

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

1025

TARGETS

A/F'S NORTHWESTERN GERMANY

DATE

15 AUGUST 194

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Tactical Report of Mission, 15 August 44 (cont'd)

b. Strike photographs show the following:

Primary Targets:

Zwischenahn - hits on dispersal areas, hangars, runways, landing ground.

Vechta - hits on runways, landing ground, hangars, taxiways, railway line.

Plantlunne - hits on dispersal areas, hangars, airfield buildings, runways, landing ground, taxiways.

Wittmundhafen - hits on hangars, barracks, dispersal area.

Target of Opportunity:

Hopston - hits on runways, taxiways, landing ground.

4. Anti-Aircraft Gunfire.

a. Very meager and inaccurate heavy gunfire was encountered at Wittmundhafen by the first Group to attack this target, but none was encountered by any of the following Groups.

b. No gunfire was encountered at Plantlunne, Vechta or Zwischenahn.

c. Meager heavy gunfire was encountered on route at Norderney, Langeoog, Exden and Aschendorf.

d. One Squadron made two bombing runs on Vechta and flew over Diepholz A/F but encountered no gunfire.

e. The lack of gunfire on this operation was very surprising, as fairly recent photographs indicated that all these airfields were defended by heavy guns. There were believed to be approximately 24 guns at Zwischenahn, 18 guns at Wittmundhafen, 12 guns at Vechta and 4 guns at Plantlunne. As both Zwischenahn and Wittmundhafen are particularly important targets, it appears as if the enemy may have recently changed his policy and put airfield defense on a low priority list.

5. Enemy Aircraft Encountered and Fighter Support.

a. Approximately 15 Me 109s were sighted in the Meppel area. Eleven of these made diving attacks from 5 to 6 o'clock.

b. Fighter support was good to excellent with exception of one Group. Through a misunderstanding this Group, escorting through the target, was making ground attacks on the target area just after bombing. At this time, the 96th Combat Wing experienced an attack by approximately 15 Me 109s.

6. Losses and Claims.

a. Four A/C were lost to enemy aircraft.

b. Claims were six destroyed, two probables and three damaged.

For the Commanding General:

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

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Tactical Bombing Report of Mission, 15 August 1944

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF FLEW AUTO RELEASE	FLEW PILOT	RANGE & DEFLECT RANGE	TOTAL BOMBS & TYPE	NO. A/C DROPPED ON	DROPPED ON H2K OR GH	VISUAL
						ZWISCHENAHN A/F	H.E. INCEND.			
453	147	5 min.	22,000	1207	A-5	3 3	350x500	30 / 2	H2K	X
445	138	2 min.	22,000	1208	A-5	3 3	1738x100	34		X
389-	130	3 min.	22,500	1209	C-1	2 2	1184x100	24		X
						VECHTA A/F				
467	114	2 min.	21,000	1228	A-5	1 1	44x1000	11 / 2	H2K	X
467	114	2 min.	20,800	1217	A-5	1 1	52x1000	13		X
466	109	1 min.	22,000	1218	C-1	2 2	72x1000	18 / 1	H2K	X
458	134	1 min.	20,900	1220	A-5	2 2	76x1000	19 / 2	H2K	X
						PLANTLUNNE A/F				
446	140	3 min.	21,000	1205	A-5	2 4	970x100	20 / 2	H2K	X
448	124		20,000	1209 1/2	C-1	1 1	251x250	11		X
448	127		20,000	1210 1/2	C-1	2 2	1028x100	21		X
						HOPSTON A/F				
446	124	2 min.	21,000	1209	A-5	1 2	228x250	10		X
						WITTMUNDHAFEN A/F				
93	145	1 min.	22,600	1207	A-5	1 1	540x100	11 / 2	H2K	X
489	144	1 min.	23,000	1207	A-5	2 2	596x250	26		X
44	141		22,000	1211	A-5	1 1	108x500	9 / 2	H2K	X
44	144		22,500	1211 1/2	A-5	1 1		12		X
392	145	2 min.	22,000	1203	X	2 4	1334x100	27		X

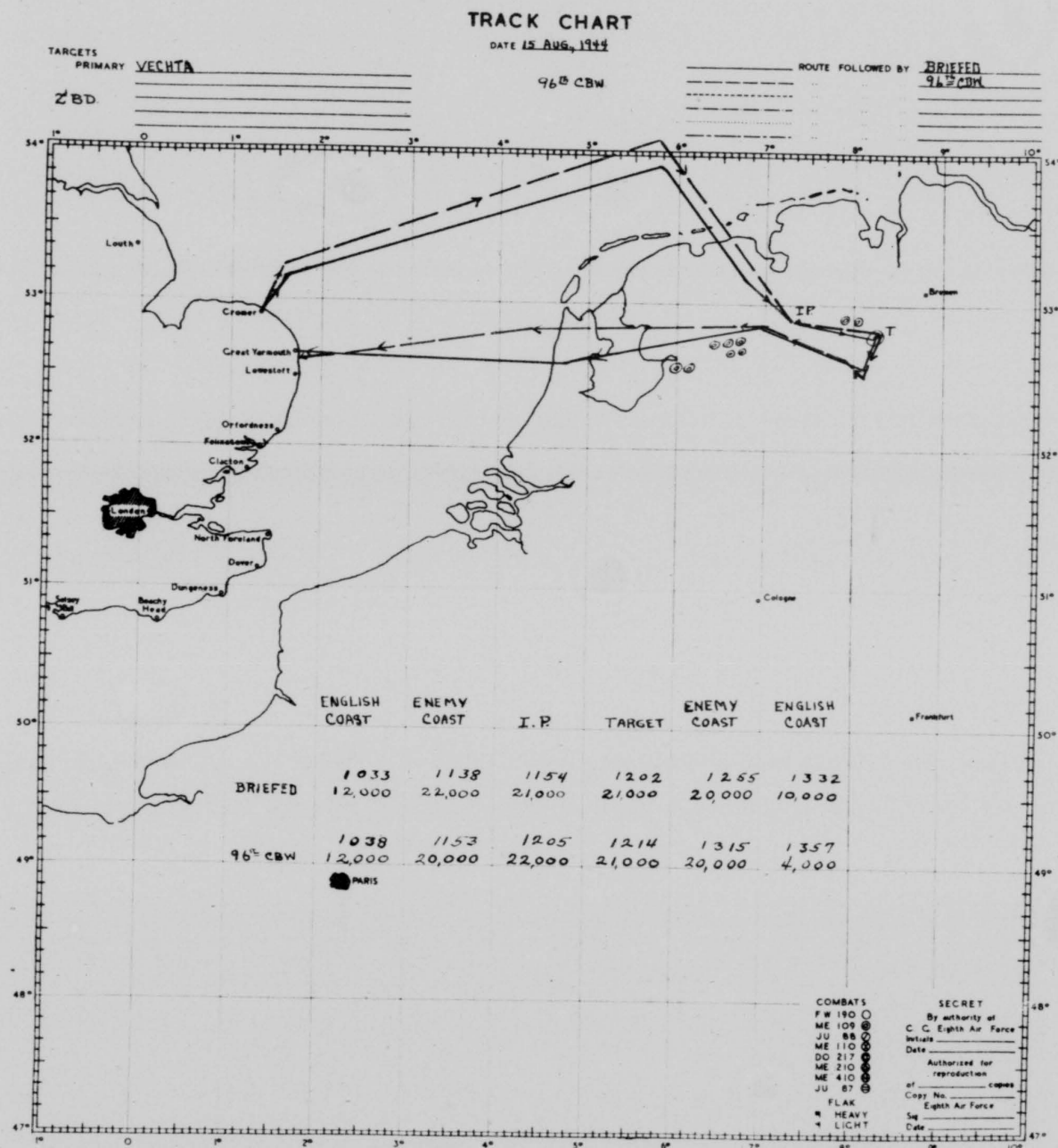
- a. The assigned primary target for this mission was airfields at Zwischenahn, Vechta, Plantlunne, and Wittmundhafen.
- b. Bombing was done visually by Squadrons and seven lead Squadrons of different Groups dropped visually on H2K leaders. One Squadron of the 446th Group failed to bomb the primary due to not being able to identify the target and bombed an airfield beyond, near the primary. One Squadron of the 93rd Group and one Squadron of the 392nd Group could not pick up the assigned MPI due to clouds and returned their bombs.

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Tactical Bombing Report of Mission, 15 August 44 (cont'd)

a. Results of bombing:

Zwischenahn	Very good	Hits on dispersal areas, hangars, runways, landing ground.
Vechta	Good	Hits on runways, landing ground, hangars, taxiways, railway line.
Plantlunne	Good to very good	Hits on dispersal areas, hangars, airfield buildings, runways, landing ground, taxiway
Hopston	Good	Hits on runways, taxiways, landing ground.
Wittmundhafen	Good	Hits on hangars, barracks, dispersal area.

d. Disposition of bombs by H2K A/C -

Zwischenahn	2 A/C	4x500 H.E.
Wittmundhafen	2 A/C	20x100 H.E.
Wittmundhafen	2 A/C	8x500 H.E.
Plantlunne	2 A/C	20x100 H.E.
Vechta	5 A/C	10x1000 H.E.

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

16 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 15 August 1944.

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

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A.	Group	458
B.	Division F.O.	434
C.	Date of Operation	15 August 1944
D.	Ordered Primary Target.	Vechta - A/F
E.	A/C Airborne.	22
F.	A/C Sorties	20
G.	A/C Attacking	19
H.	A/C Not Attacking	3
I.	A/C Attacking - Primary Target.	19 - 76 X 1000 GP 76 X 500 LB 4 M17 Jettisoned 4 GP Jettisoned
J.	A/C Attacking - Secondary Target.	Nil
K.	A/C Attacking - Last Resort Target.	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.	0900
S.	Average Time of Flight.	5:17
T.	Comments:	Led by PFF but bombed visually

For the Commanding Officer:

JOSEPH S. WILLIAMS
1st Lt, AC
Statistical Officer

S E C R E T

159

HATHAWAY-HENSLEY

PFF : 610H

MCCARTHY

J4 : 163M

K-22

FLOYD

J3 : 1719Q

VERMILION-SPEERS

PFF : 599K

NEWELL

TV : 165S

LEHR

7V : 352K

K-21

DAVIDSON

J4 : 201N

COYLE

7V : 179X

DAYRE

J3 : 184F

HELFRECHT

7V : 059T

SMITH

7V : 812V

STOSSER7V : 050J ABORT

K-21

K-21

SECTION II

LOCKRIDGE-CORRELL

Z5 : 768.

HOOVEN

Z5 : 596A

HAYDON

7V : 455C

K-22

MATZE

J4 : 264K

RUARK

J3 : 120M

K-21

OSCK

J5 : 110P

K-21

BRAWLEY

Z5 : 276G

EVANSJ4 : 281Q ABORTMORRIS

J3 : 516K

K-21

FREDRICK

J3 : 183U

ALVESTAD

J4 : 134R

VINGENT

J4 : 141U

K-22

ORDER OF TAKE OFF

RUNWAY 05

WESTDISPSHIPNO.SHIPEASTDISP

2

697Z

1

13

719Q

2

9

768.

3

4

264K

47

5

455C

32

6

179X

29

7

163M

41

5

165S

8

9

050J

28

10

812V

19

11

201N

38

12

352K

30

8

059P

13

16

184F

14

15

281Q

43

3

596A

16

15

120N

17

18

141U

43

1

276Q

19

134R

47

7

110P

20

20

183U

21

17

516K

22

23

ASSEMBLY A/Q 697ZSTAGESDISP

340N

27

408B

35

431B

37

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
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	ALVESTAD	114	25			44-40134	134	R	J4	15	UNKNOWN 039	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	BRADLEY	114	24			41-29276	276	G	Z5	24	URGIN VIRGIN/The ROTTEN SOCK	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	COOK	114	16			42-51110	110	P	Z5	34	TOP O' THE MARK	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	COYLE	114	18			42-95179	179	X	7V	37	HERE I GO AGAIN	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	DAVIDSON	114	24			44-40201	201	N	J4	13	SILVER CHIEF	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	DWYRE	114	10			42-110184	184	F	J3	20	GWEN	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	EVANS	114	ABT			44-40281	281	Q	J4	--	A DOG'S LIFE	ABORT - ALL 4 GENERATORS FAILED
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	FLOYD	114	7			41-28719	719	Q	J3	43	PADDLEFOOT	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	FREDERICK	114	3			42-95183	183	U	J3	32	BRINEY MARLIN	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	HATHAWAY	114	18	HENSLER	L1	42-95610	610	H	T9	--	UNKNOWN 037	466BG/784SQ
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	HAYDON	114	30			42-52455	455	O	7V	50	PLUTOCRAT	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	HELFRECHT	114	4			42-110059	059	T	Z5	32	UNKNOWN 056	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	HOOVEN	114	15			41-29596	596	R	Z5	44	HELL'S ANGEL'S	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	LEHR	114	7			41-29352	352	K	7V	50	WOLVE'S LAIR	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	LOCKRIDGE	114	14	GORRELL	L2	42-50768	768	A	Z5	8	ARISE MY LOVE AND COME WITH ME	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	MATZE	114	13			44-40264	264	K	J4	10	KISS ME BABY	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	McCARTHY	114	18			42-110163	163	M	J4	19	TIME'S A WASTIN	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	MORRIS, F	114	3			42-7516	516	K	J3	28	GATOR	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	NEWELL	114	25			42-95165	165	S	Z5	28	COOKIE	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	PISKIN	114	15			UNK		--	--	--		PILOT'S LOG - NOT ON FP
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	RUARK	114	23			42-95120	120	M	J3	39	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	SMITH, WF	114	2			42-109812	812	V	7V	38	UNKNOWN 016	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	STOESSER	114	ABT			42-95050	050	J	7V	--	GAS HOUSE MOUSE	ABORT - #1 CYL HEAD BLOWN
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	VERMEIREN	114	18	SPEER	D1	42-50599	599	K	T9	--	466BG/784SQ	
15-Aug-44	VECHTA	VINCENT	114	1			42-110141	141	U	J4	15	BREEZY LADY / MARIE / SUPERMAN	