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War Room File

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

1143

TARGETS

MAGDEBURG
MISBURG
HANNOVER

DATE

11 SEPTEMBER 1944

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SECRETHEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AAF 147 APO 558SECRET

By Auth of CG

2d Bomb Div

Initials *LHP*Date *10 Oct 44*

2 October 1944

SUBJECT : Tactical Report of Mission, MAGDEBURG, MISBURG, HANNOVER, 11 September 19

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

SUMMARY OF MISSION1. Data.

a. Date of Mission - 11 September 1944.

b. Primary Targets and Order of Battle -

Magdeburg Oil Refinery - 96th CEW (467th, 458th, 466th BG).
20th CEW (448th BG).

Magdeburg Oil Depot - 20th CEW (93rd, 489th BG).

Misburg Oil Refinery - 2nd CEW (389th, 453rd, 445th BG).

Hannover Machine Works - 14th CEW (491st, 392nd, 44th BG).

c. Secondary Targets -

Gardelegen A/F - 96th CEW
Stendal A/F - 20th CEW
Fassburg A/F - 2nd and 14th CEW'sd. Last Resort Targets - Any military objective positively identified
as being in Germany and east of the Rhine.2. Narrative.

a. Planning.

(1) Eighth Air Force called for a force of thirty-five Squadrons to
attack oil targets in the Magdeburg area and machine works at Hannover.

(2) Nineteen H2K aircraft were dispatched for this operation.

b. Execution.

(1) Assemblies were accomplished without incident.

(2) The mission was flown substantially as planned.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 11 Sept 44 (cont'd)

3. Bombing Tactics and Results.

a. The 14th Combat Wing assigned Hannover and the 2nd Combat Wing assigned Misburg visually attacked their targets.

b. The City of Magdeburg was attacked on H2X equipment by the 20th and 96th Combat Wings due to cloud cover at their primary targets.

c. The 467th Group and one Squadron of the 466th Group did not attack their primary target, Magdeburg, due to an auto-pilot malfunction in the lead aircraft on the bomb run but attacked Stendal A/F, a target of opportunity, on H2X equipment.

d. One Squadron of the 448th Group did not attack its primary target due to a select lever malfunction in the lead aircraft but visually attacked Diepholz A/F, a target of opportunity.

e. Strike photographs show the following:

Hannover - direct hits on press shops, assembly factories, and major buildings of target area.

Misburg - hits on distillation buildings, and other buildings in the target area.

Stendal - hits on built-up area.

Magdeburg - hits on built-up area.

4. Anti-Aircraft Gunfire.

a. All Groups attacking Hannover encountered moderate to intense and accurate predictor control fire and also some fixed barrage fire. Most of this anti-aircraft was almost certainly fired by "seen" methods.

b. All Groups attacking Magdeburg encountered moderate to intense and very accurate predictor control "unseen" fire.

c. No anti-aircraft was encountered at Stendal.

d. Moderate gunfire was encountered en route at Ijmuiden, Koblenz and Andernach. The anti-aircraft was reported as being continuous from Koblenz to Andernach.

e. One Group saw several black anti-aircraft bursts just north of Andernach from which came red flares. Shortly afterwards this Group was attacked by enemy fighters.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 11 Sept 1944 (cont'd)

5. Enemy Aircraft Encountered and Fighter Support.

a. The first three Combat Wings, 96th, 20th and 2nd, reported no enemy aircraft encounters. All Groups reported sightings of jet-propelled aircraft, both single and twin units between Koblenz and Magdeburg at altitudes from 22000 to 30000 feet. They were identified by their high speed and heavy intermittent contrails.

b. The high Group, 44th of the 14th Combat Wing, was not attacked but observed attacks on the other two Groups of this Wing.

c. The other Groups in this Wing were attacked. The 392nd was attacked near 5040N-0845E by twenty to thirty Me 109s with light colored bellies and dark tops. Several of these enemy aircraft were painted with white stripes to simulate P-51s. The enemy pressed the attacks vigorously coming in singly, mainly from six o'clock low. These attacks were made when formation was temporarily without escort. The 491st Group was attacked over a period of about thirty minutes beginning over Giewsen. Approximately 15 Me 109s led by a Spitfire painted black with a white maltese cross took part in these attacks. The pilots appeared aggressive and experienced.

d. Fighter support was very good along the entire route.

6. Losses and Claims.

a. Five A/C were lost to AA fire, four to E/A and one to an unknown cause.

b. Claims were two E/A destroyed, five probables and three damaged.

For the Commanding General:

Charles B. Westover

CHARLES B. WESTOVER
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

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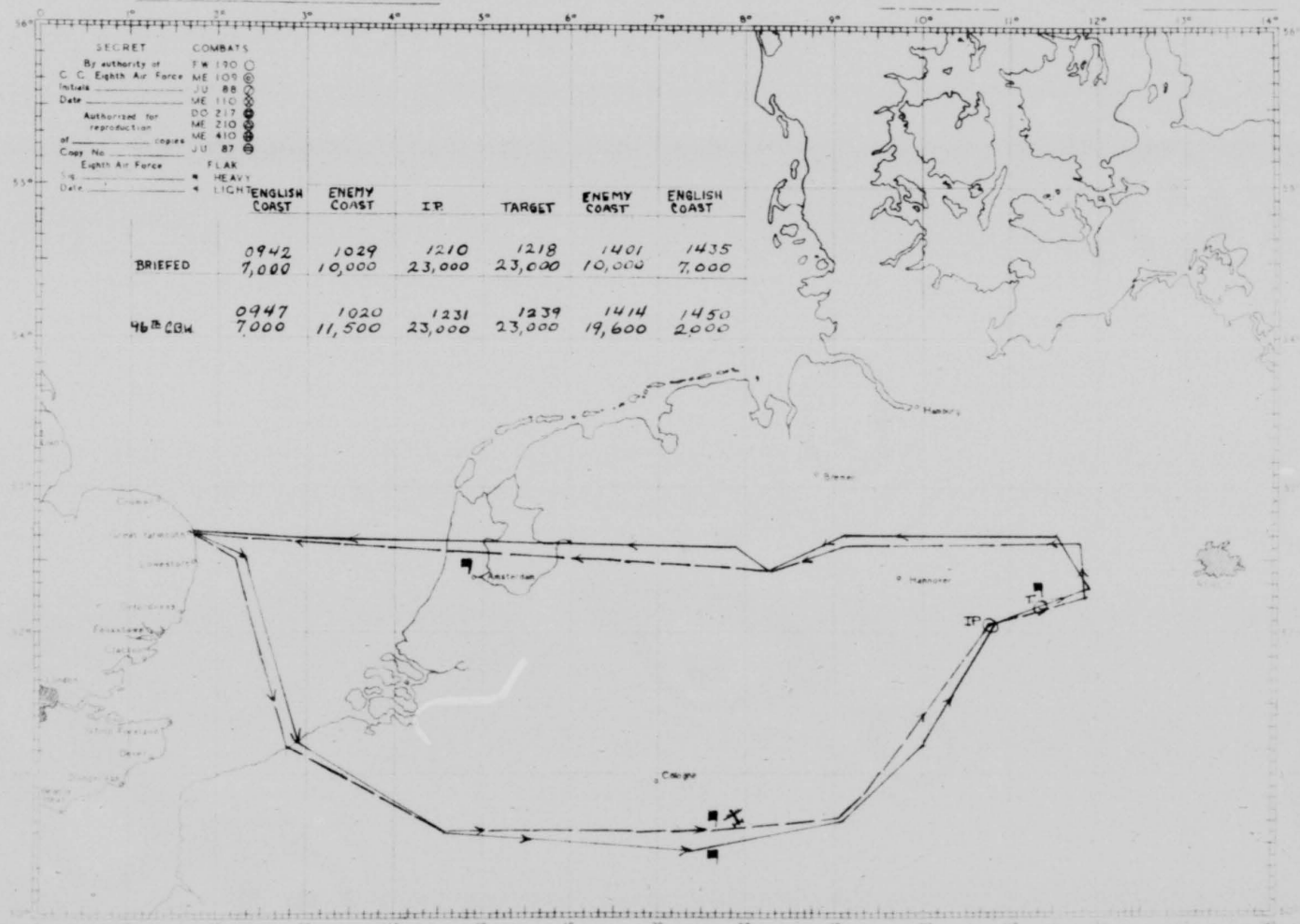
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TRACK CHART

DATE 11 SEPT. 1944

96th CBWROUTE FOLLOWED BY BRIEFED
96th CBWTARGETS
PRIMARY MAGDEBURG

2 BD



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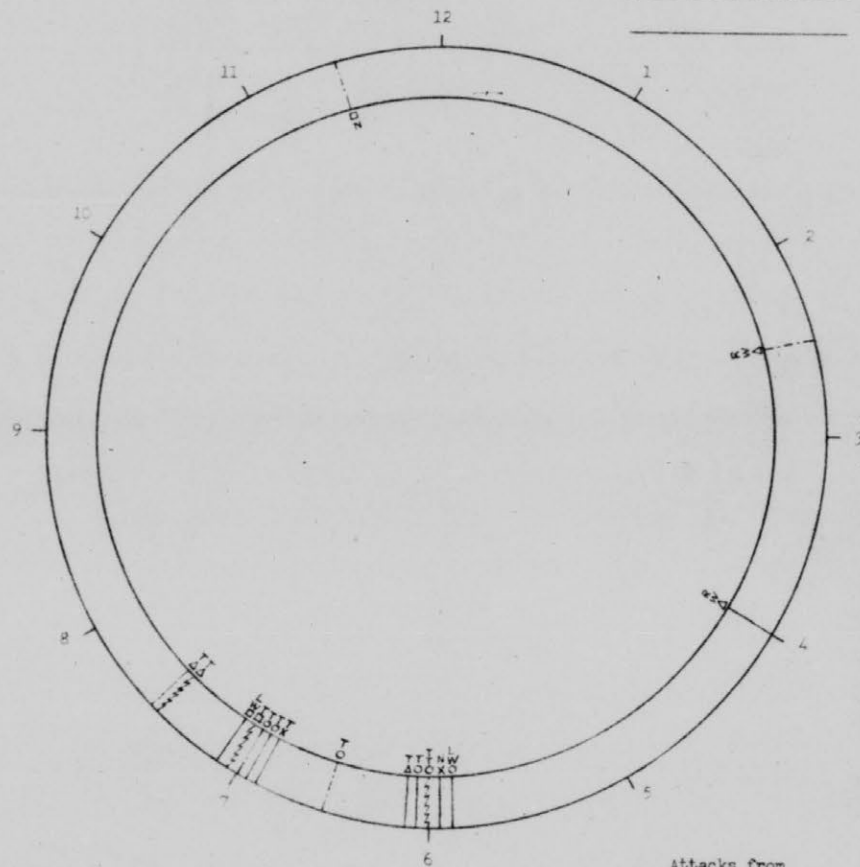
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COMBAT REPORT FORM (WING)

TARGET HANOVER WING 2ND DATE 11-SEPT-44

TIME OF ATTACKS 1140-1201

VICINITY OF ATTACKS _____



Attacks from
Above - - - -
Level - - - -
Below - - - -

Destroyed - X
Probable - Δ
Damaged - □
No Claim - ○

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Tactical Bombing Report of Mission, 11 September 1944

DIRECT LENGTH			ALTITUDE	TIME OF FLEW AUTO FLEW RANGE &			TOTAL BOMB & TYPE	NO. A/C DROPPED ON			
GROUP	OF RUN	OF RUN		RELEASE	PILOT	MANL DEFLECT RANGE		BOMBING	H2X OR GH	VIS.	
<u>HANNOVER</u>											
491	327	2 min.	23,000	1241	X	1	1	366x500	32/1	H2X	X
392	325	30 sec.	22,900	1241	X	1	1	122x1000	16/2	H2X	X
44	323	80 sec.	23,000	1243	X	1	1	263x1000	33/2	H2X	X
<u>MISBURG</u>											
453	330	2 min.	23,000	1238	X	1	1	341x500	31/2	H2X	X
445	336	2 min.	23,500	1240	X	1	1	720x250	33/2	H2X	X
389	315	13 min.	25,500	1243	X	1	1	532x250	23/1	H2X	X
<u>MAGDEBURG</u>											
448	81		23,100	1230	X	1	1	300x500	30/2	H2X	
93	85	5 min.	23,000	1232	Unknown MIA	1	1	309x500	33/1	H2X	
489	84	20 min.	23,000	1235	X	1	1	110x500	25/2	H2X	
458	75		22,400	1228	X	1	1	1186x100	24/2	H2X	
466	80		25,500	1228		X		110x500	11	458 Flares	
<u>STENDAL</u>											
467	360	3 min.	23,000	1240	X	1	1	312x500	32/2	H2X	
466	350		24,500	1240		X		110x500	11	467 Flares	
<u>DIEPHOLZ A/F</u>											
448	282	2 min.	19,900	1322	X	1	1	80x500	8		X

- a. The assigned primary targets for this mission were oil depots at Magdeburg and Misburg and a machine works at Hannover, Germany.
- b. Due to cloud cover at Magdeburg the center of the city was attacked. One Group and one Squadron of another Group assigned to Magdeburg attacked Stendal after changing leads on the bomb run due to an auto-pilot malfunction at the primary target. One Squadron attacked Diepholz A/F due to select lever malfunction at the primary target. Bombing was done in Group formation both visually by H2X leaders and on H2X equipment through 7 to 10/10 cloud cover.
- c. One A/C did not bomb due to mechanical difficulties, One A/C jettisoned at the IP due to one engine being lost, and one A/C jettisoned in the channel due to a rack malfunction.
- d. Results of bombing
- | | | |
|----------|-----------|--|
| Hannover | Very good | Hits on press shops, assembly factories, and major buildings of target area. |
|----------|-----------|--|

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Tactical Bombing Report of Mission, 11 Sept 44 (cont'd)

Misburg	Good to very good	Hits on distillation buildings, and other buildings in target area.
Stendal	Poor	A few hits in built-up area but mostly in open areas.
Magdeburg		Mostly unobserved. Good results on built-up area of the city.
Diepholz A/F	Unobserved	

e. Disposition of Bombs by HZK A/C:

Hannover	5 A/C	2x500 HE, 8x1000 HE
Magdeburg	7 A/C	18x500 HE
Misburg	5 A/C	12x500 HE
Stendal	2 A/C	8x500 HE

S E C R E T

**HEADQUARTERS
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Group Operations Officer**

12 September 1944

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations., Mission of 11 September 1944.

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

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A. Group	458			
B. Division F.O. No.	457			
C. Date of Operation	11 Sept 1944			
D. Ordered Primary Target.	Magdenburg			
E. A/C Airborne	26			
F. A/C Sorties	25			
G. A/C Attacking	24			
H. A/C Not Attacking	2			
I. A/C Attacking - Primary Target.	24	1186	50 X 100 GP	
		10	50 X 100 GP Jett.	
	1	50	50 X 100 GP returned	
	1	50	50 X 100 GP A/C lost	
			Disp. of bombs	
			unknown.	
		NOTE:	1 A/C loaded with 4	
			smoke bombs.	
J. A/C Attacking - Primary 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	1			
R. Time of Take Off	0801			
S. Average Time of Flight	7:28			
T. Comments:	PFF Bombing.			

For the Commanding Officer:

**JOSEPH S. WILLIAMS
1st Lt, AC
Group Statistical Officer.**

SECTION I

ENG LD, 50 X 100 GP
Fusing No Nose 1/40 T
Gas LD. 2700

LEAD "B" GP

VERMEIREN-HENSON

PFF : 599K

NEWILL

25 : 018J

K-22

WALKER

7V : 4550

K-22

JONES-BETZOLD

PFF : 110R

MARK

J3 2407R

K-21

HELFBRECHT

25 : 165S

ALVESTAD

J4 : 285H

K-21

FLOYD

J3 : 475V

ALLEN

J3 : 4250

HATHORN

J4 : 735V

DAVIDSON

J4 : 287J

K-20

SECTION II

LOW LEFT "B" GP

LOCKEAGE-CLUGGETT

Z5 : 768.

K-22

KLUSMEYER

J3 : 316N

HESS

25 : 059T

BENO

25 : 516B

K-20

COYLE

7V : 179X

HAUSER

J3 : 163U

K-21

NELSON

25 : 070K

K-21

HENDRICKSON

7V : 219W

GRICE

7V : 311F

K-21

COOK

25 : 596R

SECTION III

HIGH RIGHT "B" GP

BRUMBY-RIGHT

J3 : 602A

K-22

DOYLE

25 : 108.

KOHN

7V : 504D

K-20

MORGAN

7V : 314L

K-21

VENSLAGE

25 : 110P

MORAN

25 : 305N

STOEBER

7V : 050J

K-21

ANDERSON

7V : 118R

GLASS

7V : 352K

ASSEMBLY A/C 6972

GIBNEY-HAYDON

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
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	ALLEN, G	126	4			42-100425	425	O	J3	32	THE BIRD	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	ALVESTAD	126	31			44-40285	285	H	J4	35	TABLE STUFF	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	ANDERSON	126	2			44-40118	118	R	7V	8	WE'LL GET BY	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	BENO	126	3			42-50516	516	B	Z5	7	STARDUST	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	BRUMBY	126	14	WRIGHT	L3	44-10602	602	A	J3	7	TEN GUN DOTTIE	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	COOK	126	22			41-29596	596	R	Z5	53	HELL'S ANGEL'S	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	COYLE	126	24			42-95179	179	X	7V	44	HERE I GO AGAIN	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	DAVIDSON	126	29			44-40287	287	J	J4	15	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	DOYLE	126	5			42-95108	108	M	Z5	39	ENVY OF 'EM ALL II	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	FLOYD	126	12			44-40475	475	V	J3	2	JOLLY ROGER	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	GIBNEY	126	ASSY	HAYDON		41-28697	697	Z	Z5	A16	SPOTTED APE	ASSEMBLY CREW
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	GLASS	126	ABT			41-29352	352	K	7V	--	WOLVE'S LAIR	ABORT - #2 SUPER CHG OUT OVER NORTH SEA
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	GRICE	126	4			42-100311	311	P	7V	51	YOKUM BOY	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	HATHORN	126	1			41-28735	735	V	J3	35	UNKNOWN 005	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	HAUSER	126	31			42-95183	183	U	J3	42	BRINEY MARLIN	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	HELFRECHT	126	10			42-95165	165	S	Z5	35	COOKIE	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	HENDRICKSON	126	1			42-95219	219	W	7V	33	PATCHIE	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	HESS	126	5			42-110059	059	T	Z5	40	UNKNOWN 056	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	HORGAN	126	FTR			42-50314	314	L	7V	55	ETO PLAYHOUSE	SHOT DOWN
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	JONES	126	--	BETZOLD	D1	41-28910	910	R	T9	--	466BG/784SQ	COMPOSITE SQDN 466 ,458
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	KLUSMEYER	126	5			42-95316	316	N	J3	45	PRINCESS PAT	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	KOEHN	126	8			42-50504	504	D	7V	3	UNKNOWN 019	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	LOCKRIDGE	126	16	CLAGGETT	L2	42-50768	768	A	Z5	11	ARISE MY LOVE AND COME WITH ME	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	MORAN	126	3			41-29305	305	N	Z5	38	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	NELSON	126	25			42-110070	070	K	Z5	35	ELMER / LADY LUCK	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	NEWELL	126	32			42-95018	018	J	Z5	45	OLD DOC'S YACHT	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	RUARK	126	28			42-100407	407	R	J3	48	LITTLE LAMBSY DIVEY	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	STOESSER	126	8			42-95050	050	J	7V	46	GAS HOUSE MOUSE	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	VEHSLAGE	126	4			42-51110	110	P	Z5	43	TOP O' THE MARK	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	VERMEIREN	126	19	HENSON	L1	42-50599	599	K	T9	--	466BG/784SQ	
11-Sep-44	MAGDEBURG	WALKER	126	31			42-52455	455	O	7V	59	PLUTOCRAT	