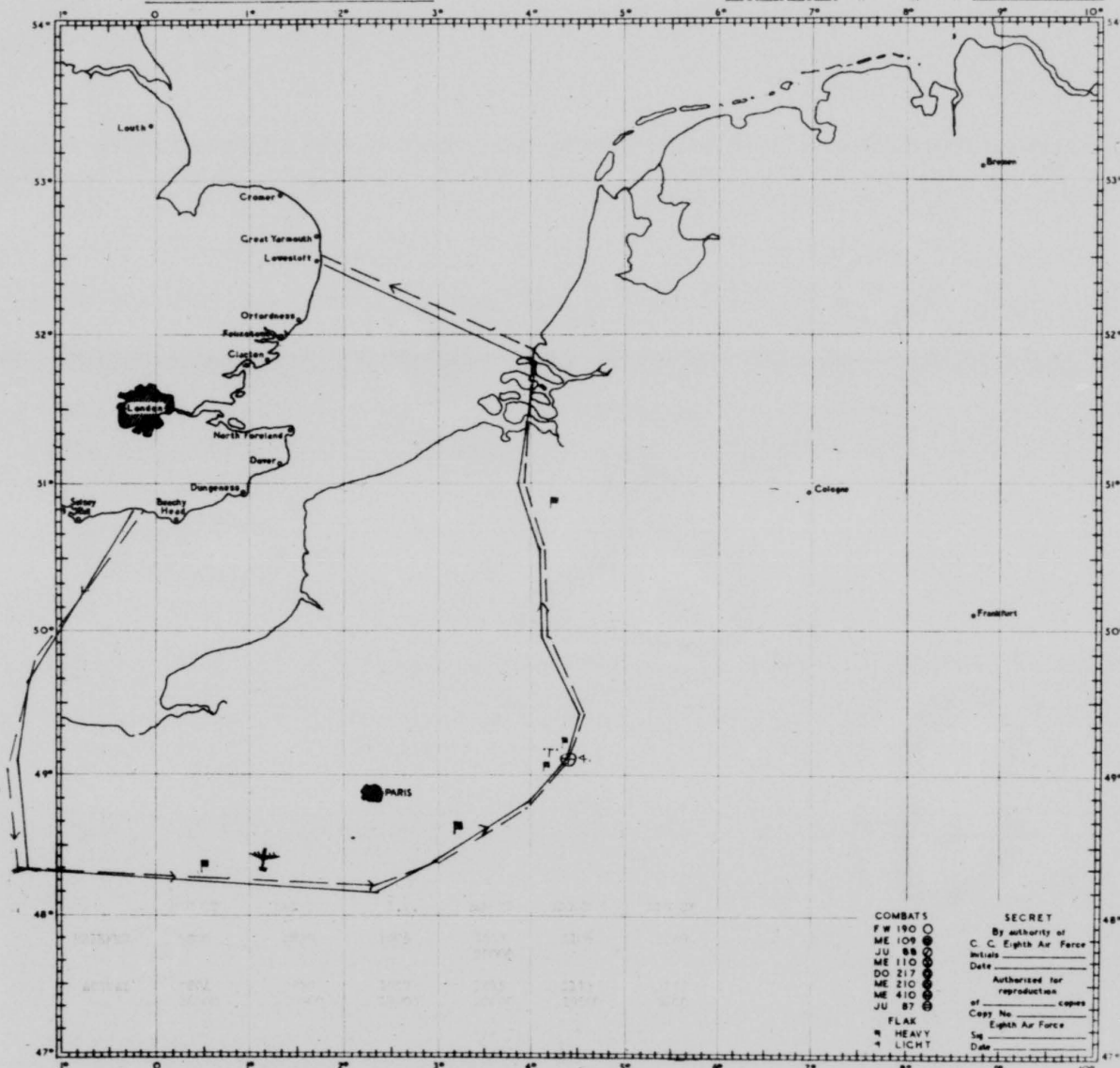
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TRACK CHART

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TARGETS
PRIMARY

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY



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Tactical Bombing Report of Mission, 12 August 1944

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF FLEW AUTO RELEASE	PILOT	FLEW RANGE & MANUAL DEFLECT RANGE	TOTAL BOMBS AND TYPE	NO. A/C DROPPED ON BOMBING	H2X OR GH	VISUAL
						JUVINCOURT	H.E.			
44	42	3 min.	21,000	1021	C-1	3 3	1434x100	20		X
392	40	4 min.	21,000	1029	A-5	2 4	1139x100	23		X
						LAON/LATHIES				
93	60	2 min.	21,200	1034½	C-1	2 2	1030x100	20		X
446	62	1½ min.	21,700	1034	A-5	2 4	920x100	10 / 3 of 392nd		X
448	76	2 min.	21,100	1032½	C-1	3 3	966x100	19 / 4 of 446th		X
						LAON/COUVRON				
439	45	3 min.	21,000	1027	C-1	3 3	1294x100; 2x500	25 / 1 H2X & 2 of 448		X
491	13	2 min.	22,600	1031	C-1	2 2	1133x100	23 / 1 A/C of 93rd		X
						MOURNELON				
450	33	3 min.	20,000	1015	C-1	2 2	250x500	21 / 1 A/C of 446th		X
466	20	3 min.	20,500	1016	A-5	2 2	1132x100	24		X
467	40		21,000	1021	A-5	2 2	312x500	26 / 1 A/C of 93rd & 1 A/C of 448th		X

- a. The assigned primary targets for this visual mission were airfields at Juvin-court, Laon/Lathies, Laon/Couvron and Mourmelon Le Grand.
- b. Bombing was done visually by Squadrons.
- c. Two A/C did not bomb due to armament malfunctions and ten A/C did not bomb due to mechanical failures.
- d. Results of bombing:
- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|---|
| Juvin-court | Very good | Runway post-holed and dispersal areas well hit. |
| Laon/Lathies | Good to very good | Runway and airfield area, dispersal areas hit. |
| Laon/Couvron | Very good | All assigned areas postholed |
| Mourmelon | Good to very good | Hits on hangars and airfield installations, landing area postholed. |
- e. Disposition of bombs by H2X A/C:
- | | | |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| Laon/Lathies | 1 A/C | 2x500Hc |
|--------------|-------|---------|

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

13 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 12 August 1944.

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

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A.	Group	458
B.	Division F.O.	431
C.	Date of Operation	12 August 1944
D.	Ordered Primary Target.	Mourmelon A/F
E.	A/C Dispatched.	24
F.	A/C Sorties	22
G.	A/C Attacking	21
H.	A/C Not Attacking	3
I.	A/C Attacking Primary Target.	21 - 250 X 500 GP (2 bombs jettisoned)
J.	A/C Attacking Secondary Target.	Nil
K.	A/C Attacking Last Resort Target.c.	Nil
L.	A/C Attacking Opportunity Target.	Nil
M.	A/C Lost - Flak	Nil
N.	A/C Lost - Flak and E/A	Nil
O.	A/C Lost - E/A.	Nil
P.	A/C Lost - Accident	Nil
Q.	A/C Lost - Cause Unknown.	Nil
R.	Time of Take Off.	0519
S.	Average Time of Flight.	6:50
T.	Comments:	Bombed visually.

For the Commanding Officer:

JOSEPH S. WILLIAMS
1st Lt, AC
Statistical Officer

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MISSION # 156

FORMATION PLAN

12 August 1944

1ST SECTION

12 X 500 GP's 1/10 N 1/100 E

LOCKRIDGE-O'NEILL

"C"

25 : 768A

COOK

25 : 596R

WARNER

7V : 179X

K-20

ROBERTS-KUHN

7V : 502A

K-22

FREDERICKJ3 : 407R ABORT

K-21

NEWELL

7V : 340N

MF/DF

BRADLEY

25 : 305N

LOY

7V : 050J

HAUSERABORT J3 : 179PHOOD

J3 : 4250

K-21

NELSON

7V : 311P

GIBNEY

7V : 457Q

K-21

2ND SECTIONHAYZLETT-WOODWARD

7V : 487B

"C"

MARTIN

J3 : 120M

K-21

RUARK

J3 : 441I

K-20

BLUM

J3 : 864B

HAYDON

7V : 118R

K-21

KENYON

J3 : 342S

MF/DF

MORRIS

J3 : 316N

HOOVEN

25 : 070K

K-21

KOENIG

7V : 352K

HAYNES

7V : 812V

BARNHART

25 : 682I

LIVERMORE

25 : 168S

ORDER OF TAKE OFFRUNWAY 23

<u>WEST</u>				<u>EAST</u>			
<u>DISP</u>	<u>SHIP</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>SHIP</u>	<u>DISP</u>	<u>SHIP</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>SHIP</u>
		1	697Z	2			
		2	768A	8			
25	502A	3					
27	179X	4					
28	050J	5					
		6	596R	3			
14	407R	7					
29	457Q	8					
		9	311P	Hgr. 1			
		10	305N	9			
27	340N	11					
20	4250	12					
16	179P	13					

SPARES:

705W

719Q

709I

907D

DISP

36

13

33

26 (Spare Lead)

TIBBS-LAROCHE (Assembly A/C)

697Z

ROBESON-ISBELL (Observation A/C)

721G

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-Aug-44	MOURMELON	BARNHART, E	111	11			41-28682	682	I	Z5	53	UNKNOWN 003	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	BLUM	111	11			42-50864	864	B	J3	1	JOLLY ROGER (I1?)	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	BRADLEY	111	22			41-29305	305	N	Z5	35	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	COOK	111	14			41-29596	596	R	Z5	41	HELL'S ANGEL'S	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	FREDERICK	111	ABT			42-100407	407	R	J3	--	LITTLE LAMBSY DIVEY	ABORT - #2 ENG LOST OIL PRES (#1 CYL BLOWN)
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	GIBNEY	111	7			42-52457	457	Q	7V	51	FINAL APPROACH	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	HAUSER	111	ABT			42-51179	179	P	J3	--	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	ABORT - #2 ENG OUT, #3 MIXTURE STUCK
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	HAYDON	111	29			44-40118	118	R	7V	1	WE'LL GET BY	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	HAYNES	111	4			42-109812	812	V	7V	36	UNKNOWN 016	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	HAYZLETT	111	15	WOODWARD	L2	44-10487	487	B	7V	4	Girl on surfboard (no name)	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	HOOD	111	1			42-100425	425	O	J3	25	THE BIRD	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	HOOVEN	111	14			42-110070	070	K	Z5	30	ELMER / LADY LUCK	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	KENYON	111	15			41-29342	342	S	J3	41	ROUGH RIDERS	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	KOEHN	111	3			41-29352	352	K	7V	48	WOLVE'S LAIR	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	LIVERMORE	111	13			42-95165	165	S	Z5	25	COOKIE	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	LOCKRIDGE	111	13	O'NEILL	L1	42-50768	768	A	Z5	6	ARISE MY LOVE AND COME WITH ME	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	LOY	111	23			42-95050	050	J	7V	38	GAS HOUSE MOUSE	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	MARTIN, L	111	22			42-95120	120	M	J3	36	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	MORRIS, F	111	2			42-95316	316	N	J3	36	PRINCESS PAT	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	NELSON	111	20			42-100311	311	P	7V	41	YOKUM BOY	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	NEWELL	111	24			41-29340	340	N	7V	47	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	ROBERTS, J	111	20	KUHN	D1	42-50502	502	A	7V	1	LARRUPIN' LINDA	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	ROBESON	111	OBSV	SBELL		41-28721	721	G	J4	--	DOWNWIND LEG	OBSERVATION A/C
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	RUARK	111	22			42-52441	441	I	J3	47	LAST CARD LOUIE	
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	TEBBS	111	ASSY	LaROCHE		41-28697	697	Z	Z5	A10	SPOTTED APE	ASSEMBLY CREW
12-Aug-44	MOURMELON	WARNER	111	28			42-95179	179	X	7V	35	HERE I GO AGAIN	