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96" CBW HISTORY

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Office of the Commanding General
HQ. 96TH COMBAT BOMBARDMENT WING (H)
United States Army Air Forces
APO 558

INDEX TO WING HISTORY

	<u>Page</u>
Preface.....	1
Section I.....	
NO ADDITIONAL MATERIAL	
Section II.....	2-20
OPERATIONS:	
In this section will be found the story of all tactical missions flown by the Wing during the month of August, 1944, including:	
(1) Training	
(2) Narrative	
(3) Lessons Learned	
(4) Changes in Procedure	
(5) Comments	
Section III.....	
NO ADDITIONAL MATERIAL	
Section IV.....	
NO ADDITIONAL MATERIAL	
Section V.....	
NO ADDITIONAL MATERIAL	
Section VI.....	
NO ADDITIONAL MATERIAL	
<u>SUPPLEMENTS</u>	
Source material accompanying history	
Supplement No. I.....	
NO ADDITIONAL MATERIAL	

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

Supplement No. II.....
 Missions as Briefed by 458th Group; Pictures
Supplement No. III.....
 Missions as Briefed by 466th Group; Pictures
Supplement No. IV.....
 Missions as Briefed by 467th Group; Pictures
Supplement No. V.....
 NO ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
Supplement No. VI.....
 Field Orders (copies)

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Office of the Commanding General
HQ. 96TH COMBAT BOMBARDMENT WING (H)
United States Army Air Forces
APO 558

6 September 1944.

MEMORANDUM:

TO : All Concerned.

1. This is the 96th Combat Bomb Wing history for August 1944. An index provides the key to location of material.
2. In the Operations Section will be found Missions Summary, Daily Activity Report, and a special report on aircraft lost in the month of July, 1944.
3. Supplements show:
 - (1) Routes as Briefed (Photographs).
 - (2) Copies of Wing Field Orders.

Laurence C. Gram

LAURENCE C. GRAM,
Major, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer

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SECTION II.

OPERATIONS
(Cont'd)

In this Section will be found the story of all tactical missions flown by the Wing during the month of August, 1944, including--

- (1) Planning
- (2) Narrative
- (3) Lessons Learned
- (4) Changes in Procedure
- (5) Comments

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HQ 96TH COMBAT BOMBARDMENT WING (H)
Office of the Commanding General
AAF 123 APO 558

MEMORANDUM:

TO : General PECK.

Summary of missions from the 1st of August 1944 to date.

1. The mission of 1 August 1944 involved an attack on construction works at Le Grande Vallee, Balloy-sur-Somme, Bois de Queuse Contesse, Madicourt, Montlevis, Remianil, and Villers L'Hopital.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 96th, 2d, 20th, 14th, and 95th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Group made up of lead and low left squadrons from the 467th and a lead and high right squadron from the 466th, and a "B" Group made up of lead, low left, and high right squadrons from the 458th. The ships of the 466th were loaded with 3 x 2000 lb G.P.'s and the 467th and 458th with Max x 250 lb G.P.'s. 2300 gallons of gasoline were carried. The bombing altitude was at 22,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
36 A/C Took off.	25 A/C Took off.	25 A/C Took off.
24 A/C Attacked a target of last resort.	3 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-gas leak (personnel failure) 1-low oil pressure 1-turbos out	0 A/C Attacked - Mission recalled due to 10/10ths cloud cover (no sorties)
12 A/C Did not attack due to 10/10ths overcast.	22 A/C Did not attack due to weather.	0 A/C Were lost.
0 A/C Were lost.	0 A/C Were lost.	

c. Narrative. The 466th and 467th Groups and one squadron of the 458th abandoned the mission due to the heavy cloud coverage. A last resort target, a railroad at Cleres, France was bombed visually with fair results by two squadrons of the 458th Group. No enemy fighters were seen, but meager and accurate flak was encountered. A good Group and Wing assembly was accomplished and the routes were adhered to until the targets were abandoned.

2. The mission of 2 August 1944 involved attacks on construction works at Blankerment, Haut Maicail, Remianil, Villers L'Hopital, Montlevis Ferre, Madicourt, and Balloy-sur-Somme, France.

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a. The Division formation was made up of the 96th, 95th, 14th, and 20th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Group with two squadrons from the 467th flying lead and low left and two squadrons from the 467th flying lead and high right, and a "B" Group with three squadrons from the 458th flying lead, low left, and high right positions. The 466th flew high right on the 467th Group. The ships carried 24 x 250 lb G. P. bombs and 2000 gallons of gasoline. The altitude for bombing was 22,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
34 A/C Took off.	22 A/C Took off.	24 A/C Took off.
29 A/C Attacked the Primary target.	21 A/C Attacked the primary target.	12 A/C Attacked the primary target.
5 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 2-internal engine failures 1-generators failed 2-low oil pressure	1 A/C Aborted due to personnel error.	1 A/C Aborted due to internal engine failure.
0 A/C Were lost.	0 A/C Were lost.	11 A/C Did not attack due to weather.
		0 A/C Were lost.

c. Narrative. The primary target was bombed visually by the 466th Group with fair results. The 458th and 467th Groups bombed the primary target by GN. No enemy fighters were encountered and the flak was very light. A good Group and Wing assembly was effected and the route was followed as briefed.

3. The mission of 3 August 1944 involved attacks on construction works at Bois de Queve Comtesse, La Grande Vallee, St. Sylvestre, La Housseye, and on fuel depots at Marquette-Wambrechies and Lille-Saquedin.

a. The Division formation was made up of groups from the 95th, 96th, 95th, 14th, 20th, and 2d Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing was composed of an "A" Group with lead and low left squadrons from the 466th, and a "B" Group with three squadrons from the 467th. The bomb load was 24 x 250 lb G.P.'s and the gasoline load was 2000 gallons. Bombing altitude was at 23,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
24 A/C Took off.	23 A/C Took off.	33 A/C Took off.
22 A/C Attacked the primary target.	22 A/C Attacked the primary target.	20 A/C Attacked the primary target.
2 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-engine misfired, excessive oil consumption. 1-oil leak.	1 A/C Aborted due to mechanical failure.	2 A/C Aborted due to internal engine failures.
0 A/C Were lost.	0 A/C Were lost.	11 A/C Did not attack due to weather.
		0 A/C Were lost.

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c. Narrative. The primary target was bombed visually with fair results. No enemy fighters were encountered and the flak was meager and inaccurate. Very good Group and Wing assemblies were accomplished. The briefed route was followed except at the rally point where the 458th turned short due to flak and took the lead. The remainder of the briefed route was adhered to.

4. The first mission of 4 August involved an attack on an aircraft factory at Rostock, Germany.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 96th, 20th, 2d, 95th, and 14th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing flew an "A" Group composed of a lead and low left squadron from the 458th and a high right and high high right squadron from the 467th, and a "B" Group composed of lead, high right, and low left squadrons from the 466th. The "B" Group was echeloned left and high. 12 x 500 G.P. bombs were carried by the ships of the 466th Group, 52 x M-47 I.B.'s by the 458th, and 12 x 500 G.P.'s by the 467th. 2500 gallons of gasoline were carried. Bombing altitude was at 22,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
22 A/C Took off.	38 A/C Took off.	25 A/C Took off.
18 A/C Attacked the primary target.	33 A/C Attacked the primary target.	22 A/C Attacked the primary target.
4 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-gas leak 1-feathered engine 1-broken cylinder 1-generators failed	1 A/C Attacked a target of opportunity. 3 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-pilot could not find formation 1-#3 engine out 1-low oil pressure	3 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-gas leak 2-internal engine failures
0 A/C Were lost.	1 A/C Did not attack due to rack malfunction. 0 A/C Were lost.	0 A/C Were lost.

c. Narrative. The primary target was attacked visually with good results. Enemy fighters were seen attacking B-17's but none attacked the B-24's. Flak was meager but rather accurate. A good Group and Wing assembly was accomplished and the briefed route was followed.

5. The second mission of 4 August 1944 involved an attack on construction works at Bois de Queue Comtesse, France.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 2d, 20th, 14th, and 96th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up a single squadron from the 458th Group. The ships were loaded with 20 x 250 lb G.P. bombs and 2000 gallons of gasoline. The bombing altitude was 21,000 feet.

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b. Force Dispatched.

458th Group

12 A/C Took off.
 12 A/C Attacked a target of opportunity (Achlet A/T).
 0 A/C Were lost.

c. Narrative. A target of opportunity, an airfield at Achlet, France, was bombed visually with good results. No enemy aircraft and no flak was encountered. A good assembly was made and the briefed route was followed.

6. The mission of 5 August 1944 involved an attack on an aircraft factory at Waggon, (near Brunswick) Germany.

a. The Division formation was composed of the 95, 14th, 2d, 96th, and 20th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Group comprising a lead and low left squadron from the 466th and a lead and high right squadron from the 458th, and a "B" Group comprising a lead and low left squadron from the 467th and a composite squadron made up of ships from the 466th and 458th Groups in high right position. The high right squadron of the 458th and the lead squadron of the 467th carried 52 x M-47 I.B.'s and all other squadrons carried 12 x 500 G.P.'s. The gasoline load was 2300 gallons. Bombing altitude was at 22,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

458th Group

30 A/C Took off.
 27 A/C Attacked the primary target.
 3 A/C Aborted for the following reasons:
 1-generator out
 1-turbo fluctuated
 1-low oil pressure,
 feathered engine
 1 A/C Lost - cause unknown.

466th Group

31 A/C Took off.
 16 A/C Attacked the primary target.
 9 A/C Attacked the secondary target.
 5 A/C Aborted for the following reasons:
 1-pilot could not find formation
 1-prop governor out
 1-turbo ran away
 1-engine out of oil
 turbo ran away
 1-turbo out.
 1 A/C Did not attack due to rack malfunction.
 0 A/C Were lost.

467th Group

24 A/C Took off.
 23 A/C Attacked the primary target.
 1 A/C Attacked a target of opportunity.
 2 A/C Lost due to flak.

c. Narrative. The primary target was bombed visually by the 458th and 466th Groups with good results. No enemy fighters were seen. The flak enroute was light but at the target it was heavy and accurate. Due to

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smoke and here the 466th did not bomb the primary target and moved on to the secondary target, an airfield at Coslar, which they bombed visually. A satisfactory assembly was effected and the briefed course was followed.

7. The mission of 6 August 1944 involved an attack on an oil storage depot and refinery at Hamburg, Germany.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 2d, 96th, 14th, 20th, and 95th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing flew an "A" Group led by the 467th with lead and low left squadrons, two squadrons from the 458th on the high right of the 467th, and a "B" Group with three squadrons from the 466th. The ships carried 12 x 500 lb G.P. Bombs and 2500 gallons of gasoline. The bombing altitude was 23,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
24 A/C Took off.	35 A/C Took off.	24 A/C Took off.
22 A/C Attacked the primary target.	30 A/C Attacked the primary target.	22 A/C Attacked the primary target.
2 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-engine failure 1-supercharger out.	1 A/C Attacked a target of opportunity.	2 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-loose hose clamp on turbo
1 A/C Lost due to flak.	3 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-gunner passed out with oxygen 1-turbo out.	1-co-pilot fell out of A/C
	1 A/C Did not attack due to flak damage.	2 A/C Lost due to flak.
	0 A/C Were lost	

c. The primary target was bombed visually with fair results. No enemy fighters were encountered. Flak was intense and accurate at the target. A good assembly was accomplished and the briefed course was followed.

8. The mission of 7 August involved attacks on fuel storage depots at Wondelcem and Gent-Terneuzen Canal.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 14th, 20A, 95th, 2d, 95B, 20B, 96th, and 14th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up two squadrons from the 458th in lead and low left positions, two squadrons from the 467th in low right position, and two squadrons from the 466th echeloned left and slightly above the 458th. The 458th and 466th Groups carried Max x 100 lb G. P. bombs and the 467th carried Max x 250 lb G. P.'s. 2000 gallons of gasoline were carried by the ships. Bombing altitude was at 21,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
24 A/C Took off.	24 A/C Took off.	20 A/C Took off.
12 A/C Attacked a target of opportunity.	10 A/C Attacked the primary target.	9 A/C Attacked the primary target.

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10. The mission of 9 August 1944 involved an attack on marshalling yards at Saarbrücken, Germany.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 20th, 96th, 14th, 95th, and 2d Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Group led by the 458th with three squadrons, and a "B" Group with the 467th flying lead and low left squadrons and the 466th flying high right on the 467th with lead and high right squadrons. The "B" Group flew high right on "A" Group during assembly. The 458th and 466th Groups carried 5 x 1000 lb G.P. bombs and the 467th carried 10 x M-17 I.B.'s. 2700 gallons of gasoline were carried. The Bombing altitude was 23,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
33 A/C Took off.	28 A/C Took off.	24 A/C Took off.
25 A/C Attacked the secondary target.	23 A/C Attacked the secondary target.	23 A/C Attacked the secondary target.
8 A/C Aborted for the following reasons:	5 A/C Aborted for the following reasons:	1 A/C Aborted due to supercharger failure.
2-gas leak	2-gas leak	0 A/C Were lost.
1-feathered engine, crashed on landing	1-turbo out	
1-controls stiff - personnel	1-gunner passed out	
1-lost formation	1-oil leak	
1-generators set wrong	2 A/C Lost due to flak.	
1-inverters out, engine caught afire		
1-engine sluggish, failed to keep with formation.		
1 A/C Lost - cause unknown.		

The secondary target, a marshalling yard at Saarbrücken, Germany, was bombed visually by part of the squadrons of the three Groups and by FFF by the remainder. Intense and accurate flak was encountered but no enemy aircraft were seen. The 96th Wing lead the Division, taking the place of the 20th Wing which was late at the assembly. The route was followed as briefed.

11. The Mission of 11 August 1944 involved an attack on railroad marshalling yards at Strasbourg, Germany.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 14th, 20th A, 96th, 95th, 2d, and 20th B Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Group made up of lead and low left squadrons from the 467th and a high right squadron from the 466th, and a "B" Group made up of lead and low left squadrons from the 458th and a high right squadron from the 466th. The ships carried 12 x 500 G. P. bombs and 2500 gallons of gasoline. Bombing altitude was at 21,000 feet.

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b. Force Dispatched (Cont'd).

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
12 A/C Did not attack due to 10/10ths cloud cover.	14 A/C Did not attack due to 10/10ths cloud cover.	1 A/C Aborted due to internal engine failure.
0 A/C Were lost.	0 A/C Were lost.	10 A/C Did not attack due to cloud cover.
		0 A/C Were lost.

c. Narrative. The primary target was bombed visually with fair results by one squadron of the 466th Group and one squadron of the 467th Group. The 458th did not attack the primary target due to the heavy cloud cover. However, one squadron of the 458th bombed a target assigned to the 466th Group. A good assembly was accomplished and the briefed route was adhered to until reaching the target.

9. The mission of 8 August 1944 involved an attack on an airfield at Clastres.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 95th, 96th, 14th, 20th, and 2d Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Group with the 467th flying lead and low left and the 466th flying high right, and a "B" Group with the 458th flying lead and low left and the 466th flying high right. A flight of three aircraft from the 466th flew high right on the low left squadron of the 467th, and a flight of three aircraft from the 458th flew low left on the low left squadron of the 467th Group. 52 x 100 lb G.P. bombs were carried by the 458th and 466th Groups and 24 x 250 lb G.P.'s by the 467th. 2000 gallons of gasoline were carried by the ships. The altitude for bombing was 21,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
27 A/C Took off.	27 A/C Took off.	19 A/C Took off.
27 A/C Attacked the primary target.	24 A/C Attacked the primary target.	19 A/C Attacked the primary target.
0 A/C Aborted.	2 A/C Aborted for the following reasons:	0 A/C Aborted.
0 A/C Were lost.	1-engine caught on fire	0 A/C Were lost.
	1-gas leak	
	1 A/C Did not attack due to rack malfunction.	
	0 A/C Were lost.	

c. Narrative. The primary target was bombed visually with good results. No enemy fighters were seen. The flak was moderate and inaccurate. A good Group and Wing assembly was effected and the briefed route was adhered to.

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b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
22 A/C Took off.	28 A/C Took off.	24 A/C Took off.
21 A/C Attacked the primary target.	23 A/C Attacked the primary target.	22 A/C Attacked the primary target.
1 A/C Aborted due to generator failure.	5 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-generator failure 1-engine prop governor out 1-turbo out 1-low oil pressure 1-feathered engine 1-oil leak	2 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-supercharger failure 1-unable to hold formation
0 A/C Were lost.	0 A/C Were lost.	0 A/C Were lost.

c. Narrative. The primary target was bombed visually with fair results by the "A" Group, but a rack malfunction in the lead ship of the "B" Group delayed dropping of the bombs. No enemy aircraft were seen but moderate flak was encountered. A good assembly was effected and the briefed course was adhered to.

12. The mission of 12 August 1944 involved an attack on an airfield at Reims, France.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 95th, 20th, 14th, and 96th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Group with the 458th flying lead and low left squadrons, and "B" Group with the 467th flying lead and low left squadrons, and a composite group with the 466th flying high right on the 458th and 467th Groups. The 458th and 467th Groups carried 12 x 500 G.P. bombs and the 466th carried 52 x 100 G.P.'s. A gasoline load of 2300 gallons was carried by the ships. Bombing altitude was at 20,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
24 A/C Took off.	24 A/C Took off.	26 A/C Took off.
21 A/C Attacked the primary target.	24 A/C Attacked the primary target	26 A/C Attacked the primary target.
3 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-#1 Engine out 1-internal engine failure 1-low oil pressure, feathered engine.	0 A/C Aborted. 3 A/C Were lost due to flak.	0 A/C Aborted. 0 A/C Were lost.
0 A/C Were lost.		

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c. Narrative. The primary target was bombed visually with good results. No enemy aircraft were seen and the flak was very light at the target. Heavy clouds impeded a good assembly, but after leaving the coast the weather was clearer and the briefed course was adhered to.

13. The mission of 13 August 1944 involved attacks on highway approaches to the Seine River in the Area of Routot, Pavilly, and Montfort, France.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 2d, 95th, 14th, 96th, and 20th Wings flying in that order. The squadrons flew in trail. The 96th Wing put up three Groups of two squadrons each. The ships carried 48 x 100 G. P. bombs and a gasoline load of 2300 gallons. The bombing altitude was at 18,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
24 A/C Took off.	24 A/C Took off.	27 A/C Took off.
19 A/C Attacked the primary target.	23 A/C Attacked the primary target.	24 A/C Attacked the primary target.
4 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-confusion in signals from lead 1-cylinder blown off 1-low oil pressure 1-turbo, #3 engine smoking	1 A/C Did not attack - Lost due to flak.	1 A/C Aborted due to cylinder blown loose.
1 A/C Did not attack due to a rack malfunction.		2 A/C Did not attack for the following reasons: 1-damaged by parts flying from another A/C which exploded 1-exploded when hit by flak.
0 A/C Were lost.		1 A/C Lost due to flak.

c. Narrative. The primary targets were bombed visually with fair results. No enemy aircraft were seen but intense and accurate flak was encountered. A very good Group and Wing assembly was effected and the route was flown as briefed.

14. The mission of 14 August 1944 involved an attack on an airfield at Bole/Tavaux, France.

a. The Division formation was made up of Groups from the 2d, 14th, 95th, 14th, 95th, 96th, and 20th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Group with the 467th in lead and low left positions and the 458th on the high right, and a "B" Group with the 466th in lead and low left positions and the 458th on the high right. The ships were loaded with 48 x 100 lb G. P. bombs and 23,000 gallons of gasoline. The bombing altitude was 20,000 feet.

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b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
24 A/C Took off.	25 A/C Took off.	24 A/C Took off.
22 A/C Attacked the primary target.	24 A/C Attacked the primary target.	24 A/C Attacked the primary target.
2 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-feathered engine 1-gas leak	1 A/C Aborted due to personnel failure.	0 A/C Aborted.
0 A/C Were lost.	0 A/C Were lost.	0 A/C Were lost.

c. Narrative. The primary target was bombed visually with fair results. No enemy fighters and no flak was encountered on the mission. Good assemblies were effected by the Groups and the Wing, and the route was flown as briefed.

15. The mission of 15 August 1944 involved an attack on an airfield at Vechta, Germany.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 20th, A, 96th, 2d, 14th, and 20th B Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Group composed of lead and low left squadrons from the 467th and a high right squadron from the 466th, and a "B" Groups composed of lead and low left squadrons from the 458th and a high right squadron from the 466th. The ships carried 4 x 1000 G. P. and 4 x 500 M-17 I. B. bombs and 2300 gallons of gasoline. The altitude for bombing was 21,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
22 A/C Took off.	27 A/C Took off.	24 A/C Took off.
19 A/C Attacked the primary target.	23 A/C Attacked the primary target.	24 A/C Attacked the primary target.
2 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-cylinder head blown 1-generator failure	4 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-gas leak 1-internal engine failure 2-supercharger trouble	0 A/C Aborted.
1 A/C Did not attack due to feathered engine on bomb run.	4 A/C Lost due to R/A.	0 A/C Were lost.
0 A/C Were lost.		

c. Narrative. Group and Wing assemblies were accomplished as briefed. Some confusion was caused in uncovering at the IP as the low left squadron in "A" Group was not in close enough to the lead squadron to go in and bomb second. The high right squadron in "A" Group had to "S" to drop back to allow the low left squadron to go in which caused the whole "B" Group to "S" near the IP. However, good bombing results were accomplished by all

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squadrons, they having scattered themselves out at the time the target was reached. The only unusual point in the bombing was the fact that the first squadron of the 467th was unable to pick up the target on the first run which necessitated a second run. A rally was accomplished without difficulty. While the 466th was moving from the position it had assumed in the rally to its briefed position on the route out, it was attacked by enemy fighters and lost four ships.

16. The mission of 16 August 1944 involved an attack on an Aero Engine Factory at Magdeburg, Germany.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 20th, 96th, 2d, and 14th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing flew an "A" Group composed of three squadrons from the 467th, and a "B" Group composed of lead and low left squadrons from the 458th and a high right squadron from the 466th. The "B" Group flew high right on the "A" Group. The 458th Group and two squadrons of the 467th carried 12 x 500 G. P. bombs and the 466th Group and one squadron of the 467th carried 12 x M-17 I.B.'s. A gasoline load of 2500 gallons was carried by the ships. The bombing altitude was 22,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
22 A/C Took off.	16 A/C Took off.	36 A/C Took off.
19 A/C Attacked the primary target.	15 A/C Attacked the primary target.	33 A/C Attacked the primary target.
3 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-exhaust coupling malfunction 1-engineer ill 1-pilot could not keep formation	1 A/C Aborted - nose wheel would not retreat.	1 A/C Attacked a target of opportunity.
0 A/C Were lost.	0 A/C Were lost.	1 A/C Aborted due to blown cylinder head.
		1 A/C Did not attack due to rack malfunction.
		1 A/C Lost to flak..

c. The primary target was bombed visually with good results. Enemy fighters were seen by the 458th Group after reaching the target but none attacked. Flak was heavy and accurate. A good assembly was accomplished and except for a slight deviation to the north on the withdrawal the route was followed as briefed.

17. The mission of 18 August 1944 involved an attack on Aero Engine Works at Weissy (near Metz), France.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 2d, 96th, 20th, and 14th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Group composed of three squadrons from the 467th, and a "B" Group composed of two squadrons from the 458th flying lead and low left and one squadron from the 466th flying high right. The ships of the 458th Group and two squadrons of the 467th were

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loaded with 12 x 500 G. P. bombs and the ships of the 466th Group and one squadron of the 467th were loaded with Max x M-47's. A gasoline load of 2300 gallons was carried. The altitude for bombing was 18,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
24 A/C Took off.	12 A/C Took off.	38 A/C Took off.
9 A/C Attacked the primary target.	11 A/C Attacked the primary target.	38 A/C Attacked the primary target.
11 A/C Attacked a target of opportunity.	1 A/C Aborted due to turbo failure and high gas consumption.	0 A/C Aborted.
2 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-low oil pressure, turbo out. 1-gas leak	0 A/C Were lost.	0 A/C Were lost.
2 A/C Did not attack for the following reasons: 1-wings damaged in collision when plane was caught in prop wash 1-rack malfunction		
0 A/C Were lost.		

c. Narrative. The primary target was bombed visually with very good results. No enemy aircraft were seen. No flak was encountered at the target but light flak was encountered at Romilly. Very good assemblies were effected by the three Groups and the route was followed as briefed.

18. The mission of 24 August 1944 involved an attack on an Oil Refinery at Misburg, Germany.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 96th, 14th, 2d, and 20th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Wing led by the 467th Group with three squadrons, a "B" Wing led by the 458th Group with three squadrons, and two squadrons from the 466th, one flying high high right on the "A" Wing and one flying high high right on the "B" Wing. The ships of the 467th Group were loaded with 12 x 500 lb G.P.'s, and those of the 458th and 466th Groups with 24 x 250 lb G.P.'s. A 2300 gallon gasoline load was carried. The bombing altitude was 22,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
32 A/C Took off.	29 A/C Took off.	37 A/C Took off.
28 A/C Attacked the primary target.	23 A/C Attacked the primary target.	37 A/C Attacked the primary target.

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b. Force Dispatched (Contd).

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
3 A/C Attacked targets of opportunity.	6 A/C Aborted for the following reasons:	0 A/C Aborted.
1 A/C Aborted due to gas leak.	1-gunner sick	0 A/C Were lost.
0 A/C Were lost.	1-prop governor out	
	3-oil leaks and low oil pressure	
	1-rack malfunction	
	0 A/C Were lost.	

c. Narrative. The 96th Wing was in the lead of the 8th Air Force. The primary target was bombed visually with good results by the 458th and 467th Groups and with fair results by the 466th. All Groups of the 96th Wing effected good assemblies. On the route in the 466th flew over the channel a little farther to the right than briefed. Some delay was caused at the withdrawal when the 14th Wing cut in. With the exception of one squadron of the 466th, flying high high on "B" Group, which returned alone, the return route was flown by the Wing as briefed.

19. The first mission of 25 August 1944 involved an attack on an aircraft factory at Lubeck, Germany.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 14th, 96th, 2d, and 20th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Group led by three squadrons of the 467th, and a "B" Group with two squadrons from the 458th in lead and low left positions and two squadrons from the 466th in lead and high right positions. 10 x 500 G. P. bombs were carried by all the ships except two in the 467th Group, one carrying 5 KG 20 bombs and the other 5 KG 25 bombs. A gasoline load of 2700 gallons was carried. The bombing altitude was 22,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
23 A/C Took off.	27 A/C Took off.	36 A/C Took off.
22 A/C Attacked the primary target.	26 A/C Attacked the primary target.	34 A/C Attacked the primary target.
1 A/C Did not attack - Lost due to flak.	1 A/C Aborted due to gas leak.	1 A/C Attacked a target of opportunity.
	0 A/C Were lost.	1 A/C Aborted due to internal engine failure.
		1 A/C Lost due to flak.

c. Narrative. The primary target was bombed visually with good results. Enemy aircraft were seen engaged in dog fights but none attacked the formation. Light and accurate flak was encountered at the coast. A good Group and Wing assembly was made and the route was followed as briefed.

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20. The second mission of 25 August 1944 involved an attack on a Synthetic Ammonia and Benzol Plant at Tertre, Belgium.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 96th, 2d, and 20th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing led the Division with one squadron from the 458th Group. The ships carried a bomb load of 12 x 500 lb G.P.'s and a gasoline load of 2000 gallons. The bombing altitude was at 20,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

458th Group.

12 A/C Took off.
8 A/C Attacked the primary target.
1 A/C Attacked the secondary target.
3 A/C Did not attack due to flak damage.
0 A/C Were lost.

c. Narrative. The primary target was bombed visually with good results. No enemy fighters were seen, but the flak was intense and accurate along the entire route. The assembly was accomplished as briefed. The briefed route was closely followed to the target except for a slight deviation to the right to avoid the intense flak. Two runs were made on the target. A normal withdrawal was made and the briefed return route was adhered to.

21. The mission of 26 August 1944 involved an attack on an oil storage depot at Dalmen, Germany.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 2d, 96th, 1st, and 20th Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Group composed of lead and low left squadrons from the 467th and a high right squadron from the 458th, and a "B" Group composed of lead and low left squadrons from the 466th, and a high right squadron from the 458th. 24 x 250 lb G.P. bombs were carried by the ships of the 467th Group and by one squadron of the 458th, 8 x 1000 lb G.P.'s by the 466th, 48 x 100 lb G.P.'s by one squadron of the 458th, and 10 G 26 bombs by one ship of the 467th. The ships carried 2000 gallons of gasoline. Bombing was at an altitude of 20,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

458th Group

24 A/C Took off.
23 A/C Attacked the primary target.
1 A/C Aborted due to turbo failure and oil leak.
0 A/C Were lost.

466th Group

27 A/C Took off.
26 A/C Attacked the primary target.
1 A/C Aborted due to supercharger failure.
0 A/C Were lost.

467th Group

24 A/C Took off.
24 A/C Attacked the primary target.
0 A/C Aborted.
0 A/C Were lost

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c. Narrative. The primary target was bombed visually and the results were excellent by the 458th Group, good by the 467th, and fair by the 466th. No enemy fighters were seen and the flak was meager. A normal assembly was made by the Wing and the briefed route was adhered to.

22. The mission of 27 August 1944 involved an attack on an aircraft factory at Orienburg, Germany.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 14A, 96A, 20th, 2d, 14B, and 96B Wings flying in that order. The 96th Wing put up an "A" Group composed of a lead and low left squadron from the 467th and a high right squadron from the 466th, and a "B" Group led by the 458th with three squadrons, a squadron from the 467th on the high right and a squadron from the 466th on the high high right. The "A" Group, comprising two squadrons from the 467th and one from the 466th, carried 10 x 500 lb G.P. bombs. In the "B" Group two squadrons from the 458th carried 300 lb G.P.'s, one squadron from the 458th 250 lb G.P.'s, and one squadron from the 467th and one from the 466th carried M-47's. A gasoline load of 2700 gallons was carried. The bombing altitude of the "A" Group was 23,000 feet, and of the "B" Group 21,000 feet.

b. Force Dispatched.

<u>458th Group</u>	<u>466th Group</u>	<u>467th Group</u>
30 A/C Took off.	28 A/C Took off.	35 A/C Took off.
30 A/C Did not attack due to weather.	28 A/C Did not attack due to weather.	33 A/C Did not attack due to weather.
0 A/C Were lost.	0 A/C Were lost.	2 A/C Aborted for the following reasons: 1-wheels would not lock up in position 1-personnel error
		0 A/C Were lost.

c. Narrative. The assembly was accomplished as scheduled and the briefed course was followed until reaching the coast when the mission was abandoned due to adverse weather conditions. Neither enemy aircraft nor flak was encountered enroute.

23. The mission of 30 August 1944 involved an attack in the area of Villers L'Hermital.

a. The Division formation was made up of the 2d, 14th, and 96th Wings flying in that order. The squadrons on each target flew in trail stepped up at 300 feet each, with the lead squadron at bombing altitude. The 96th Wing put up three squadrons from the 466th Group. The ships carried 24 x 250 lb G. P. bombs and 2300 gallons of gasoline. Bombing was at an altitude of 23,000 feet.

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DAILY ACTIVITY REPORT
96TH COMBAT BOMB WING
AUGUST 1944

<u>Date</u>	<u>Alerted</u>	<u>96th F.O.</u>	<u>2 BD F.O.</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1/8/44	Yes	145	416	Wadicourt, Montlouis Ferme, Remaisnil, Belloy- sur Somme, Villers L'Hopital, Bois de Queue Comtesse, La Grande Vallee.	The 466th & 467th Groups and one squadron of the 458th abandoned the mis- sion due to weather. Two squadrons of 458th bombed a target of last resort visually.
2/8/44	No		417		Mission cancelled.
2/8/44	No		418		20th & 2d Wings participated.
2/8/44	Yes	146	419	Blangermont, Haut Maisnil, Remaisnil, Villers L'Hopital, Montlouis Ferme, Wadicourt, Belloy- sur-Somme.	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target by use of GH.
3/8/44	Yes	147	420	Bois de Queue Comtesse, La Grande Vallee, St. Syl- vestre, La Housseye, Mar- quette/Wambrechies, Lille/ Sequedin.	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary targets visually.
4/8/44	Yes	148	421	Resteck.	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.
4/8/44	Yes	149	422	Bois de Queue Comtesse.	One squadron of the 458th bombed a target of opportunity visually.
5/8/44	Yes	150	423	Brunswick (Waggon A/F).	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.
6/8/44	Yes	151	424	Hamburg (Kinswarden).	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.
7/8/44	Yes	152	425	Ghent-Terneuzen.	One squadron of the 466th and one squadron of the 467th bombed the primary target visually. One squadron of the 458th bombed a target of oppor- tunity.
8/8/44	Yes	153	426	Clastres.	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.

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b. Force Dispatched.

466th Group

35 A/C Took off.
34 A/C Attacked the
primary target.
1 A/C Aborted due to a
mechanical failure.
0 A/C Were lost.

c. Narrative. The primary target was bombed by GH. No enemy aircraft were seen, but moderate and accurate flak was encountered. A good assembly was accomplished by the Group and the briefed route was closely adhered to.

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Alerted</u>	<u>96th F.O.</u>	<u>2 BD F.O.</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
9/8/44	Yes	154	427	Saarbrücken	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the secondary target, part of the squadrons by PFF and part visually.
10/8/44	No		428		20th & 95th participated.
10/8/44	No		429		20th & 95th participated.
11/8/44	Yes	155	430	Strasbourg	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.
12/8/44	Yes	156	431	Reims	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.
13/8/44	Yes	157	432	Seine Area	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.
14/8/44	Yes	158	433	Dole/Tavaux	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.
15/8/44	Yes	159	434	Vechta	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.
16/8/44	Yes	160	435	Magdeburg	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.
18/8/44	Yes	161	437	Woippy	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.
22/8/44	Yes	162	438		Mission scrubbed.
24/8/44	Yes	163	439	Misburg	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.
25/8/44	Yes	164	440	Labeck	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.
25/8/44	Yes	165	442	Tertre (Belgium)	Only 458th participated. Bombed primary target visually.
26/8/44	Yes	166	443	Dulmen	Three Groups of the 96th Wing bombed the primary target visually.
27/8/44	Yes	167	445		Mission cancelled.
27/8/44	Yes	168	446	Oriemburg & Finow	Mission recalled due to weather.
30/8/44	Yes	169	447	Villers L'Hopital	Only 466th Group participated, bombed primary target by GH.