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* HISTORY OF *
* THE 397TH *
* FIGHTER *
* SQUADRON *
* *
* INSTALLMENT *
* FIFTEEN *
* Covering the month *
* of April 1945 *
* *
* HISTORICAL *
* OFFICER *
* 1st Lt Richard H. *
* Blickensderfer *

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Installation XV HISTORY OF THE 337TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section "A"

1. ORGANIZATION (e.g. changes effected by the transfer of the unit or by new T/O's)
NEGATIVE
2. STRENGTH ON THE LAST DAY OF THE BOMB:
Unit strength as of the 30 April 1945:
OFFICERS ASSIGNED:..... 59
E.M. ASSIGNED247
OFFICERS ATTACHED 0
E.M. ATTACHED 3
3. ARRIVAL AT AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCURRED IN THE E.T.O.:
Squadron departed from AIG number Y 34 (Metz, France); arrived at AIG Y 73 (Frankfurt-on-main, Germany), o/a 16 April 1945. Move of A/C, equipment, advance and rear echelons accomplished in approximately 4 days.
4. LOSSES IN ACTION:
1st Lt William T. Wright 15 April 1945
2nd Lt Richard G. Elliott 15 April 1945
2nd Lt Herbert F. Koenig 17 April 1945
2nd Lt John H. Banks 17 April 1945
5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS TO MEMBERS OF THIS SQUADRON:

1st Lt Arledge - 3rd and 4th OLC to AM	2nd Lt Kostrech - 3rd OLC to AM
1st Lt Baker - 10th OLC to AM	Capt Krause - 9th, 10th OLC to AM
Capt Barker - 11th, 12th OLC to AM	2nd Lt Taubaugb - AM
2nd Lt Buck - AM	1st Lt Leavoy - 3rd and 4th OLC to AM
Lt Col Carbine - 10th, 11th OLC to AM	1st Lt LeGrand - 1st OLC to AM
2nd Lt Chancellor - AM	1st Lt Lewis - 4th, 5th OLC to AM
1st Lt Clary - 3rd, 4th OLC to AM	1st Lt Patrick - 7th OLC to AM
2nd Lt Deputy - AM	2nd Lt Price - AM, 1st OLC to AM
1st Lt Fein - 6th OLC to AM	1st Lt Sharp - 7th OLC to AM
1st Lt Frisbie - 7th, 8th OLC to AM	1st Lt Shea - AM
1st Lt Halpin - 2nd OLC to AM	2nd Lt Shepard - AM
2nd Lt Nord - 1st OLC to AM	1st Lt Thornton - 3rd OLC to AM
1st Lt Horowitz - 4th OLC to AM	Major Tuite - 2nd, 3rd OLC to AM
1st Lt Hunt - 2nd, 3rd OLC to AM	1st Lt Uterhart - 4th OLC to AM
1st Lt Kalen - 7th OLC to AM	1st Lt Weinstein - 9th OLC to AM
2nd Lt Keil - AM	2nd Lt Woodworth - AM, 1st OLC to AM
2nd Lt Knoobuizen - AM	1st Lt Yandel - 3rd OLC to AM

Good Conduct Medals:

Cpl Barber
Cpl Dabey
Cpl Rosamund
Cpl McDaniels
PFC Sibilski

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Installment XV	HISTORY OF THE 397th FIGHTER SQUADRON	Section " B "
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 SECTION " B "
 Narrative
 Covering the Month of
 April 1945

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APRIL 1 -- This month opened with a day of stormy weather and doubtful flying conditions but our first mission took off early and worked in the vicinity of Hersfeld. Seven locomotives and four cars were destroyed, 23 cars were damaged. A tank, two buildings and three MT were destroyed. Krause, Chancellor, Helliesen, Nord, Lewis, Brayton, Fauley, Wledge, Clary, Shepard, Frisbie, Uterhart, Weinstein, Laubaugh, Yandel, and Hunt were on the mission.

A second mission took off but was forced to jettison all bombs and return because of bad weather. Pilots were Carlson, Shea, Fein, Halpin, Hogan, Keil, Patrick, Thornton, Berker, Duck, Kalen, and Koenig.

The Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded to Capt Edward W. Dana, Lt John F. Foltz (MIA) and Lt Henry B. Hamilton (General Orders Number 307, Hqs Ninth Air Force, 31 December 1944). Capt William G. Horlacher, Lt Harry C. Rogal and Lt Manuel R. Soo also received the DFC (General Orders Number 296, Hqs Ninth Air Force, 17 December 1944). These awards were announced in a previous installment of the history, but the official orders were not received until this month. Copies are appended to this installment.

2nd Lts Stephen L. Halpin, Carl E. Nord, Herbert F. Koenig, and Charles E. Le Grand received the Air Medal. Lt Col Carbine is awarded the 9th Oak Leaf Cluster, 1st Lt R. B. Sharp, the 8th OLC, 1st Lt Barker and 1st Lt O. L. Bauer, the 10th OLC, 2nd Lt S. C. Halpin, the 1st OLC, 2nd Lt L. S. Hunt, the 1st OLC, 2nd Lt R. W. Thornton, the 2nd OLC, 1st Lt W. M. Kerr, the 16 OLC, 1st Lt M. K. Soo, the 15 OLC, 1st Lt D. J. Clary, the 2nd OLC, 1st Lt W. S. Lewis, the 2nd and 3rd OLC's, 1st Lt Yandel, the 2nd OLC, 2nd Lts Horowitz and Uterhart, the 2nd OLC (General Orders No. 22, Hq XIX TAC, 28 March 1945).

Lt Dale C. Olmstead and several enlisted men including Cpl Ralph R. Day of this squadron were sent to Hq XIX TAC for 4 days to assist in movement.

The following enlisted men of this organization were awarded the Good Conduct Medal - " for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity". Cpls Ben B. Barber, Leonard F. Dabey, Henry T. Rosemond, Grover C. McDaniels, Jr, and Pfc Eugene R. Sibilski. (Special Orders Number 33, Hqs. 368th Ftr Gp, 31 March 1945).

1st Lt Jackie N. Moore is assigned to this squadron by the same order.

Capt Stanley C. Johnson, Squadron Executive Officer, is promoted to Major, 1st Lt Carl H. Gundlach, Squadron Adjutant is promoted to Captain and 1st Lt Morton H. Magnus, Squadron S-2 Officer, is promoted to Captain. (Special Orders Number 91, Hqs Ninth Air Force, 1 April 1944).

Having returned from seven days leave at the Riviera, Lt Col Carbine has again resumed command of the Squadron replacing Major John J. Tuite, Jr. (Orders No. 11, 397th Ftr Sqdn, 1 April 1945).

The following enlisted men received promotions as of 1 April 1945: to be Sergeant: Cpl Stanley Berkowitz, to be Corporal: Pfc's Adolph H. Benke, Kenneth A. Halsey, and Jan M. McEvans.

APRIL 2 -- Bad weather conditions grounded all planes today.

Lt Clary's claim of one ME 109 destroyed and one ME 109 damaged near Duren on 18 December 1944, which was previously placed in the unconfirmed category by the XIX TAC Victory Credits Board, was resubmitted and was reviewed by the Board and has

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Installation XV

HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section B

been confirmed. (Report No. 43, Amend. No. 1, XIX TAC Victory Credits Board, 23 March 1945)

APRIL 3 -- An armed recon mission got off early this morning but heavy undercast prevented attacks on ground targets. Pilots were: Krause, Keil, Fein, Halpin, Hogan, Knooihuizen, Frisbie, Shea, Clary, Elliott, Sharp, LeGrand, Dame, Buck, Kalen, and Koenig.

APRIL 4 -- Today's first mission was an uneventful A-26 escort job. Pilots were: Tuite, Koenig, Fauley, Deputy, Sharp, Laubaugh, Baker, Uterhart, Lewis, Chancellor, Frisbie, Shea, Carbine, Shepard, Yandel, and Horowitz.

The second mission took a large toll of German rail transport facilities. 18 staff cars and 12 ammunition carriages on flat cars were destroyed as well as 3 locomotives, 30 box cars and 4 oil tanks. 40 other box cars were damaged. Pilots were: Tuite, Keil, Halpin, Brayton, Fein, Buck, Kalen, Woodworth, Hogan, Knooihuizen, Leavoy, Barco, Krause, Elliott, Arledge, and Hord.

500 MISSIONS FOR THE * One mission only got off today because of uncertain
* 397 TH * weather. It was the 500th mission for the 397th Squadron.

***** It operated in the vicinity of Freyburg. Claims were: 1 tank, 4 locomotives, 22 MT's destroyed; 1 tank, 11 MT, 4 buses damaged. Pilots were: Baker, Laubaugh, Frisbie, Johnston, Patrick, Price, Sharp, Horowitz, Lewis, Chancellor, Thornton, Halpin, Carbine, Fauley, Shepard, and Barco.

The following pilots were assigned to this squadron today: 1st Lt Clifford H. Handlin, 2nd Lt Robert W. Arrington, 2nd Lt John H. Banks III.

Capt John G. Howard is sent to Paris for nine days to attend courses on Information and Education. Lts Barker, Hunt, and Hord are sent to the Riviera for seven days leave. (Special Orders No. 35, Hq 368 Fighter Gp, 5 April 1945)

APRIL 6 -- Again only one mission was executed. A small town south of Bayreuth received a pounding by our bombs. 10/10 cover prevented strafing. Pilots were: Tuite, Elliott, Kalen, Deputy, Dame, Johnston, Yandel, and LeGrand.

APRIL 7 -- The bomb line has advanced so far into Germany that our missions have become greatly extended and take nearly four hours each. It is becoming increasingly evident that a move into Germany must come soon. As it is, good flying weather permits the execution of only three of these long missions in a day. Such a day was today.

The first mission worked beyond Hersfeld and destroyed a locomotive and 2 MT. 13 buildings and a bus were damaged. Krause, Woodworth, Hunt, Halpin, Baker, Barco, Patrick, and Brayton flew.

The second mission destroyed 15 - 25 rail cars and 19 buildings at Freidrichroda. Clary, Buck, Uterhart, Leavoy, Hogan, Keil, Kalen, and Price were the pilots.

The third mission accomplished little except for the strafing of a few troops. Tuite, Elliott, Frisbie, Laubaugh, and Yandel were the pilots.

* WRIGHT, BARCO

* AND DAME HIGH

* GROUND CLAIM

* SCORES FOR MARCH

In accordance with a new group policy, a record is now kept from day to day on the individual ground claims of each pilot. At the end of each month, the three leading pilots are determined on the basis of these figures. For March, Lt Wright led with 32 rail cars, 25 buildings, 5 MT's and 1 locomotive destroyed; 1 rail car and 41 rail cars and 50 MT's damaged. Lt Barco was second with 24 rail cars, 10 MT, 2 buildings, 2 tank cars, and 2 locomotives destroyed; 36 rail cars, 22 MT, 1 storage tank and 3 guns damaged. Capt Dame was third

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Installation XV

HISTORY OF THE 89TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section "B"

with 45 M/T's, 3 horse drawn vehicles, 9 small cars, 1 gun, 45 personnel tank and 2 buildings destroyed; 1 rail cut and 1 armored car, 11 M/T's and 1 gun damaged.

APRIL 8 -- Three missions were flown again today. The first was an uneventful A-26 escort mission to Pozanneck. The pilots were: Carbine, Chancellor, LeGrand, Deputy, Yandel, Knoohuizen, Frisbie, Johnston, Dams, Shepard, Fauley, Arledge, Lewis, Elliott, Sharp and Horowitz.

The second mission bombed Crawinkel and destroyed 3 M/T's by strafing. Krause, Prayton, Balpin, Barco, Weinstein, Keil, Thornton, and Woodworth flew.

The third mission destroyed 3 buildings and 3 railroad cars at Hanla. 13 M/T's were destroyed by strafing.

 * Hogan and Uterhart teamed up to destroy an FW 190 *
 * near Jena. (See Combat Report) Pilots on this mission were:
 * GET IN FW 190 * Tuite, Price, Baker, Laubaugh, Hogan, Uterhart, Patrick and
 * *****
 * Leavoy.

APRIL 9-- Six, eight ship missions were sent out today. A tabulation of results is as follows:

1. Factory near Nimitz bombed and strafed. Factory and oil tanks set afire, 2 locomotives, 8 cars, and 7 M/T destroyed. Krause, Laubaugh, Horowitz, Balpin, Kalen, Shepard, Patrick, and LeGrand.
2. Bombing of Crawinkel. 8 buildings and one M/T destroyed. Tuite, Elliott, Baker, Barco, Hogan, Keil, Leavoy, and Woodworth.
3. Bombing of Crawinkel. 12 buildings destroyed. Carbine, Deputy, Yandel, Johnston, Weinstein, Horowitz, Fauley, and Price.
4. Illmann bombed. 10 to 15 buildings destroyed. 2 tanks and 1 M/T damaged, munitions dump fired, 5 M/T destroyed. Clary, Buck, Uterhart, Thornton, Lewis, Chancellor, Frisbie, and Brayton.
5. 12 M/T probably destroyed. Krause, Knoohuizen, Balpin, Laubaugh, Kalen, and Shepard.
6. Factory bombed at Uhlstadt. Tuite, Elliott, Baker, Barco, Hogan, Keil, Leavoy, and Woodworth.

APRIL 10 -- Two missions of eight ships and two of four ships were flown today. The first mission bombed at Schkolen and Lohau. It destroyed 2 locomotives and 13 cars, a railroad station and 2 buildings and scored 3 rail cuts. Tuite, Shea, Frisbie, Koenig, Sharp, Keil, Patrick, and Woodworth flew.

Mission number two bombed the marshalling yard at Turnrode destroying 10 buildings, 30 tank cars and cutting tracks in five places. 100 tank cars were damaged by strafing. Pilots were Clary, Buck, Uterhart, Johnston, Yandel, Knoohuizen, Fauley, and LeGrand.

The third mission damaged a factory at Kynspeck, destroying 5 M/T's and 5 oil cars and damaging 35 coal cars and 10 more oil cars. Pilots were: Krause, Chancellor, Baker, Kostrack, Lewis, Price, Wright, Brayton, Weinstein, Barco, Kalen, and Deputy.

The last mission bombed at Kulmbach destroying 4 railroad cars, a bus, and two buildings, and damaging 12 rail cars and 10 houses. Pilots were: Carbine, Elliott, Leavoy, Koenig, Frisbie, Laubaugh, Patrick, Woodworth, Clary, Shepard, Horowitz, and Balpin.

 * APRIL 11 *
 * 8-1-0 GROUND AND 1-0-0 AIR, * On the first mission our pilots rolled up a large
 * CLAIMS FOR TODAY * total of enemy planes destroyed by strafing at two
 * ***** * airfields near Kothen. Capt Dams destroyed 4 JU 52's
 * and one FW 189 and damaged another plane of unknown type.
 * Lt Horowitz destroyed a JU 52. Capt Krause and Lt Laubaugh destroyed 1 FW 190, 1 ME 109,

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Installation XV

HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section "B"

and a plane of unknown type. Additional ground claims for this mission were 6 locomotives and 50 railroad cars destroyed, 86 railroad cars damaged. Mission pilots were: Dame, Shepard, Horowitz, Halpin, Hogan, Elliott, Malen, Keil, Krause, Laubaugh, Arledge, Leavoy.

Major Tuite destroyed an FW 190 on the second mission south of Bera. (See Combat Report). Near Eritz, this mission destroyed 20 rail cars and 10 M/T's and damaged 20 rail cars. The pilots were: Tuite, Barco, Pauley, Thornton, Yandel, Deputy, Sharp, Le Grand, Weinstein, Johnston, Frisbie, and Koenig.

The third mission bombed at Espenhein and Altenburg. 13 railroad cars were destroyed and 19 cars were damaged as well as several buildings. Mission pilots: Carbine, Chancellor, Patrick, Price, Lewis, Buck, Baker, Woodworth, Clary, Knochiuizen, Uterhart, and Kostrach.

The following pilots were awarded the Air Medal: 2nd Lt Eugene F. Buck, James W. Chancellor, Marion L. Deputy, Richard G. Elliott, John R. Keil, Jr, Charles E. Knochiuizen, Jack D. Laubaugh, Clifford J. Price, Maurice J. Shea, William A. Shepard, and Lowell E. Woodworth. Capts Carlson and Nordacher received their 17th OLC, Lt Col Carbine - 10th and 11th OLC's, Lt R D Sharp - 7th OLC, Capt Krause - 8th and 10th OLC's, Lts Malen and Patrick - 7th OLC's, Lt Fein - 8th OLC, Lt Hogan - 8th and 9th OLC's, Lt Frisbie - 7th and 8th OLC's, Lt Baker - 10 OLC, Lt Barker 11th and 12 OLC's, Lt Bauer - 11th, 12th, and 13th OLC's, Lts Price, Woodworth, Horst, Koenig, and Le Grand - 1st OLC, Lt Halpin - 2nd OLC, Lt Hunt - 2nd and 3rd OLC's, Lt Thornton - 3rd OLC, Capt Kerr - 17th OLC, Lts Clary, Arledge, and Leavoy - 3rd and 4th OLC's, Lts Lewis and Wright - 4th and 5th OLC's, Lt Yandel 3rd OLC, Lt Kostrach - 3rd OLC, Lts Horowitz and Uterhart - 4th OLC, and Major Tuite - 2nd and 3rd OLC's.

Lts Lewis, Uterhart and Halpin are sent to the Riviera for seven days leave. Cpl Joseph C. Simpson and Pvt Wilfred F. White, Jr, are assigned to this squadron. S/Sgt Walter F. Szymonewski is promoted to T/Sgt and Harry W. Heath, Jr, is promoted from Sgt to S/Sgt. (Special Orders No. 37, HQ 368th Fighter Gp, 11 April 1945.)

APRIL 12 -- "A" party left today for our new base at Frankfurt, Germany. It is field Y 73 a few miles south of the city. It is rumored that this will be only a temporary stop-over before moving still deeper into Germany. Our troops are sweeping forward so rapidly that even Frankfurt will soon be too far behind the bomb line for efficient operation. The prospect of "non fraternization" is not an agreeable one, but we all realize that such a policy is necessary and that the end of the war cannot be very far off.

The first mission was an uneventful bomber escort mission which had to turn back because of bad weather. Tuite, Shea, Baker, Price, Sharp, Buck, Kostrach, Johnston, Yandel, Knochiuizen, Pauley, and Woodworth were the pilots.

The second mission bombed a group of vehicles at Forchheim without observing results and destroying 8 vehicles and damaging 10 by strafing. Pilots were: Hogan, Elliott, Patrick, Keil, Lewis, Prayton, Wright, Thornton, Carbine, Shepard, Malen, and LeGrand.

APRIL 13 -- After several false starts and a generally screwed-up situation emanating from the higher echelons, our planes finally flew an uneventful fighter sweep this afternoon. The pilots were: Dame, Chancellor, Horowitz, LeGrand, Fein, Deputy, Malen, Halpin, Weinstein, Knochiuizen, Frisbie, and Barco.

APRIL 14 --

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Installment XV HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section "B"

APRIL 14 -- Air Transport Command has provided us with many C-47's for this move and our personnel and equipment are making the move with a minimum of delay and confusion.

Our first mission today bombed at Aussenig, but clouds prevented any observation of results. Tuite, Shepard, Baker, Koenig, Sharp, Laubaugh, Uterhart, Leavoy, Lewis, Brayton, Wright, and Thornton were on the mission.

The second mission was an uneventful fighter sweep. Carbine, Chancellor, Horowitz, Deputy, Fein, Elliott, Barco, Johnston, Weinstein, Knooihuizen, Frisbie, and Halpin flew. Lt Col Thomas J. Carbine and Capt Harris F. Krause are authorized to wear a 1/8th inch gold border around the blue combat pilots patch, by virtue of their being lead crew combat pilots. (Sec V, General Orders No. 28, Hqs XIX TAC, 14 April 1945)

APRIL 15 -- The first mission today was an uneventful A-20 escort mission to Gumburg marshalling yard. Hogan, Shea, Patrick, Woodworth, Fein, Knooihuizen, Horowitz, Johnston, Yandel, Buck, LeGrand, and Barco flew.

* WRIGHT AND ELLIOTT * The second mission was very expensive for the 397th.
* HAVE MID-AIR COLLISION * Two of our planes flying in extremely bad weather collided
* * * * * in mid-air. Lt Wright and Lt Elliott were the two pilots involved. One of them was seen to have bailed out and landed safely. It was believed to have been Lt Wright.

1st Lt William T. Wright had been with the squadron since the early days at Chievres, Belgium, last October and had nearly completed his tour. He was one of our youngest yet most competent pilots. He had been nicknamed "Junior" because of his youthful appearance. His home was Omaha, Nebraska.

2nd Lt Richard G. Elliott had been with us for only a few months and was a popular and conscientious member of the squadron. His home was Torrington, Conn.

Other pilots on this mission were: Dame, Laubaugh, Leavoy, Thornton, Kalen, Baker, Koenig, Sharp, Chancellor, and Deputy.

The following pilots received promotions today: Lt Bob V. Barker from 1st Lt to Captain, Lts Hunt, LeGrand, Thornton, and Halpin from 2nd Lt to 1st Lt. (SC 105, Hqs Ninth A.F., 15 April 1945)

Captain David F. Reinthal, Assistant Group S-2 Officer, who has been with group for over a year and a half, has been awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 13 January 1944 to 1 December 1944. (General Orders No. 29, Hqs XIX TAC, 15 April 1945)

APRIL 16 -- Three armed reconces without bombs took up today's operational time. The first mission took off from Metz and landed at our new base at Frankfurt. 6 locomotives and 26 M/T's were destroyed, and a flak car and 10 passenger cars were damaged. Tuite, Chancellor, Fauley, Kostrach, Kalen, Shepard, Koenig, Sharp, Leavoy, Frisbie, and Johnston were the pilots.

* * * * * On the second mission, Lts Yandel and Fein
* FEIN AND YANDEL EACH GET AN ME 262* each destroyed an ME 262 in the air as they were
* * * * * taking off from a field just west of Prague. 17
M/T's and 2 locomotives were destroyed, and 10 railroad cars were damaged. Pilots were: Hogan, Keil, Patrick, Price, Fein, Brayton, Thornton, Le Grand, Yandel, Knooihuizen, Baker, and Barco.

The third mission scored fat totals of enemy planes on the ground on airfields near Prague. In all, 7 enemy planes were destroyed and 11 damaged. Lt Col Carbine damaged a JU 52 in the air. This is by far the largest
* 22 ENEMY PLANES DESTROYED OR* toll of enemy aircraft that the squadron has taken
* DAMAGED, TOTAL FOR DAY, NEW * so far in one day. Pilots of the mission were: Carbine,
* RECORD FOR 397 * Woodworth, Kalen, Laubaugh, Horowitz, Koenig, Sharp,
* * * * * Shea, Kostrach, and Hord.

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Installment XV HISTORY OF THE 38TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section "E"

APRIL 17 -- Three more armed recon missions without bombs took place today. 23 locomotives were destroyed and 9 were damaged the biggest total ever scored for one mission. ***** In addition numerous cars and personnel were strafed. * 34 LOCOMOTIVES DESTROYED OR * Hogan, Keil, Woodworth, Ford, Patrick, Hunt, Thornton, * DAMAGED ---KOENIG AND BANKS * Shea, Weinstein, Handlin, LeGrand, and Barco were the * LOST * pilots. *****

The second mission cost the squadron two pilots. Lt Koenig hit a telegraph pole on a strafing pass and crashed. Lt Banks was severely hit by flak and said that he was going to bail out. His plane was last seen smoking and flying at a low altitude. No one saw it crash or saw him bail out. and Lt Herbert F. Koenig had been with the squadron several months and had established a fine record. His home was Hamilton, Ohio. and Lt John M. Banks had been with the squadron only a few weeks and was on his first operational mission today. His home was Claymont, Delaware. The mission destroyed 2 locomotives and 8 M/T and damaged 12 rail cars and 13 M/T. Pilots were: Krause, Banks, Baker, Koenig, Sharp, Buck, Horowitz, Johnston, Yandel, Laubaugh, Leavoy, and Knodhuizen.

The third mission destroyed 3 M/T. Pilots were Tuite, Chancellor, Paulley, Hunt, Kalen, Keil, LeGrand, Woodworth, Fein, Shepard, Thornton, Brayton.

APRIL 18 -- Three missions were again flown today. The first mission destroyed 3 locomotives and damaged 25 cars. It also caused 4 or 5 cars of an ammunition train to blow up. Carbine, Chancellor, Barco, Knodhuizen, Paulley, Buck, Leavoy, Johnston, Yandel, Deputy, Frisbie, and Ford were on the mission.

The second mission destroyed 8 M/T and about 20 personnel. Dams, Shepard, Horowitz, Keil, Fein, Brayton, Thornton, Hunt, Weinstein, Handlin, LeGrand, and Woodworth were the pilots.

The third mission could find only one M/T and trailer which Lt Sharp destroyed. Pilots were: Barker, Laubaugh, Baker, Knodhuizen, Kalen, Buck, Leavoy, Ford, Sharp, Price, Patrick, and Chancellor.

APRIL 19 -- The group was released from operations today "for training and maintenance."

At about 1900 hours this evening we were all startled by the sound of intense anti-aircraft fire from our field. It seems that one of Hitler's supermen, a Sergeant pilot of the Luftwaffe, finally realized that the New Order was pretty well washed up. He deserted his mission, which had taken off from a field NE of Berlin, and landed his FW 190 at our base here at Frankfurt. Our AA failed to damage his plane and he made a safe landing on his second attempt. The CO of the 38th Group beat us out to the plane and claimed the prize for his group - one FW 190 intact and one very frightened German sergeant.

The following Victory Confirmations for combat on 14 March were received today: 1st Lt Bob V. Barker, Claim: 2 ME 109's destroyed. Confirmed: 1 ME 109 destroyed, 1 probably destroyed. and Lt Charles E. LeGrand, Claim: 1 ME 109 destroyed, 1 ME 109 probably destroyed. Confirmed: 1 ME 109 destroyed, 1 ME 109 damaged unconfirmed. and Lt James W. Chancellor, Claim: 2 ME 109's destroyed. 1 ME 109 destroyed confirmed, 1 ME 109 destroyed unconfirmed. 1st Lt Vernon C. Fein Claim: 1 ME 109 destroyed. Confirmed: 1 ME 109 destroyed. (Report No. 61, Victory Credits, Board, AIA T&S, 9 April 1948)

APRIL 20 -- Three armed recon missions without bombs were flown in Northwestern Czechoslovakia today. The first mission destroyed 1 locomotive and 10 M/T and damaged a halftrack, 20 railroad cars, and a building. Hogan, Handlin, Patrick, Hunt, Kalen, Shepard, Horowitz, LeGrand, Fein, Laubaugh, Thornton, and Woodworth were the pilots.

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Installation XV HISTORY OF THE 397th Fighter Squadron Section B

The second mission destroyed a locomotive, 3 rail cars, 2 M/T and 3 trailers and damaged a locomotive, 58 cars and 10 buildings. Carbine, Chancellor, Barco, Hord, Sharp, Feil, Friebe, Deputy, Weinstein, Price, Baker, and Brayton were the pilots. The third mission destroyed 3 box cars and damaged 25. Tuite, Laubaugh, Leavoy, Shea, Pauley, Johnston, Thornton, Knooihuizen, Yandel, Arrington, Horowitz, and LeGrand were the pilots.

APRIL 21 -- * Lt Col CARENEY SENT TO GROUP AS
* OPERATIONS OFFICER, MAJOR TUIE RE-
* COMES NEW CO OF 397 T

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Lt Col Thomas J. Carbine has been sent to Group to become S-3 officer. Major Tuite has taken over command of the 397th Squadron. (Orders No. 18, 397th Ftr Sq, 21 April 1945) Lt Col Carbine has been CO of the 397th since last November when took over from Major Mondricks. He has been extremely well liked by all personnel both air and ground and has kept in close contact with all phases of Squadron activity. His period as CO was the most active and successful in the Squadron history. Under his leadership the Squadron has maintained and augmented its reputation for being a "hot outfit", and although it is with deepest regret that we see his direct connection with the Squadron severed, every member has the utmost confidence in the capability of Major Tuite to carry on the high standard which Lt Col Carbine has set.

Today's missions consisted of two armed recon in NW Czechoslovakia. On the first the pilots found fairly fat targets at the Cheb airdrome. Lt Yandel destroyed a DC 217 and damaged an ME 111. Lts Price, Leavoy, and Hunt each destroyed a DC 217. Capt Dana destroyed a training plane and joined with Lt Arrington to destroy an ME 410. In addition, 7 locomotives and 6 M/T were destroyed. Pilots were: Dana, Arrington, Pauley, Knooihuizen, Sharp, Shea, Barco, Brayton, Yandel, Price, Leavoy, and Hunt.

The second mission destroyed a searchlight and an M/T. Tuite, Chancellor, Baker, Hord, Halen, Shepard, Horowitz, LeGrand, Fein, Laubaugh, Thornton, and Woodworth flew. Lts Pauley and LeGrand were sent to the Riviera today for seven days leave.

1st Cecil E. Duncan and 2nd Lt George M. McWilliams are assigned to this squadron as pilots. (Special Orders No. 39, Hqs 368th Ftr Gp, 21 April 1945)

APRIL 22 -- Poor weather conditions limited today's operations to one uneventful patrol mission early this morning. Hogan, Chancellor, Barco, Feil, Halen, Shepard, Horowitz, and Buck were the pilots.

2nd Lt William A. Watterud and 2nd Lt Kenneth G. Wenk are assigned to this squadron as pilots. (Special Orders No. 40, Hqs 368 Ftr Gp, 22 April 1945)

APRIL 23 -- Bad weather again limited our operations to one mission today. 8 M/T were destroyed. Tuite, Arrington, Brayton, Knooihuizen, Patrick, Moore, Leavoy, Hunt, Sharp, Laubaugh, Baker, and Shea were the pilots.

Lt Gill is made a class "A" Finance Officer and Capt Gundlach is appointed to a special Courts Martial Board. (Special Orders No. 41, Hqs 368th Ftr Gp, 23 April 1945)

APRIL 24 -- The first mission today was one of the fattest that the squadron has had for several weeks. Our planes flew far east to Jihlava, where 7 locomotives, 15 cars and 65 M/T were destroyed and 48 rail cars, 55 M/T and 4 buildings were damaged and 100 personnel killed or wounded. Pilots were: Krause, Chancellor, Thornton, Hord, Halen, Handlin, Horowitz, Buck, Weinstein, Shepard, Woodworth, and Price.

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Installation XV HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section "B"

By contrast the second mission found no targets and damaged only 1 M/T and a house. Dame, Arrington, Frisbie, Knooihuizen, Fein, Moore, Barco, Laubaugh, Sharp, Shea, Kostrach, and Keil were the pilots.

Twelve buildings at an M/T depot were damaged by the third mission. Hogan, Chancellor, Brayton, Hunt, Baker, Shepard, Leavoy, Johnston, Kalen, Handlin, Horowitz, and Buck were the pilots.

APRIL 25 -- Today our squadron drew area cover for supply and evacuation fields at Wurzburg, Nurnberg and Bayreuth. Five uneventful eight ship missions were flown in this area. No enemy aircraft were sighted or contacted during the day.

APRIL 26 -- On today's first mission, Fein and Duncan shot down an ME 108 and damaged two ME 108's on the ground. 2 locomotives and 45 cars were also damaged. Hogan, Handlin, Barco, Knooihuizen, Fein, Duncan, Thornton, Laubaugh, Sharp, Arrington, Arledge, and Keil were the pilots.

The second mission bombed at Ingolstadt across the Danube river from that part occupied by our troops. 10 houses were destroyed and 10 houses and a fort were damaged. Tuite, Chancellor, Brayton, Johnston, Yandel, McWilliams, Halpin, Shea, Clary, Shepard, Frisbie, Price, were the pilots.

The third mission did great damage to Neustadt but smoke obscured observation of the results. Dame, Arrington, Woodworth, Keil, Kalen, Moore, Kostrach, Buck, Weinstein, Handlin, Patrick and Hunt were the pilots.

Capt William R. Nelson now on LS at Hqs XIX TAC is assigned to this squadron. (Special Orders No. 42, Hqs 368th Ftr Gp, 26 April 1945)

APRIL 27 -- Very poor weather conditions held up our take-off until this afternoon. Our planes were assigned to bomb Linz but weather forced them to turn and all bombs were dropped at Strakonice and Sudomar. 17 railroad cars and 3 buildings were destroyed and 25 cars were damaged. Barker, Chancellor, Woodworth, Johnston, Kalen, Duncan, Leavoy, Price, Clary, Moore, Brayton, and Shepard were the pilots.

APRIL 28 -- All planes were grounded today by bad weather conditions.

Its Hunt, Woodworth, and Keil are sent to the Riviera for seven days leave. (Special Orders No. 43, Hqs 368th Ftr Gp, 28 April 1945)

APRIL 29 -- Bad weather continued to hamper operations and only one mission was flown today. 3 locomotives were destroyed, 1 damaged; 20 rail cars were destroyed and 5 rail cuts were made; 67 railroad cars were damaged; 4 M/T were destroyed. Pilots were: Hogan, Watterud, Patrick, Brayton, Fein, McWilliams, Kalen, Barco, Sharp, Moore, Shepard, and Knooihuizen.

APRIL 30 -- Again only one mission could be flown today. Marshalling yards near Fisek were the targets. 35 railroad cars were destroyed. 20 to 30 M/Ts or tanks on the flat cars were destroyed or damaged. 49 rail cars were damaged and 14 horse drawn vehicles were destroyed and 2 rail cuts were made. Pilots were: Clary, Monk, Price, Arledge, Lewis, Duncan, Halpin, Thornton, Horowitz, Johnston, Handlin, and Chancellor.

According to S-2 compilations the following pilots lead the squadron in ground claims for the month of May 1945:

2nd Lt James W. Chancellor: 4 buildings, 17 M/T, 4 railroad cars, 5 locomotives, 2 enemy aircraft, 1 flak car, 3 horse-drawn vehicles, 1 bus, 1 tractor and trailer destroyed. 2 buildings, 8 M/T, 15 railroad cars, 2 enemy aircraft, and 1 bus damaged.

2nd Lt Maxwell B. Woodworth: 5 M/T, 2 rail cuts, 2 buildings, 8 railroad cars, 4 loco-

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Installment XV

HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section B

motives, 12 personnel, 2 ammunition carriages, and 1 enemy aircraft destroyed. 5 MT, 5 buildings, 23 railroad cars, 3 locomotives, and 2 enemy aircraft damaged.

Capt Harris F. Krause: 10 MT, 4 locomotives, 5 railroad cars, 1 enemy aircraft, 2 flak trucks, 2 ammunition carriages destroyed. 9 MT, 27 railroad cars, 2 buildings, and 2 enemy aircraft damaged. (letter, 397th Ftr Sq, S-2, 2 May 1946)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

REPORT: Amendment #1

HEADQUARTERS
IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 895, US ARMY

NUMBER: Report #45

Confirmation of Victory Credits Board

23 March, 1945

The "Confirmation of Victory Credits Board", as appointed by par 6,
SC 36, this headquarters, dated 7 February, 1945, awards credit claims
to the following officers, this command:

NAME	GROUP	SQDN.	DATE	VICTORY CLAIM			UNCONFIRMED VICTORY			E/A	PLACE	REMARKS		
				1944	D	P	DM	D	P				DM	
1st Lt. Dallas J. Clery	368	397	18-12	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	ME-109 Duren Area	None

MEMBERS

(SIDNEY F. BRODY, LT COL AC _____
(JAMES A. HEDGPETH, MAJOR AC _____
(HARRY R. JAMES, CAPT, AC _____

APPROVED:

By command of Major General QUESADA:

ELIAS H. WARREN,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
President of Board

A.C. KINCAID,
Brig Gen, USA,
Chief of Staff

THIS IS A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Morton H. Magnus
MORTON H. MAGNUS,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
S-2, 397th Ftr. Sqdn.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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History
SECRETHEADQUARTERS
NIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 141, U S ARMY

Report No. 61

9 April 1945

CONFIRMATION OF VICTORY CREDITS BOARD - AIR

The "Confirmation of Victory Credits Board" as appointed by Par No. 11, SO No. 111, this Headquarters dated 4 October 1944, confirms Victory Credits claims to the following officers this Command:

NAME	GROUP	S	DN	DATE	1945 VICTORY CLAIM			1945 VICTORY CONFIRMED			1945 VICTORY UNCONFIRMED			PLACE	REMARKS
					D	F	DM	D	F	DM	D	F	DM		
1st Lt Bob V. Barker	368	397	3/14	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	ME 109's	Mainz	Insuffici- /ent evidence.
2nd Lt Charles E. LeGrand	368	397	3/14	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	ME 109's	Mainz	Insuffici- /ent evidence
2nd Lt James W. Chancellor	368	397	3/14	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	ME 109's	Mainz	Nil
1st Lt Vernon C. Fein	368	397	3/14	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	ME 109's	Mainz	Nil

& Ref: Ninth Air Force Memo 55-9
dated 20 Jan 1944.

APPROVED:

By command of Major General WEYLAND:

/s/ Francis M. Whitlock, Jr.
FRANCIS M. WHITLOCK, JR.
Major, AGD
Adjutant General

Leo H. Johnson /s/
LEO H. JOHNSON
Lt Col, Air Corps
President of Board

" A TRUE EXTRACT COPY "

Morton H. Magnus
MORTON H. MAGNUS
Capt, Air Corps
397th S-2 Officer

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S E C R E TCOMBAT REPORT **** FIRST LIEUTENANT JAMES P. HOGAN, Jr, ASN O-767237

A. Type of Action : Combat
 B. Date : 8 April 1945
 C. Unit : 368th Fighter Group, 397th Fighter Squadron
 D. Time of Encounter : 1715
 E. Place of Encounter : Area of Jena, J 7065
 F. Weather : Moderate haze, visibility 5 to 8 miles.
 G. Type of Target : One FW 190
 H. Claims : One FW 190 destroyed. (This claim is shared with 1st Lt Carl W. Uterhart, ASN O-826806.)

I. Narrative :

I, 1st Lt James P. Hogan, Jr, ASN O-767237, was leading Tropic green flight on an armed reconnaissance mission in the Erfurt-Jena area on 8 April 1945. We had completed the recon and were flying home south of Erfurt on a 270 degree heading when Tropic blue flight called in a bogey. I was flying at 11,000' and saw the bogey beneath me at about 7000' headed eastward. I received permission to investigate, and green flight made a 180 degree turn. I identified it as an FW 190 and closed in fast using water. As I was about to fire, the E/A broke right. I gave him a four second burst at 90 degree deflection, but saw no strikes. The E/A continued in a right turn, passing in front of my wingman, 1st Lt Carl W. Uterhart, ASN O-826806. I saw Lt Uterhart fire a short burst at him. I slowed my ship down in order to turn with him as he split essed and continued to turn to the right. As I closed in again, I saw his left wing tip crumble. I pulled off and watched the E/A go straight in from about 6000' in a 70 degree dive. He hit the ground and exploded. The pilot did not bail out. He was very aggressive considering the odds, and his initial break was timed perfectly.

I claim participation in the destruction of one FW 190. Lt Uterhart shares in the destruction.

J. Ammunition expended : 320 rounds
 K. Combat film is available.

James P. Hogan Jr.
 JAMES P. HOGAN, JR
 1st Lt, Air Corps
 Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

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COMBAT REPORT **** FIRST LIEUTENANT CARL W. UTENHART, ASN O-826606

A. Type of Action : Combat
 B. Date : 8 April 1945
 C. Unit : 368th Fighter Group, 397th Fighter Squadron
 D. Time of Encounter : 1715
 E. Place of Encounter : Area of Jona, J 7065
 F. Weather : Moderate haze, visibility 3 to 5 miles
 G. Type of Target : One Fw 190
 H. Claims : One Fw 190 destroyed. (This claim is shared with 1st Lt James P. Hogan, Jr, ASN O-767237)

I. Narrative

I, 1st Lt Carl W. Uterhart, ASN O-826606, was flying Tropic green two as wingman to 1st Lt James P. Hogan, Jr, ASN O-767237, on an armed reconnaissance mission on 8 April 1945. We had completed the assigned recon and were heading west south of Erfurt, when Tropic blue flight called in a bogey beneath us. We were at 11,000' and the bogey was at 7000' headed east. Lt Hogan received permission to investigate, and our flight peeled off in pursuit. We immediately recognized it as an Fw 190. I was on Lt Hogan's right and slightly behind. The element was in a similar position on the left. When Lt Hogan closed in range, the B/A broke level right and made a 270 degree turn in front of me. I fired a short burst just after he passed a position head on to me. I did not perceive any strikes. I turned quickly to head him off. He started a split "S", but skidded out into another orbit. He completed that orbit and appeared to be stalling. His left wing seemed to crumble as pieces flew off the wing tip. The B/A straightened for a moment, then dove straight down at an angle of about 70 degrees into an open field where it exploded and burned. The pilot did not bail out.

I claim participation in the destruction of one Fw 190. Lt Hogan shares in the destruction.

J. Ammunition expended : 300 rounds

K. Combat film is available.

Carl W. Uterhart
 CARL W. UTENHART
 1st Lt, Air Corps
 Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

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SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT CHARLES B. PATRICK, ASN O-770383, CONFIRMING THE CLAIM OF FIRST LIEUTENANT JAMES F. HOGAN, JR, ASN O-767237, AND FIRST LIEUTENANT CARL W. UTERHART, ASN O-826806, TO ONE F4U 190 DESTROYED.

A. Subject : Supporting statement for 1st Lt James F. Hogan, Jr, ASN O-767237, and 1st Lt Carl W. Uterhart, ASN O-826806.
 B. Date of Encounter : 8 April 1945
 C. Time of Encounter : 1715 hours
 D. Place of Encounter: Area of Jena, J 7065
 E. Narrative :

I, 1st Lt Charles B. Patrick, ASN O-770383, was flying number three position in Tropic green flight, the second of two flights composing our squadron on 8 April 1945. We were returning home from an armed reconnaissance mission and were slightly south of Erfurt, when blue flight called in a single bogey below us heading east. My flight leader, 1st Lt James F. Hogan, Jr, ASN O-767237, got permission to investigate it. We were at 11,000' and the bogey was at about 7000'. We made a 180 degree turn and diving to intercept him. As we closed on the bogey, we identified it as an F4U 190. As Lt Hogan came in firing range, the E/A broke hard right. Lt Hogan fired, but I observed no hits. The F4U 190 continued his right turn, turning toward me. I turned into him and over him without firing. My wingman did not fire either. After he passed under me, I saw Lt Hogan's wingman, 1st Lt Carl W. Uterhart, ASN O-826806, fire, but at that time I could not see the E/A. When I next saw him, he was in a 70 degree dive with his left wing breaking up. The F4U 190 hit the ground and exploded. I did not see the pilot bail out.

I support the claim of Lt Hogan and Lt Uterhart to one F4U 190 destroyed.

Charles B. Patrick
 CHARLES B. PATRICK
 1st Lt, Air Corps
 Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

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S E C R E T

COMBAT REPORT ~~SECRET~~ MAJOR JOHN J. TUITE, JR ~~SECRET~~ ASN 0-424799

A. Type of Action : Combat
 B. Date : 11 April 1945
 C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group
 D. Time of Encounter : 1415 hours
 E. Place of Encounter : Approximately 15 miles south of Gera.
 F. Weather : 3/10 strato-cumulus at 8,000' Moderate haze. Visibility 8 to 10 miles.
 G. Type of Target : One FW 190
 H. Claims : One FW 190 destroyed

I. Narrative

I, Major John J. Tuite, Jr, ASN 0-424799, was leading Tropic Squadron on an armed reconnaissance mission on 11 April 1945. My wingman, 1st Lt Harry K. Bareo, ASN 0-801899 and I had been down strafing road traffic a few miles south of Gera. We started our climb back up to join the squadron. When we were at 3500', I spotted a single aircraft flying south at about 1000'. My wingman and I gave chase and closed rapidly on the aircraft. I recognized it as an FW 190 just as the E/A broke right. I fired a short burst at him at a high deflection angle. The E/A continued in an orbit to the right. As I closed on the E/A again, I saw my wingman make a head-on pass at him. I fired again and saw pieces fly off the E/A. I then saw the pilot bail out and watched his float to the ground.

I claim one FW 190 destroyed.

J. Ammunition expended : 1600 rounds
 K. Combat film is available.

John J. Tuite, Jr
 JOHN J. TUITE, JR
 Major, Air Corps
 Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

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S E C R E T

SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT HARRY E. BARCO, ASN O-801820, CONFIRMING THE CLAIM OF MAJOR JOHN J. TUITE, Jr., ASN O-424795 TO ONE FW 190 DESTROYED.

A. Subject : Supporting statement for Major John J. Tuite, Jr., ASN O-424795
 B. Date of Encounter : 11 April 1945
 C. Time of Encounter : 1415 hours
 D. Place of Encounter : Approximately 15 miles south of Gera.
 E. Narrative :

I, 1st Lt Harry E. Barco, ASN O-801820, was flying Tropie red two, wingman for Major John J. Tuite, Jr., ASN O-424795, on an armed reconnaissance mission on 11 April 1945. We were down strafing MT's south of Gera. As we were climbing back-up, we saw a single aircraft below us flying south at about 1000 feet altitude. We were at approximately 3500 feet at the time. Major Tuite and I gave chase and as we closed on the A/C we identified it as an FW 190. The E/A broke right, and Major Tuite fired a short burst at him. As the E/A continued his turn, I turned and met him with a head-on pass. The E/A passed under me and when I next saw him Major Tuite was on his tail firing. The E/A pulled up, and the pilot bailed out, letting the plane crash.

I support Major Tuite's claim to one FW 190 destroyed.

Harry E. Barco
 HARRY E. BARCO
 1st Lt, Air Corps
 Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

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COMBAT REPORT * * * FIRST LIEUTENANT VERNON G. FEIN, ASN C-787175

A. Type of Action : Combat
 B. Date of Encounter : 16 April 1945
 C. Unit : 368 Fighter Group, 397 Fighter Squadron
 D. Time of Encounter : 1430 hours
 E. Place of Encounter : A/P 6 miles west of Prague
 F. Weather : Hazy, visibility poor
 G. Type of Target : Two ME262's
 H. Claims : One ME262 destroyed

I. Narrative :

I, 1st Lt Vernon G. Fein, ASN C-787175, was leading Tropic Yellow flight on 16 April 1945. As we approached the Prague A/P at about 9000 feet, I saw a squadron of ME262's preparing to take off. I dove down on the first two and closed in firing range just after they had become airborne and were starting a turn to the left. I fired a two-second burst at one of the a/s and saw a few strikes. Small pieces flew off the a/s and its right blower started smoking very badly, leaving a long trail of black smoke. The a/s then went into a right turn, dove straight down, and crashed. It burned, giving off a column of heavy, black smoke which rose to about 300 feet.

I claim one ME262 destroyed.

J. Ammunition Expended : 1235 rounds
 K. Combat film is available.

Vernon G. Fein
 VERNON G. FEIN
 1st Lt, Air Corps
 Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

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C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT WHITNEY W. BRAYTON, ASN O-798086, CONFIRMING THE CLAIM OF FIRST LIEUTENANT VERNON G. FEIN, ASN O-767175, TO ONE ME262 DESTROYED.

A. Subject : Supporting statement for 1st Lt Vernon G. Fein, ASN O-767175.
 B. Date of Encounter : 16 April 1945
 C. Time of Encounter : 1430 hours
 D. Place of Encounter : A/R 6 miles west of Prague.
 E. Narrative :

I, 1st Lt Whitney W. Brayton, ASN O-798086, was flying the wing of 1st Lt Vernon G. Fein, ASN O-767175, on an armed reconnaissance mission on 16 April 1945. Upon arriving over the A/R west of Prague, we saw several ME262's preparing to take off in elements of two. Lt Fein selected a pair that had just cleared the edge of the field and peeled off on them from an altitude of 9000 feet. They started a gradual turn to the left, and had reached an altitude of about 500 feet, when Lt Fein closed on one of them. He fired a long burst from about 45 degree down to 30 degree deflection. I saw strikes on the fuselage, right wing, and jet nacelle of the e/a. Pieces flew off the e/a, and the right blower began to smoke. The e/a pulled up abruptly, snapped over, crashed, and burned.

I support Lt Fein's claim to one ME262 destroyed.

Whitney W. Brayton
 WHITNEY W. BRAYTON
 1st Lt, Air Corps
 Pilot, 327th Ftr Gp

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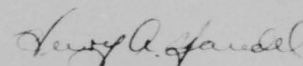
COMBAT REPORT ***** FIRST LIEUTENANT HENRY A. YANDEL, ASN G-804268

A. Type of Action : Combat
 B. Date of Encounter : 16 April 1945
 C. Unit : 368th Fighter Group, 397th Fighter Squadron
 D. Time of Encounter : 1430 hours
 E. Place of Encounter : 4/5 miles west of Prague
 F. Weather : Hazy, visibility poor
 G. Type of Target : 2 ME 262's
 H. Claims : One ME 262 destroyed
 I. Narrative :

I, 1st Lt Henry A. Yandel, ASN G-804268, was leading Tropic blue flight on an armed reconnaissance mission in the vicinity of Prague. We had been strafing in the vicinity, and as we approached the enemy airfield west of the city, we saw about twelve ME 262's preparing to take-off in elements of two. Tropic yellow leader called that he was going down on the lead element which was taking off at that time. I jettisoned my belly tank and dove down after the second element. I caught one of the ships after it was airborne. I closed to about 100 yards and fired a short burst. I saw pieces fly off the A/A. He tried to turn, but at that low altitude his wing hit a tree and he crashed. He did not burn.

I claim one ME 262 destroyed.

J. Ammunition expended : 200 rounds
 K. Combat film exists.



HENRY A. YANDEL
 1st Lt, Air Corps
 Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

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SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF SECOND LIEUTENANT CHARLES E. ENCOIUIZEN, ASN
O-832830, CONFIRMING THE CLAIM OF FIRST LIEUTENANT HENRY A. YANDEL,
ASN O-804268 TO ONE ME 262 DESTROYED

A. Subject : Supporting statement for 1st Lt Henry A. Yandel, ASN
O-804268.
B. Date of Encounter : 16 April 1945
C. Time of Encounter : 1430 hours
D. Place of Encounter : A/F 6 miles west of Prague
E. Narrative :

I, 2nd Lt Charles E. Encoiuizen, ASN O-832830, was flying Tropic blue two on an armed reconnaissance mission in the vicinity of Prague on 16 April 1945. Blue flight followed yellow flight from our strafing area over to the airfield about six miles west of the city. As we approached we saw about twelve ME 262's preparing to take-off in elements of two. Tropic yellow leader said that he would make a pass at the first two E/A with his wingman. Tropic blue leader, 1st Lt Henry A. Yandel, ASN O-804268, and I went down after the second two E/A. Just after the two planes were airborne, Lt Yandel closed to firing range on one of them and fired a short burst. I saw hits on the E/A and saw pieces fly off it. The plane tried to make a turn but it hit a tree and crashed.

I support the claim of Lt Yandel to one ME 262 destroyed.

Charles E. Encoiuizen

CHARLES E. ENCOIUIZEN
2nd Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, 397th str Sqdn

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SECRETCOMBAT REPORT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT VERNON C. FEIN, ASN O-767175

A. Type of Action : Combat
 B. Date of Encounter : 26 April 1945
 C. Unit : 368th Fighter Group - 397th Fighter Squadron
 D. Time of Encounter : 0945 hours
 E. Place of Encounter : A/F NE of Landslut(U-3006)
 F. Weather : 3/10 stratus clouds, 20,000' - Visibility good.
 G. Type of Target : One ME 108
 H. Claims : One ME 108 destroyed. (This claim is shared with 1st Lt Cecil E. Duncan, ASN O-730413.)

I. Narrative :

I, 1st Lt Vernon C. Fein, ASN O-767175, was leading Tropic Yellow flight on an armed reconnaissance mission on 26 April 1945. My wingman, 1st Lt Cecil E. Duncan, ASN O-730413, and I were down looking over motor transport in the vicinity of Landslut, when I saw an ME 108 circling over a small grass field apparently having just taken off. I made a tight turn in order to lose speed and to get into position to fire. I fired from about 60 degree deflection and saw a few strikes. Then I closed to about a 20 degree deflection and fired a three second burst. I saw many strikes, and small pieces of fabric flew off the E/A. I overshot the E/A, and Lt Duncan fired at it. The ME 108 went into a right turn and his right wing hit a tree top. The E/A then twisted over on its back and crashed among the trees. All of the combat took place at about fifty feet altitude.

I claim participation in the destruction of one ME 108. Lt Duncan shares in the destruction.

J. Ammunition expended: : 240 rounds
 K. Combat film is available.

Vernon C. Fein
 VERNON C. FEIN
 1st Lt, Air Corps
 Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

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SECRETCOMBAT REPORT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT CECIL E. DUNCAN, ASN O-730413

A. Type of Action : Combat
 B. Date of Encounter : 26 April 1945
 C. Unit : 368th Fighter Group - 397th Fighter Squadron
 D. Time of Encounter : 0945 hours
 E. Place of Encounter : A/F NE of Landshut(U-3006)
 F. Weather : 3/10 stratus clouds, 20,000'. Visibility good.
 G. Type of Target : One ME 108
 H. Claims : One ME 108 destroyed. (This claim is shared with 1st Lt Vernon C. Fein, ASN O-767175)

I. Narrative

I, 1st Lt Cecil E. Duncan, ASN O-730413, was flying Tropic Yellow two, wingman to 1st Lt Vernon C. Fein, ASN O-767175, on 26 April 1945. Lt Fein and I went down to investigate an M/T on the road below, leaving Tropic yellow three and four as top cover. As we approached the M/T, we spotted an ME 108 circling over a small grass landing field at about 50 to 100 feet altitude. Lt Fein circled and closed on the E/A. I saw him fire and noticed strikes on the fuselage. As we flew over the E/A, I closed and fired a two second burst at about 60 or 70 degrees deflection and slightly down. I observed strikes on the fuselage and engine. The E/A went into a right turn and its right wing struck a tree as it crashed. It was smoking as I passed over it.

I claim participation in the destruction of one ME 108. Lt Fein shares in the destruction.

J. Ammunition expended : 1075 rounds
 K. Combat film is available.

Cecil E. Duncan
 CECIL E. DUNCAN
 1st Lt, Air Corps
 Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

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History

R E S T R I C T E D

397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
Office of the Intelligence Officer

APO 141, US Army
7 April 1945

SUBJECT: Fighter-Bomber Claims.

TO : Intelligence Officer, Hq 368 Fighter Group, APO 141, US Army.

1. The following report is herewith submitted in compliance with
Ltr, Ninth Air Force, Subject: Fighter-Bomber Claims:

FIGHTER*BOMBER CLAIMS

Covering the period 1 March 45 to 31 March 45

LEADING PILOT: 1st Lt WILLIAM T. WRIGHT, O-770073 --- Status: Operational

DESTROYED: 32 Railroad Cars, 25 Buildings, 5 Motor Vehicles, 1 Locomotive,
2 Rail Cuts.

DAMAGED : 41 Railroad Cars, 50 Motor Vehicles.

SECOND: 1st Lt HARRY K. BARCO, O-801820 --- Status: Operational

DESTROYED: 24 Railroad Cars, 10 Motor Vehicles, 2 Buildings, 2 Tank Cars,
2 Locomotives.

DAMAGED : 36 Railroad Cars, 32 Motor Vehicles, 1 Storage tank, and 3 Light
Guns destroyed or damaged.

THIRD: Capt EDWARD W. DAME, O-745312 --- Status: Operational

DESTROYED: 45 Motor Vehicles, 3 Horse Drawn Vehicles, 9 Armored Cars, 1 Gun,
45 Personnel, 1 Oil Tank, 2 Buildings, 1 Rail Cut.

DAMAGED : 1 Armored Car, 11 Motor Vehicles, 1 Gun.

Morton H. Magnus

MORTON H. MAGNUS
1st Lt, Air Corps
Sqdn S-2 Officer

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R E S T R I C T E D

397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

APC 141, U S Army
2 May 1945

SUBJECT: Fighter-Bomber Ground Claims.

TO : Intelligence Officer, 368th Fighter Group, APC 141, US Army.

The following report is herewith submitted in compliance with, Ltr Ninth Air Force, Subject: Fighter-Bomber Claims:

FIGHTER-BOMBER CLAIMS

Covering the period, 1 April 1945 to 1 May 45

LEADING PILOT: 2nd Lt JAMES W. CHANCELLOR, 4th, O-822129 ---- Status: Operational

DESTROYED: 4 Buildings, 17 M/T's, 4 Railroad Cars, 5 Locomotives, 2 Enemy Aircraft, 1 Flak Car, 3 Horse-drawn Vehicles, 1 Bus, and 1 Tractor and Trailer.

DAMAGED: 2 Buildings, 8 M/T's, 15 Railroad Cars, 2 Enemy Aircraft, and 1 Bus.

SECOND PILOT: 2nd Lt NEWELL B. WOODWORTH, O-830605 ---- Status: Operational

DESTROYED: 5 M/T's, 2 Rail Cuts, 2 Buildings, 8 Railroad Cars, 4 Locomotives, 12 Personnel Killed, 2 Ammunition Carriages, and 1 Enemy Aircraft.

DAMAGED: 5 M/T's, 5 Buildings, 23 Railroad Cars, 3 Locomotives, and 2 Enemy Aircraft.

THIRD PILOT: Capt HARRIS T. KRAUSE, O-732275 ---- Status: Operational

DESTROYED: 10 M/T's, 4 Locomotives, 5 Railroad Cars, 1 Enemy Aircraft, 2 Flak Trucks, 2 Ammunition Carriages.

DAMAGED : 9 M/T's, 27 Railroad Cars, 2 Buildings, and 2 Enemy Aircraft.

Norton H. Magnus
NORTON H. MAGNUS
Capt, Air Corps
397th S-2 Officer

R E S T R I C T E D

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Report of land recon and dive bombing mission - 1 April 45 - Sqdn Miss No. 472:

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. 428-2 Miss for Day: 1 April 45.
Armed recon- Area 11 Kassel to Eisenach, to Hersfeld to base - bombing and strafing.
- B - 350 lbs, 297 lbs. 16 ad disp. No aborts.
- C - Op 0643, 101 0743, down 0943.
- D - Nil
- E - 6x2x500 lbs. Inst nose 1/40 tail. 15 bombs in tgt area. 0 ad used as escort.
- Our planes flew to an area SE of Hersfeld and back. Weather conditions made impossible the execution of the assigned recon. 1 plane 1 acted as controller. The bombing tgts were chosen by the sqdn. The first tgt was a train of 1 loco and 3 boxcars moving S at 072070. 7 bombs were dropped here - no hit. Lt Osterhart dropped 1 bomb on a highway close to a 1/1 at 080000. The road and car crossed close to this point. The bomb hit just S of the car and out the road. 3 bombs dropped with no results on a 1/1 at 084043. In the 1/1 there were 3 locos and 7 oil box and flat cars. strafing: Lt Lewis' flight strafed the 1/1 at 084043. The locos had been steaming but steam was cut off upon the attack. The 3 locos were destroyed and 1 boxcar (which burned) and 1 oil car were dest. 7 cars were damaged. Lt Lewis' flight dest 1 oil car 1st and 1st horse-drawn veh at 08587. They dest 1 horse-drawn veh and dest 1 arty piece at 09176. Capt Arames flight strafed a 1/1 at 09497 destroying 2 locos and 4 boxcars and prob dest 1 boxcar. At the time of the strafing locos were not attached to cars, but probably had been previously. 1 loco was moving SE and 1, which had just pulled into the yard was moving SW. In the area of Hilsmerode, 09078, Capt Arames flight dest 3 horse-drawn veh and 2 buildings. 1 building was set on fire and one blew up. Lt Osterhart dest 1 loco attached to 8 passenger cars at 09099. It was stationary and headed N. Lt Weinstein dest 1 tank at 09276. Lt Laubaugh participated in this damage. Lt Fandel and Lt dest 3 staff cars at 092770.
- F - 8k inacc hvy flak at 09369. Mod inacc lt flak on train at 09099.
- G - In area of 09489 300 people were seen. It was thought they and the passengers in the horse-drawn vehs in the area were about to board trains in the vicinity headed N. In the area of 09591 on the autobahn and on roads in the vicinity our pilots saw 30 vehicles bumper to bumper. Explosions were seen in Eisenach. There were no a/c on an A/B seen at 09290 near Wechwege. There was no evidence of bombing on this A/B. There was much activity in the tgt area. On one occasion at Wechwege area was lit up as if many flak guns were firing.
- H - Tgt area: 10/10 coverage of stratus base 3000' top unknown - very high - vis good upon arrival after that it deteriorated steadily and on departure it was five to seven mi.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Ground control satisfactory.
- K - No A/T jamming.

Krause, Chancellor Hellesen Nord (no bombs)
Lewis, Brayton, Faulay, Ariedge (Bombs)
Clary, Shepard, Frisbie, Osterhart (Bombs)
Weinstein, Laubaugh, Fandel, Hunt (No bombs)

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Armed Recon and Dive Bombing Mission - 1 April 45 - Sqdn Miss No. 496:

- A - Ops ord no. _____ Miss No. 4964 J2-2 Miss for Day 140 1 April 45.
Armed Recon - Area #1 - Kassel, Eisenach, Hersfeld, Cass. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
- B - 268 PG, 297 PG. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 12 ad disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1105, BL 1219, and turned back - bombs jettisoned at 1245, Down 1400.
- D - Nil
- E - 6x2500 lbs, inst nose 1/40 tail - 16 bombs jettisoned on lake at 1300.
4 g/c used as escort.
Bad weather conditions rendered impossible the execution of the assigned armed recon. Our planes flew almost to Kassel. Then they flew about 20 mi in a SW direction. Then they flew to the lake where the bombs were jett. Then they returned home. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ acted as controller. He gave our planes as target a concentration of tanks and Ws at 1300. Our planes did not bomb this tgt because weather conditions were very poor, because they were too far W, and because another sqdn set out to attack it.
No strafing.
- F - Int very ecc Wby flak at 1100.
Med fairly ecc Wby flak at 1100.
- G - The presence of flak at SW of Kassel led our ~~planes~~ ^{pilots} to infer that Kassel is in enemy hands. No troops were seen at ~~XXXXXXXX~~, 1100. In an area of W of here and on a road running W into Sarburg, ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{B9822}.
- H - Kassel area: 10/10 coverage cumulo-nimbus base 5500' above sea level. - 1500 to 2000 ft above ground. 10,000' Vis good below clouds poor between cloud layers.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Control good.
- K - No W/T jamming.

Bombs: Carlson, Shea, Fein, Halpin.
Hogan, Keil, Patrick, Thornton.
No Bombs: Barker, Buck, Helen, Koenig.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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397th Air Sqdn B-2 Sgt on a route recon mission -- 3 April 49 -- Mission No. 497

- A. Opns & NO.****, Miss No. 323-B - Miss for day 497 - 3 April 49
- B. Route recon without bombs - base to Gotha to Weimar - to Weiningen to base.
- C. 36870 - 39770 -- 15 A/U disp - no aborts
- D. up 1520 - reach Gotha 1720 - Weimar 1725 and Weiningen 1740 down 1909
1720 1725

- E. Nil
- F. Our planes were controlled by outpost. He gave them a tgt at 1707 and said that they would find there made up trains xxx, w/f with six twin engine a/c and tanks.

They did not fly to this area because they could see that it was covered over by clouds and because map coverage did not reach that far north. The assigned route recon was flown.

No strafing

- G. Nil
- H. Nil
- I. 10/10 cloud coverage - (there were a few holes, but there were no tgts to be seen through the holes - Cumulus clouds, alto-stratus clouds, cirrus clouds, and other types. Multi-layered clouds - base close to ground - top 12000' to 14000' -- visibility good above clouds - 7 or 8 miles in holes)
- J. Sqdn code not used
- K. Ground control good
- L. No rt landing.

NO BOMB: KNOWN REID PAIR REPAIR
 RECON RECONCILED REPAIRS DONE
 RECON RECONCILED REPAIRS DONE
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327th Ftr Sq S-340pt on an Escort Mission -- 4 April -- Sq Mission No. 498

- A. Opns O No. _____, Miss No. JSAB-1 Miss for day ONE -- 4 April 45 --
Escort for two boxes of A 26 - rendez-voos at # 0958 - tgt at S 687619.
- B. 368FD- 397FD - 16 A/C Disp - plus one spare-one A/C abortive (radio out)
- C. up; 1025 - rendez-voos at 1101 - left bombers 1200- down 1255
- D. Nil
- E. Rendez-voos was made at appointed place, # 0958. Our planes left the A-26's at appointed place, Kaiserslautern. There was one B 26 pathfinder with each box of A-26's. The A 26's flew at 12000' and our planes flew at 15500'. Our planes were over the tgt with the A 26's.
No Strafing
- F. When our planes were three or four minutes off the tgt on the way back they saw two jet enemy aircraft which it is thought were after B 26's flying at 11000' behind our planes and the A-26's. These B 26's were escorted by Lightnings.
No flak
- G. Nil
- H. 10/10 cloud coverage with one or two breaks. The clouds, which were cumulus and stratus, ranged from 8000' to 10000' - visibility above the clouds was excellent - no haze
- I. Sqdn code not used
- J. Ground control good
- K. No RT Jamming

ESCORT: TUIE (ASPT) KENNIS FARLEY DEPUTY
AD SHARP LAUBAUGH BAKER Uterhart
LEWIS CHANDELOR FRISBIE E SHERA
GABINE SHEPARD FANDEL HERONIE SPARE LEAVOY
(WHEN MAJOR TUIE RETURNED Lt LEAVOY TOOK HIS PLACE, AND RES FRIGHT AND COL
GABINE'S FLIGHT EXCHANGED PLACES IN THE SQUADRON FORMATION)

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Armed Recon Mission without bombs: 4 April 49: Bqdn File No. 420:

- A - Ops ord No. _____ Miss No. J29-9. Miss for Day: 180 4 Apr 49.
Armed Recon without bombs - Base to Naumberg, J8991, to Mirschburg, J9010,
to Kronach, J6090, to Weiningen, to base. - Strafing.
- B - 368 Rs, 397 Rs. & 16 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 15598, strafed at 1720, set course home 1825, BL in 1745, BL out 1850, Down 1955.
- D - Nil
- E - For the most part our planes flew the recon. They were controlled by GUMMERT,
who asked them to strafe two a/c's. They were unable to do so because of bad
weather.
Strafing: Capt Krause's and Lt Fein's flights strafed at J5542. Results were:
18 staff cars on flat cars dest. 12 ammo carriages on 2 flat cars dest. 2 locos
dest. 1 rail cut. 1 huge explosion and fire involving the disappearance of 3 flat
cars and leveling of ground in area. Several other fires. 27 box cars dest. 9
flat cars dest (those flat cars mentioned above which were damaged are inc).
Altogether there were two trains, one going SS and 1 going NS. 1 of the dest
loco detached itself and was dest in detachment. Lt Fein's flight dest 40 boxcars
at 4/Y at J5057. Lt Fein dest 1 auto at J5540. Maj Tuite and Lt Keil dest 1 loco
at J5815. This loco was attached to 10 boxcars and the train was moving N. Maj
Tuite and Lt Keil dest 4 out of 12 oil tanks at J9917.
- F - Int fairly acc lt fax at J5815.
- G - There was much AA activity in the SE part of the J square.
- H - Nice light at 9000 ft and above in the ground of Götting, J0856. 10/10 coverage
stratus and cumulus base 4000 to 6000 ft top 10000 to 11000 ft. Vis 2 to 5 mi
in area of J5542. Elsewhere it was worse. There was lower broken scud (cumulus).
- I - Code not used.
- J - Transmission of GUMMERT was weak because of the distance of our planes from the
station.
- K - no 4/T jamming.

Tuite, Keil, Halpin, Brayton.
Fein, Buck, Malen, Woodworth.
Bogan, Knochenhufen, Leavoy, Barco.
Krause, Elliott, Arledge, Nord.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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127th S-2 Spt on an Armed Recon without bombs - 5 April - Mission No. 900

- A. Opns O No. _____, Miss No. J 29-5 - Miss for day 048 - 5 April
Armed recon without bombs - base to Freyburg J 8298 to Hirschberg J 9010 to Arenach
to Weiningen to base. - strafing
- B. 368FS - 397FS - 16 a/c disp - no aborts
- C. up 1045 - orb/1 in 1200 - two strafing attacks between 1215 and 1340 - b/1 out 1350 -
down 1351 (three planes landed at 1:50 - two because of a shortage of gas. The third
landed with one of the others in order to avoid having an odd man on the mission.
- D. Two ad damaged by flak out "A"
- E. Out planes flew to Freyburg, then east and southeast, and then back to base. They were
controlled by Gunpost, who had no list for them. At base's flight strafed in the area
of Gera. ~~Results were: 1 MI and auto des, 1 loco des, 1 box cars des, 1 pass cars des, 1 MI des.~~
14 MI des, 1 loco des, 1 box cars des, 1 pass cars des, 1 MI des.
14 MI des, 1 loco des, 1 box cars des, 1 pass cars des, 1 MI des. 4 camouflaged buses of army color
des, 4 camouflaged buses of army color des, 1 tank des and 1 tank des. 1 of the des
loco was not attached to cars and did not have steam up. The second loco was pulling
13 pass cars northwest of Gera. It stopped when the strafing began. The third loco,
which was stationary was attached to 13 box cars. At Chancellor deserves special mention
in connection with this strafing. His Patrick and Price strafed in the area of Toppeln,
K 002622 results were: 3 MI and auto des, 1 loco des. This loco was attached to two
coal cars one in front of it and one behind it. It was moving east.
- F. Inten acc hvy flak at J 9595 (there was also some black light flak here and one red
burst) weak acc light flak at J 7575. one burst of inacc light J 9054.
- G. There was smoke pots at J 9595
- H. 9/10 cloud coverage strato-cumulus clouds - base 5000' top 8500' - vis good, but poor on
way home. Cumulus clouds below, in some places sticking up through the other clouds.
several belts of rain between here and tgt area.
- I. eqdn code not used
- J. ground control tactically good - trans poor
- K. The track of GUNPOST was distorted through out the miss by cross talk

NO BOMB: BARKER LAURAUGH FRIBBIE JOHNSON
PATRICK PRICE RE SHARP ROBERTS
LESLIE CHANDLER (LANDED AT 1:50 - low on gas) THURTON (LANDED AT 1:50) HELPIN
CARLINE SHIRLAND (LANDED AT 1:50 - low on gas) FAUGHEY SANDO

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Close Support and Dive Bombing Mission: 6 April 45: Sdn Miss No. 501:

- A - Ops Ord _____ Miss No. OAR-1 Miss for Day: OMS 6 Apr 45.
Support for VIII Corps, TASTYFRUIT, at 45754. And for GRAYWOOD, 45775,
WILDCOBE, IRONCLAD, and BUSBY at 45075 - and for MCKINNA at 45458, and
SIBASTER at 4380 --- Dive bombing.
- B - 368 FB, 397 FB. 8 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 0754, BL in 0910, TOT 0940, BL out 1015, Down 1103.
- D - Nil
- E - 4x2x500 lb M27 MPA Frag clusters, inst nose and tail. 4x2x500 lb bombs,
inst, 1/40. 16 bombs in tgt area.
Our planes flew to the location of TASTYFRUIT, but could not contact him.
They contacted GRAYWOOD, who said that WILDCOBE might have a tgt for them.
They could not contact WILDCOBE. They bombed a tgt of their own selection.
The tgt was a town of 7 buildings within 20 mi of Bayreuth 07656. The
town was probably S of Bayreuth. NRO. In general our planes were controlled
by GORFOST.
No strafing.
- F - Nil
- G - 50 bogies were reported moving W 35 at Kassel, 01205.
- H - Tgt area: 10/10 coverage- strato-cumulus which were lowering - base on deck -
top 9000 ft - vis good above clouds - vis 5 mi below clouds.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground control good.
- K - No R/T jamming.

Tuite, Elliott, Helen, Deputy.
Dane, Johnston, Tandel, LeGrand.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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227th B-2 Bst on a Close Support mission -- 7 April 1945 - 502 Sqn mission No. 502.

- A. Opns No. _____, mission No. 502 -1 -- Miss for day 000 - 7 April 1945
Close support for VIII Corps (Rastefruit) at Hersfeld, H 4095.
- B. 568FS- 597FS - 8 A/C Disp No Aborts
- C. up 1034 - or b/l in 1145 - out 1325 - down 1432
- D. Nil
- E. 8 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs inst nose 1/40 tail -- 16 bombs in tgt area
They contacted Rastefruit who tried to relay them to Lusty but they could not contact Lusty, Wildwood, or Ironclad. They dropped 16 bombs at J 8090 on a train of 15 cars and loco, headed north. Lt Brayton scored the only hit which destroyed the loco and cut the track. Then Chatwood called and relayed them to Wildwood who gave them a tgt at J 147 near Grawinkel. They strafed a woods there which contained many concrete barracks and buildings and some of wood. 11 wooden buildings were damaged, 7 by red flight, 4 by yellow. Capt Krause and Lt Hunt each destroyed one HT. Capt Krause damaged a bus. Lt Hunt also damaged two houses in the town. Capt Krause strafed several piles of stores, possible gun cases.
- F. nil
- G. A great many rail cars were seen from Weissenfels Jx222 9697 to Jena J 7066. No ~~imm~~ locos. Six two engine a/c were seen at Jena a/f J 6868. 15 two engine a/c seen at
- H. Gotha a/f J 1068. One of our tanks and 50 troops seen west of Palau J 1247, several allied vehicles seen in the town at J 2547
- I. 5/10 to 6/10 alto-cumulus - base 9000' top 9000' - vis 10 miles - Jx222 9697
- J. Sqn code not used
- K. Wildwood and Chatwood good - other controllers very weak
- L. Mt jamming at 1550 hours vicinity of Palau J 2547 for five minutes on "B" Channel of a whirling type.

ALL BOMBS: KRAUSE WOODWORTH HOWE RALPH
DIXON BARGO PATRICK BRAYTON

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297th Ftr Sq B-2 Rgt on a Close Support Mission - 7 April 1945 - Sq Miss No. 303

- A. Opns O No. _____, Miss No. 303 - 1 - Miss for day TWO - 7 April 1945
Support for VIII Corps (Testfruit) at Hersfeld, H 4055.
- B. 368th FS - 397th FS - 8 A/C Disp - No Aborts
- C. up 1500 - tot 1510 - down 1655
- D. Nil
- E. 8 x 2 x 500lb GP Bombs - inst 1/40 - 16 bombs in tgt area
Mission contacted Testfruit who relayed them to Lustyat Mulhausen. They could not contact Lustky, so Testfruit sent them to Chstwood at Gotha, who relayed them to Wildwood. They were given as a tgt Grafenroda J 1744 but through mission leaders error they dropped 16 bombs at Freidichroda, H 9955. 8 of the bombs hit a w/y destroying half of the 50 to 60 cars parked there. The other eight bombs destroyed about 15 buildings in the town. There were also three rail cuts, one road cut, and four small buildings destroyed in the marshalling yard. Blue flight bombed the marshalling yard, Green flight the town.
- F. Nil
- G. Car troops and vehicles were seen at Reichensd 0050, at 1520 hours. A road block was seen on northern edge of Freidichroda. There were several tan colored vehicles thought to be enemy in the town.
- H. 6/10 to 7/10 strato-cumulus - base 4000' top 7500' -- vis good
- I. Sqdn code not used
- J. Ground control good
- K. No RT jamming

ALL MEMO: CLARY BUCK UTTERARY LSA VCI
RUGAN KEIL KALEN PRICE

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Close Support and Divebombing Mission: 7 Apr 45: Sqdn Miss No. 504:

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. 488-1, Miss for Day THREE, Apr 7 45.
Close Support for VIII Corps, TADISPAULT, at Hersfeld, 04033.
- B - 568 PG, 597 PG. 8 a/c Disp. 2 aborts. Belly tanks would not cut in.
- C - Up 1555, 101 1715, Strafed at 1730, Down 1847.
- D - 2a/c dwn by flak; 1 cat "A" and 1 cat "AU".
- E - 4x2x300 GPs inst 1/40. 4x2x300 HEB inst 1/40. 12 bombs in tgt area.
4 bombs jettisoned in regular dump.
Our planes contacted TADISPAULT, who turned them over to WILKWOOD, who turned them over to WILKWOOD, who told them to bomb the town of Frankenhain, J1544. 12 bombs were dropped here and all 24 buildings in the town were destroyed. Our planes tried to contact SOMMERS at the beginning of the mission but were unsuccessful. WILKWOOD acted as controller.
Strafing: WILKWOOD told our planes to strafe a concentration of troops at Grawinkel, J1547. Maj Tuite's flight strafed. Lt Yandel probably dest 1 flak position - otherwise none. Nothing was seen in the town save much flak.
- F - Int very acc lt flak at Grawinkel, J1547.
- G - 8 beaten up vehicles were seen on a road W of Frankenhain. 2 beaten up vehicles were seen in Frankenhain. After the 448th leader had bombed at Frankenhain, a weak voice whose call sign could not be determined said, "Planes circling overhead, do not bomb here." The other planes refrained from bombing, and WILKWOOD was asked whether bombing should proceed. He answered affirmatively and the other planes bombed.
- H - The sqdn leader thought that the message given above might very well have been addressed to another formation.
- I - 1 broken overcast at 6000 to 6500 ft. Vis good.
- J - Sqdn code not used.
- K - Ground control good.
- L - No R/T jamming.

Tuite, Elliott, Frisbie, Korowitz (abort),
Faulay, Lambaugh, Yandel, Arledge (abort.)

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Bomber Escort Mission: 8 April 45: Sqdn Miss No. 505:

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. JKAD-1 Miss for Day: ONE 8 April 45.
Escort for 1 group of AB's - RV at G6721 - Assigned tgt at J9454.
- B - 368 FS, 397 FS. 16 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 0835, RV 0924. TOT 1010 to 1015, Left Bombers 1050, Down 1155.
- D - Nil
- E - Our planes left the bombers at Koblenz at 1050. The bombers bombed at 10,000 ft and flew in general between 9000 and 10,000 ft. The assigned tgt was burning upon the arrival of the bombers. They did not attack it, but bombed instead at Pössneck, J7440, and at a village in the area of J9040. After the bombing this village burned. Pössneck was hit and dust and smoke were seen there. Our planes escorted three boxes, each of which contained six to nine a/c. BIPGAW noted that our planes were on a mission but there was no further communication with him or any other controller.
No strafing.
- F - Nil
- G - Nil
- H - Generally clear - a little cloud - good vis.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground control must be characterized as poor. Since our planes received no attention. See "E" above.
- K - There may have been some R/T jamming. One of our pilots, when he was near Fulda heard a whistling noise which lasted for one minute. The time was 0945.

Carbine, Chenceller, LeGrand, Deputy,
Yandel, Encichuizen, Frisbie, Johnston.
Dana, Shepard, Fauley, Arledge.
Lewis, Elliott, RE Sharp, Horowitz.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of KEMA Close Support and Divebombing Mission: 8 Apr 45: 34 Miss No 508:

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. EAB-1: Miss for Day: TWO: 8 Apr 45
Close Support for TASTFRUIT, VIII Corps, at H3954 - Bombing and Strafing.
- B - 368 FG, 397 FS. 8 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1338, Nat Op area 1435, TOT 1500, Left Op area 1615, Down 1712.
- D - Nil
- E - 8x2x500 REX inst 1/40. 16 bombs in tgt area.
Our planes contacted TASTFRUIT who turned them over to GRAYWOOD who turned them over to WILDWOOD. WILDWOOD told them to bomb gun positions in his area. They could not find these gun positions, and then WILDWOOD told them that the positions were in woods at J175458. Nothing was seen there. 13 bombs dropped. NRO 1 bomb dest a building in Crawinkel at J151470. One bomb was dropped on a flak gun at J153468 near Crawinkel. Gun was unharmed. One bomb destroyed a flak truck at J143460.
Strafing: Capt Krause strafed woods at J175458. NRO. Capt Krause and Lt Brayton dest 3 flak trucks at J155460.
- F - Int inacc lt flak in area of Crawinkel, J151470. (Flak trucks)
- G - At 1605 WILDWOOD said that he was moving into Crawinkel. No evidences of this entry were seen. WILDWOOD had been shelling the town and this shelling was seen by our planes. 1E or 13 Germans in blue uniforms were seen on the E edge of the town. 1 German MT was seen moving W into woods. 20 or 25 concrete houses were seen in woods at J145470 in the vicinity there were many dummy concrete houses. There were bomb shelters close to the concrete houses. Much smoke was seen at Arnstadt, J2657.
- H - GAVU.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground control gccc.
- K - No R/T jamming.

Krause, Brayton, Helpin, Barco.
Weinstein, Keil, Thornton, Woodworth.

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Report of Close Support and Dive bombing Mission: 8 Apr 45: Sqdn Miss No 806.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. EAB-1: Miss for Day: THREE : 8 April 45/
Close Support for VIII Corps, TASTEFRUIT, H3984 - Bombing and strafing.
- B - 368 FG, 397 SE. 8 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1424, Hnt Op area 1550, TCT 1605, Left Op area 1725, Down 1810.
- D - One FW190 destroyed by Lts Uterhart and Hogan.
- E - ~~8~~ 2x500 HUK bombs inst 1/40. 14 bombs in tgt area.
Sqdn worked with TASTEFRUIT who sent them on an armed recon in the area of Jena, Neustadt, and Saalfeld. They dropped 14 bombs in the W/Y at Kahla, J7152. 20 NK cars were in the W/Y. Lt Price dest three cars. Lts Baker, /tank
Leavoy, Uterhart, and Hogan dest 1 building each.
Strafing: In the strafing which followed at J9450, 12 vehicles were dest. Maj Tuite and Lts Price, Baker, and Laubaugh dest three each. A lone FW 190 was sighted just S of Weimar and was chased to the area of Jena. It was flying at 7000 ft. Our planes were at 11,000 ft. Lts Uterhart and Hogan shot it down and saw it crash in flames at J6450, at about 1715 hours.
- F - Wk fairly acc lt flak at J9450.
- G - Nil
- H - No clouds - slight haze - vis 5 to 8 mi.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Sqdn could not contact RIFCAB 3 or GUNPOST. Others satisfactory.
- K - No R/T jamming.

Tuite, Price, Baker, Laubaugh.
Hogan, Patrick, Leavoy, Uterhart.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

397th Ftr Sqdn S-E Rpt on a Close Support mission - 9 April 45 - Sq Mission no. 508

- A. Opns O No. _____, Miss No. WCT-1 - Mission for day ONE - 9 April 45
Close support for Tastefruit, VIII Corps at P 3954.
- B. 368FG - 397FS - 8 A/C disp no aborts
- C. up 0629 - cr into operational territory 0745 - tot 0830 - cut 0910 - down 1004
- D. Nil
- E. 4 x 2 x 500lb REX Inst 1/40 - 8 bombs in tgt area - 4 a/c used as escort
Sq contacted Ripsaw one and worked with Tastefruit as controller. Chatwood could not receive them and they could not contact Mildwood. Tastefruit sent them on an armed recon from J 9045 along the RR west. They dropped eight bombs on a factory north of Kimetz at J 7741. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Seven bombs hit and severely damaged the factory. One cut the rails in the vicinity. The factory was strafed causing a large fire, possibly an oil tank. Red flight strafed rail traffic in the same areadestroying two locos and damaging eight cars. Headed east. Red flight destroyed seven mt in the area of J 8143.
- F. mod inacc light flak at J 7240
- G. Nil
- H. low stratus and fog to the north and east of tgt area. CAVU in tgt area - vis good
- I. Sq code not used
- J. Ground control good except as noted in narrative
- K. No RT jamming

COMB: KRALSE LAUBACH HORWITZ HALPIN
ESCORT: KALER SHEPARD PATRICK LE GRAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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397th Ftr Sq S-2 Rpt on a Close Support and Dive Bombing Mission - 9 April 45 -
Sq Miss No. 509

- A. Opns S No. _____, Miss No. WCI-1 - Miss for day two - 9 April 45
Close support for Tastefruit, VIII Corps at H 3954- dive bombing and strafing
- B. 368FG - 397 FS - 8 a/e disp no aborts
- C. up 0706 - entered operating territory 0840 - tot 0900 - left operating territory at 0925 - down 1023
- D. Nil
- E. 4 x 2 x 500lb RDX bombs - inst 1/40 - 8 bombs in tgt area
Our planes contacted Tastefruit. Tastefruit told them to contact Chatwood or ~~Wildwood~~ Wildwood in event that the former could not be reached. They could not contact Chatwood and they called Wildwood. Wildwood asked them to bomb Crawinkel at J 1847. They dropped eight bombs here and destroyed eight buildings. The town was burning when they left. Ripshaw one also acted as controller.
- Strafing: Wildwood told our planes to straf woods west of Crawinkel, all eight planes strafed. One veh was des - otherwise NRO and nothing seen in woods.
- F. weak fairly acc light flak at J 1847
- G. Two German tanks were seen in Crawinkel. At 0915 20 US Tanks were seen north of Wolfiss at J 1850. At 0915 18 US armored veh (half tracks, self-propelled guns, etc.) were seen at J 1850.
- H. Almost no clouds - haze - vis 5 to 10 miles - a large cloud patch of low stratus clouds (coverage ten tenths) over Missyach, H 8268
- I. No sq code
- J. Ground control weak
- K. No rt jamming

BOMBS: TRITE ELLIOTT BAKER BARGE
ESCORT: HOGAN KILL TRAYN WOODWORTH

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397th Ftr Sq B-2 rpt on a Close Support Mission - 9 April 1945 - Sq Miss No. 510

- A. Opns O No. _____ Miss No. VOT-1 - Miss for day THREE - 9 April 1945
Close support for VIII Corps, Tasterfruit at N 3654
- B. 368FG 397FS - 8 a/c disp - no aborts
- C. up 1112 - or into area 1220 - tot 1300 - out 1330 - down 1424
- D. Nil
- E. 4 x 2 x 500 RDX bombs - inst 1/40 - 8 bombs in tgt area - 4 a/c used as escort
Sqdn code not contact Tasterfruit. They called Booty who gave them Crawinkel J 1847
as a tgt and relay them to Mooring. Mooring marked this town and woods immediately
west of the town with four white smoke burst each. 8 bombs were dropped on the town
destroying or damaging 12 buildings. Fires were burning at the arrival of our planes.
They started ~~ixix~~ two to four more fires. Both the town and the woods were strafed.
KRO.
- F. Nil
- G. Our troops were seen southeast of Ohrdruf at J 124508. Many of our vehicles were
seen on the Autobahn west of Hersfeld.
- H. Low cloud north of tgt area - haze in tgt area - x vis 3 miles upsun - 10 down sun -
- I. No sq code
- J. Ground control good
- K. No rt jamming

500BS: CASBINS DEPUTY YANDEL J. JENKINSON
ESCORT: BAINSTEIN HONORIYE FAULRY PRICE

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397th Ftr Sqd 8-2 Rpt on a Close Support Mission - 9 April 1945 - Sqdn Miss No. 511

- A. Opns C No. _____, Mission No. VCT-1 - Miss for Day FOUR - 9 April 1945
Close support for VIII Corps, Tasterfruit at H 3954
- B. 368F1 - 397F1 - 8 a/c disp - no aborts
- C. 1 up 1155 - cr into area 1315 - tot 1345 - out 1435 - down 1545
- D. Two of our a/c dam by explosion of ground munitions - Cat "A"
- E. 4 x 2 x 500lb WDX bombs - inst nose, 1/40 tail - 8 bombs in tgt area - 4 a/c escort
Miss Wipsaw one relay our planes to Hooring who sent them to Blankwall and Briegtide
either of whom they could contact. They then contacted Bathsoep who sent them to
town of Ilmensu at J 2436 which they marked with three bursts of white smoke. 8 bombs
were dropped on the town destroying ten to fifteen buildings.
- F. Strafing: Lts Clary and Buck destroyed two horse-drawn vehicles and one ar,ored car
at J 2636. Lts Uterhart and Thornton dam 2 tanks at J 2636. Lt Lewis's flight
destroyed 8 sheds filled with 500lb bombs at J 3138. The dump consisted of 50 sheds
of 500lb bombs, 50 sheds of 1000lb bombs and oxygen tanks, 100 piles of 30 1000lb bombs
and several piles of arms and ammo cases. Lt Chancellor discovered this dump.
Lt Lewis destroyed two oil tanks at J 3534 and des one staff car and dam one staff car.
Lt Chancellor des two MT and 1 horse drawn vehicles. Lt Fribis dam one MT.
- F. Nil
- G. Our troops seen at Kella - Mehlis J 0633. Bathsoep reported our troops on the western
edge of Ilmensau J 2436.
- H. Haze to 6000' - vis fair
- I. No sq code
- J. Ground control good except as noted
- K. No rt jamming

BOMBS: CLARY BUCK UTERHART THORNTON
ESCORT: LEWIS CHANCELLOR WILBERT BRAYTON

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0275

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Close Support and Divebombing Mission: Main Miss No. 518.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. VCT-1: Miss for Day- FIVE: 9 April 45.
Mission was to have been close support for TABIETUIT, VIII Corps, H0984.
MIPBAK 1 assigned our planes to MOORING, -- Divebombing.
- B - 368 FG, 397 FG. 8 a/c disp. 2 aborts, -- 1 radio was out, and the second accompanied the former.
- C - Up 1549, BI in 1720, TOT 1745, BI out 1800, Down 1901.
- D - Nil
- E - 4x2x500 RDX bombs inst 1/40. 8 bombs in tgt area.
MIPBAK 1 instructed our planes to call MOORING instead of TABIETUIT.
MOORING told our planes to bomb 50 to 60 a/c being towed down a road at J655675. Our planes inspected this road but found no a/c. The road ran through a ravine, and on the top of the hill there was an A/D. No planes were seen on the A/D. 12 MTs and 5 big buses were seen on the road in the area of J655675. 8 bombs were dropped on the 12 MTs, and they were all well placed, in the opinion of the pilots. NBO because of an overcast building up at that time.
No strafing.
- F - Nil
- G - Many vehicles were seen in the bombing area.
- H - At the time of the arrival of our planes the weather was clear, but beginning to build up. Upon the departure of our planes, the area to the S was 10/10 covered. At that time clouds were building up all over. Vis very poor.
- I - Squid code not used.
- J - Ground control good.
- K - No E/T jarring.
- Bombs: Krause, Knochuizen, Helpin, Lambough.
No Bombs: Helen, Shepard, (abortive-radio out) Patrick (short-accompanied Shepard) LeGrand.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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Report of Close Support and Divebombing Mission: Sgdn Miss No. 513.

- A - Ops Ord No. ____: Miss No. WOT-1: Miss ftr Day- Six: 9 April 45:
Close Support for 1st Airborne, VIII Corps, A3954. Dive bombing.
- B - 368 FG, 397 FG. 8 a/c comp. No aborts.
- C - In 1600, Bl in 1810, TOT 1830, Bl out 1800, Down 2018.
- D - Nil
- E - 3x2500 RDX inst 1/40. 8 bombs in tgt area.
Sgdn 1 controlled our planes. They tried unsuccessfully to contact
TRISTEFANT. Then they called WOODING who had nothing for them. Then
they tried to contact WATSON and WILSON, but were unsuccessful.
Sgdn 1 gave them a tgt but Troic Red flight called and said that because
of an overcast it would be useless to go there. Then Sgdn 1 told them
that there were vehicles and trains on the near the railroad between J8065
and J8768. 1 pilot tried to strafe a train at J8065 but was unable to
because of an overcast. Then Sgdn 1 told them to stand by; but as time
was growing short they looked for a tgt themselves. 6 bombs were dropped
on a large factory consisting of 4 or 5 buildings and many small buildings.
The factory was at Galtstadt, J8445. 1 large building and 2 small buildings
were damaged.
No strafing.
- F - Int fairly acc it flew in area of train mentioned above - J8065.
- G - The train seen at J8065 was moving W, toward Jena. At NUDOLSTADT, J8548,
about 40 SS's were seen bombing. If the city was their tgt, the results were
good, for fires were started.
- H - TOT area: (J8065 to J8784) 10/10 coverage low stratus base 300' top 1000'.
Vis poor.
- I - Sgdn code not used.
- J - Ground control satis, but several controllers could not be contacted.
- K - No R/I jamming.

Tuite (no bombs) Elliott (bombs) Baker (bombs) Harco (bombs)
Hogan, Kell, Leavoy, Woodworth.

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Report of Raileutting Mission: 10 April 45: Bomb Mission No. 514:

- Ops Ord No. _____; Miss No. 514-B; Miss for Day- 10 April 45.
Raileutting Mission from J062200 to J062200 and Airst Base to Bern,
Bad Sulza, Weimar, and Saalfeld.
 - B - 388 FG, 397 FG. 8 a/c disp. No aborts.
 - C - Up 0645, Or into area 0600, TGT 0630, Or out area 0645, Down 1045.
 - D - Nil
 - E - 8x2x500 RHX inst 1/40. 14 bombs in tgt area. 2 bombs jettisoned safe
at J3764. Lt Frisbie's canopy blew off as he started his bomb run. He
did not release his bombs, and jettisoned them safe as he started home.
RIFGAW 1 controlled the mission. The assigned tgt was covered by 10/10
low stratus. The planes went on the assigned route. Six bombs were dropped
on a train of 10 cars and locomotive at Schöden, J3873. Maj Tuite dest
4 cars and the locomotive. Lt Koenig scored 1 railcut and dest 4 cars,
Lt Shea dest the RR station. 8 bombs were dropped at Molau, J3881, on a
train of several cars and locomotive. Night haze obscured the tgt. Lt
Patrick dest the tracks and probably dest 2 cars. Lt Keil dest 3 cars. Lt
Woodworth dest the locomotive and got 2 track cuts. Lt Sharp dest 2 bridges
in the town. Maj Tuite fired a short burst at a column of civilians at
J4100 before he saw their identification - 2 small white flags and a small
French flag. No casualties are believed to have resulted.
 - F - Nil
 - G - Nil
 - H - 3 part of tgt, route area, covered 10/10 low stratus. Scattered patches in 3
part. Vis 3 to 10 mi.
 - I - Signal code not used.
 - J - Ground control good.
 - K - No w/T warning. *(abortive)*
- Tuite, Shea, Frisbie, Koenig.
Sharp, Keil, Patrick, Woodworth.

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

397th B-2 Rpt on Rail Cutting and Armed Recce mission - 10 April - sq Miss No. 515

- A. Opns No. _____, Mission No. F 29-6 - Miss for day TWO - 10 April 45
Assigned mission was rail cutting from J 759100 to J 917450 and armed recce from
Cera to Bad Sulza to Weimar to Home - Dive bombing and strafing.
- B. 368FG - 39718- 8 w/c disp - no aborts
- C. up 0802 - b/l in 0915 - tot 1015 - b/l out 1050 - down 1147
- D. Nil
- E. 8 x 2 x 500lb REX bombs - last, 1/40 - 16 bombs in tgt areas -
Our planes flew to within three miles of the track, so Ripsaw one said. The track
was soaked in and our planes could not bomb there. They flew west and called Ripsaw
one for a tgt but he had none. Then they found their own tgt. 8 bombs were dropped
on the w/y at Tanrode at J 4757. There was six dir ct hits. 10 buildings were des-
troyed and there was one cut on a road. There were 10 box and tank cars in the yard
they were not harmed. There were no locos. 8 bombs were dropped at J 4909 near
Tonndorf, 30 tank cars were destroyed and there were four cuts on rails. No locos
were seen.
Strafing: Lt Yandel's flight dam 100 tank cars at J 4959. Lts Clary and Buck des
one hit.
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. Haze from the ground to six to seven thousand feet - vis 5 miles - above the ass-
igned rr track there was an overcast from the deck to 2000'
- I. No sq code
- J. Ground control by Ripsaw one was not to good. Our planes had to tell him where they
were.
- K. No NI Jamming

ALL BOMBS: CLARY BOCK WIERHART JOHNSTON
YANDEL KNIGHTWITZMAN PAULPY LORAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Armed Recon and Dive bombing Mission: 10 April 45: Sqn Miss No. 516:

- A- Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. J89-11 Miss for Day: THREE 10 April 45.
Rd and RR recon - Base to Chemnitz, to Eger to Plauen to base.
- B - 368 FG, 397 FS 12 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1255, BL in 1405, TOT 1420, BL out 1545, Down 1640.
- D - 1 a/c dam flak out "A".
About 1530 Capt Krause and Lt Chancellor strafed the Chem A/d at P3475. On the field there were 50 or 60 a/c of the following types: a/e planes, Ju52s, Ju88 s, Do217 s, Me410 s, Gotha gliders, and 1 Fieseler Storch. Lt Chancellor dest 1 Ju52, 1 Ju88, and dam 1 Do217 and 1 Ju52. Capt Krause dest 1 Ju52 and dam 1 Me410 and 1 Ju52.
- E - Bx2x260 Frags inst non-delay. 16 bombs in tgt areas. 4 a/c used as escort. Our planes communicated with RIFBAW 1 once or twice. They flew the assigned armed recon. They selected their own bombing tgts. 8 bombs were dropped on a factory at Kynsperk, P417808. There was an explosion. The factory was severely damaged and was still burning when our pilots left. It was composed of a cluster of buildings which were apparently the scene of activity. Close to the factory there were 18 or 20 RR oil cars which were not hit by the bombs. 8 bombs were dropped on a M/Y at P450825. There were two direct hits on 35 coal cars and 4 or 5 were damaged. In addition the M/Y contained 15 oil cars and one small locomotive which were not hit by the bombing.
Strafing: (area of M/Y str450825) Lt Lewis flight dam 15 oil cars and 1 locomotive 5 Mts dest and all thr coal cars whic had not been det ac dam by the bombing were dam by strafing.
- F - Mod acc lt flak at the A/d went ab ove.
- G - Many MT seen on road leading NE out of the A/d and on 1 leading SE. B26 s and A26 s seen hitting the bidge at EGGER, P3274. 1 span was out and 1 almost out, there was a deep hole in it. A fire was seen in the RR yd at Eger. Many Mtsen S of Hof. The M/Y ay Zwickau, K3747, was full of inactive rolling stock. This M/Y had been bombed. There were more than 100 cars, mostly goods cars. 25 balloons were seen over the lake at J6220. They were at 4 or 5000 ft.
- H - Little cloud vis bad into sun.
- I - Sqn code not used.
- J - Ground control good, excelt that on one occasion our planes were asked to help MOORING at a time when they were close to Czechoslovakia.
- K - No R/T jamming.
- Bombs: Krause, Chancellor, Baker, Ecstrach.
Lewis, Price, Bright, Brayton.
No Bombs: Weinstein, Barco, Kalen, Deputy.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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297th Str Sq B-2 Spt on a Armed Rescue and Dive Bombing - 10 April - SA Miss No. 517

- A. Opns 3 SQ, _____, Miss No. J 24-11 - Miss for day AOC - 10 April 1943
Armed rescue to Hog 0 9898 and return.
- B. 36890 - 39773 - 18 A/C disp - no aborts
- C. up 1944 - b/l in 1945 - tot 1900 - out 1945 - down 2054
- D. 811
- E. 6x 2 x 200lb Frags - 1st nose non-delayed tail - 18 bombs in tgt area - 4 a/c escort
Wispow one was the controller - 16 bombs were dropped at Aulmbeck 0 6675. Red flight
bombed a train of 14 cars headed west in the w/y des 4 cars and dm 2; 1 building was
des. Yellow flight bombed the town des 1 warehouse and damaging 10 houses. ~~EA#6EX~~
Lt Col Carbine strafed two trains of 10 to 15 cars each in a w/y at 0 9893. 4 cars were
des. He also des a bus at 0 9197.
- F. weak 1300 lt 0 6675 -- inten inces it at 0 9898 - very inten acc light at J 9600 -
- G. All of the w/y in the vicinity of Hog are 90% full of cars - A large fire was seen on
Sch weinfurt a/d. A big column of smoke and fire seen at Lichtenfels 0 3777.
- H. 1/10 cover at 8000' - Avy base to 7000' - vis 8 miles down sun - 3 miles up sun
- I. No sq code
- J. Ground control good
- K. No rt jamming

BOMBS: CARRINE ELLIOTT LEAVY KOENIG
FRISHE LAMBUK PATRICK FODDORTH
ROBERT: CLAY AND MORONITE AND HALLIN

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518

397th S-2 apt on a Armed Recon and Dive Bombing Mission - 11 April - sq Miss No. ~~411~~

- A. Opns O No. _____, Miss No. J29-4 - Mission day ONE - 11 April 1945
Armed recon - base to Jena to Leipzig to Chemnitz to Jena to home - D/B and strafing
- B. 368FS - 397 FS - 12A/8 Disp - no a borts
- C. up 0652 - b/1 in 0750 - tot 0900 - b/1 out 0940 - down 1105
- D. One a/c dam by flak Cat "AC"
At D 9668 there were eight JU 52's, two planes of unknown type and one FW 189, all on t the ground. Capt Dame des four JU 52's and one FW 189. He damaged one plane of unknown type. At the same place Lt Horowitz des one JU 52. At the af at Kothen at D 9258 there were 15 planes of various types, mostly twin engine. Those planes in hangars on the field were single engine planes. Capt Krause and Lt Laubach probably destroyed one twin engine white pass plane of unknown type, 1 FW 190, and one ME 109.
- E. 8 x 2 x 500lb M27 frag clusters - inst nose - 16 bombs in tgt area - 4 a/c used as escort Our planes were controlled by Gunpost. They chose ~~knxx~~ their own target which was a m/y at D 9457. In the yard there were 200 assorted cars, many of which were loaded. Some cars carried bombs, some were box cars, some flat cars loaded with MI, some were coal cars loaded with metallic objects, some were flat or coal cars carrying water mines. 16 bombs were dropped here. There were several fires, at least one big one. There was an explosion covering eight tracks. At least 50 cars were destroyed and at least 50 were damaged. In the yard there were six or seven locos which were not harmed by the bombing. Strafing: Capt Dame and Lt Shepard destroyed one loco at D 955690. The loco was pulling eight pass cars northeast. Capt Dame destroyed one loco at D 865560. The loco was pulling eight cars east. Lt Laubaugh damaged two of these cars. Capt Krause and Lt Laubaugh damaged ~~xxx~~ one hangar at the Kothen a/f at D 9258. Capt Krause's flight destroyed 3 locos and damaged 32 cars at the m/y which was bombed. One of these locos was attached to a train of 25 mixed ~~xxx~~ cars going south. Capt Krause's flight damaged two cars on a train going east at D 785605.
- F. Just before 0940 a green ME 109 or FW 190 was seen flying east on the deck at J 4575 Three acc 20 mm guns at D 7957. Two not very acc light guns at the Kothen a/f. One fairly acc 20mm gun at D 9668.
- G. On the rr track in the tgt area there were many trains and much activity. The factories in the area seemed to be very busy.
- H. Bad haze - vis upsun bad, down sun three miles - vis above haze good -- On the way out high stratus clouds were seen.
- I. No sq code
- J. Ground control good
- K. No rt jamming

BOMBS: DAME SHEPARD HOROWITZ HALPIN
HUGHAN ELLIOTT KALLEN KEIL
ESCORT: KRAUSE LAUBAUGH ARLIDGE LEAVOY

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397th B-2 Spt on a Armed recon and dive bombing - 11 April - Sq mission no. ~~10~~ 519

- A. Opns O No. _____, Miss no. J 29-4 - Miss for day TWO - 11 April 1945
Armed recon and dive bombing in area of Jena, Leipzig, and Chemnitz.
- B. 368FW - 397FS - 12a/c disp - no aborts
- C. up ~~1207~~ 1207 - cr h/1 in 1325 - tot 1345 - h/1 out 1450 - down 1556
- D. One of our a/c dam by enemy flak Cat "A"
- E. One FW 190 destroyed by Major Tuite.
- F. 8 x 2 x 540 lb RBX M27 frag clusters - inst nose - 16 bombs in tgt area - 4 a/c escort
Ripsaw one was the controller - 16 bombs were dropped on Seitz a/y at K 0682. There were about 150 cars in the yard of which 20 were destroyed and 20 dam. Scattered MI were strafed by Major Tuite and Lt Barco at K 1054. They des 10. Major Tuite spotted an FW 190 flying south on the deck at K 1054 and chased it to K 0540 where the pilot bailed out and the plane crashed. Major Tuite's plane was at 3000' when he sighted the B/A
- G. Mod acc hvy flak at K 0682. extending north for five miles.
- H. Four buses loaded with male civilians seen at K 1054.
- I. 3/10 cumulus at 8000' - vis 2 to 10 miles - considerable haze -
- J. No eq code
- K. Control good
- L. No rt jamming

SCRS: TUITE BARCO FAULSI Thornton
 YANDEL DEPUTY SHARP LEHRARD
 ESCORT: WEINSTEIN JOHNSTON FRISBIE ROENIG

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Armed Recon and Divebombing Mission: 11 April 45: Sqdn Miss No. 520.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. J29-4: Miss For Day- Three: 11 April 45.
Armed recon base to Jena, to Leipzig, to Chemnitz, to Jena, to base. -
Divebombing and Strafing.
- B - 368 FG, 397 FS. 12 a/c disp. No shorts.
- C - Up 1707, Bl in 1815, TOT 1845, Bl out 1905, Down 2045.
- D - 1 a/c dam by flak cat "A"
- E - 6x2x500 M27 Frag clusters - inst nose. 16 bombs in tgt areas. 4 a/c escort.
KIPSAW 3 acted as controller. Our planes selected their own tgts. The 1st
bombing tgt was a M/I at Espenhain, K3198. This M/I was 60 to 70% filled.
There were about 10 cars, most of them oil cars. There were about 3 rows of
cars, 15 cars in a row. 1 loco was seen. 8 bombs were dropped here. There
were fires and explosions. 12 cars were damaged and several buildings were damaged.
The second bombing tgt was a M/I at K295785 near Altenburg. 8 bombs were dropped
here this M/I was composed of two large yards. Both were well filled. There
were 5 to 400 cars, most of them goods cars, in the two yds together. There were
several explosions, one of them very large. 12 cars dest, 7 dam. 1 loco was seen
moving N. Lt Chancellor particularly distinguished himself in the bombing.
Strafing- Lt Chancellor dest 1 boxcar at the M/I K3198.
- F - Int fairly acc lt flak at M/I at K3198.
Int fairly acc lt flak at M/I at K295785.
- G - In a field at K2796 there was a cluster of what appeared to be flak dugouts.
They were symmetrically arranged. There was a RR across a lake in the vicinity.
This RR is shown on the 1:100,000 maps. The area according to the sqdn leader
seems to be the scene of unusual activity. KIPSAW 3 reported bandits at Gotha.
The N end of Schweinfurt was still burning. No fires were seen on the Schweinfurt
M/D.
- H - Bad weather. haze in tgt area. Vs bad. It was possible to see downward only.
There were altus clouds resulting from the front now passing over. These clouds
stretched out as far as Wurzburg.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground control satisfactory.
- K - No M/I jamming.

Bombs: Carbine, Chancellor, Patrick, Price,
Lewis, Buck, Baker, Woodworth,
No Bombs: Clary, Knocheisen, Osterhart, Kostr, oh.

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Bomber Escort Mission: 12 April 45: Sqdn Mission No 521.

- A - Op Ord No. _____ Miss No. JSAB-1. No ONE for Day. 12 April 45.
Bomber Escort Mission, R/V point Q9016, tgt X9407.
- B - 568 PG, 597 PG. 12 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1014, R/V 1045, Down 1155.
- D - Nil
- E - No bombs.
Sqdn r/v'd with the bombers at 1045 hrs at Q9016. Bombers were at 12,000 ft. Weather had completely closed in at that altitude. They set course for 10 min with the bombers, flying on instruments. At the end of this time they decided that the weather was too thick and they returned to base. The bombers are believed to have continued to their tgt.
- F - Nil
- G - Nil
- H - Broken layer at 4000 ft. 6/10 cover at 5000 ft. 6/10 cover at 8000 ft. 10/10 cover at 10,000 to over 14,000 ft. Vis good when not in clouds.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground control not used.
- K - No R/T jamming.
- Tuite, Shea, Rker, Price.
Sharp, Buck, Kostrach, Johnston.
Yandel, Knooihuizen, Fuley, Woodworth.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Armed Recon and Dive bombing mission: Sqdn Miss No. 522.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. J29-8. Miss TWG for Day. 12 April 45.
Armed Recon and divebombing in area of Bamberg, Lger, Plauen, Bayreuth.
- B - 568 FO, 397 FO. 12 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1448, Or BL in 1600, Tot 1625, Or BL out 1705, Down 1815.
- D - Nil
- E - Six J40 AKA 127 Frags, inst nose. 16 bombs in tgt area. 4 a/c escorted.
GURPAT was the controller. 16 bombs were dropped on a concentration of
28 vehicles N of Forstheim, 04551. There were no claims on the bombing.
Yellow flight strafed and dest 7 veh and dam 9 more, inc 2 possible tanks.
Lt Hogan dam 1 NT.
- F - Nil
- G - Scattered enemy vehicles were seen near Weischefeld, 0945.
- H - 10/10 stratus base 3000ft to 4500 ft, top unknown. vis 2 mi.
- I - Nil
- J - Good
- K - No jamming.

Hogan, Elliott, Patrick, Neil. Bombs.
Lewis, Brayton, Wright, Thornton. Bombs.
Carbine, Shepard, Kelen, Leonard. No Bombs.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Fighter Sweep Mission: 15 April 45; Sqdn. Lia. No. 523:

- A - Ops ord no. _____ Miss no. 523-0; Miss ord for day. 15 April 45.
Fighter sweep to Bayreuth, Brux, Chemnitz.
- B - 508 FG, 527 FG. 12 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1933, or into area 1640, or out 1710, down 1914.
- D - Nil
- E - No bombs.
- F - Our planes covered the assigned area and returned without incident. When they were about 40 mi S of Bayreuth, GUNROSI, their controller, reported 20 a/c landing at Bayreuth a/d. These planes had just returned from strafing our troops. Our sqdn asked to be vectored to Bayreuth a/d, but GUNROSI refused, saying that he had no orders to do so.
- G - Nil
- H - 30 plus a/c seen at Chem a/d, 527 FG, they were single engine fighters and Ju88's.
- I - 7/10 cumulus in layers from 800 to 12000 ft. Many large anvil heads. Vis 5 to 10 mi on deck. Unlimited above.
- J - Sqdn code not used.
- K - Ground control as reported in narrative.
- L - No w/t jamming.

Dave, Chancellor, Horowitz, Leonard.
Rein, Deputy, Kelen, Malpin.
Weinstein, Ansohuizen, Frisbie, Harco.

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Armed Recon and Dive bombing: 14 April 45: Sqdn Miss No. 524.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. J29-7. Miss ONE for Day. 14 April 45.
Armed Recon and Dive bombing in area of Celsnitz, Karsienbad, Karlsbad,
Swickau, and Hof.
- B - 368 FG, 597 FG. 12 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 0727, or into area 0849, 101 0920, or out 0955, Down 1119.
- D - Nil
- E - 8x2x260 MDA Frags. 16 bombs in tgt area. 4 a/c used as escort.
GURPUBI was the controller. An almost complete overcast forced our
planes to use level bombing through a small hole in the clouds over
Aussig, P4547. 16 bombs were dropped there. Results were unobserved,
but it is thought that all bombs hit the city or marshalling yard. The
A/I was filled to capacity. At least 4 locoms were present. 1 was headed
south and one was headed north.
- F - Int inacc hvy flak at probably Bruk, P1930.
- G - 3 P47's flew on the wing of our sqdn on their course home from Bruk for
about 20 min. Two were older than Model D25. They bore the following
markings: Sqdn No KM "31". Two had dull red/zzzzz, one OD. Two
taile
had dull blue noses, one OD. All had USAAF star on fuselage and wings.
All paint was old and faded. They had no belly tanks. One pilot
had no oxygen mask. They headed NW after leaving our planes.
- H - 10/10 stratus cover base 5000 ft top 9000 ft. Low scud. Vis fair
above clouds.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground control good.
- K - No R/I jamming.

Bombs: Tuite, Shepard, Baker, Koenig.
Sharp, Laubaugh, Osterhart, Leavoy.
No Bombs: Lewis, Brayton, Wright, Thornton.

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Armed Recon and Fighter Sweep Mission: Sqdn Miss No. 583.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. J29-7. Miss TWO for Day. 14 April 45.
Armed recon and fighter sweep to Celsnitz, K&A;nsbad, Karlsbad, Zwettau,
and Hof.
- B - 368 Fitr Sq, 397 Fitr Sq. 12 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1255, or in 1345, or out 1450, down 1630.
- D - Nil
- E - 8x45 in AA rockets. 32 rockets ret to base.
SUNPOST was the controller. Sqdn went out on the B part of the armed recon.
They made their 1st contact with SUNPOST at J4510, where the mission was
changed to a fighter sweep, according to a prearranged plan. They completed the
fighter sweep without incident.
- F - Nil
- G - The only break in the 10/10 overcast was at the city of Komotau, P0322,
where 7 locos, five of which were steaming, were seen. The W/I was
70% full
- H - Broken to Rhein, 10/10 S of Rhein, base 5000 ft top 8000 ft. via good
above, 1 mi or less below.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Ground control good.
- K - No jamming.

Rockets: Carbine, Chancellor, Morowitz, Deputy.
Fein, Elliott, Barco, Johnston.

No Rockets: Weinstein, Knoohuizen, Friebe, Helpin.

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8498 S -2 Report on a bomber escort mission - 15 April 1945 - Squadron mission no. 526

- A. Opns order No. ___ Miss No. __ JMB - 1 ----- Mission no for day -1 ---- 15 Apr
Bomber escort for A 20's - rv at Y ~~277~~ 9878 - target Gunsburg Ky at X 8888
- B. 368th Fighter Group, 397th Fighter Squadron- 12 aircraft dispatched - no abortives
- C. Up at Y 34 at 1318 - Bomb line W 1300 - tot 1340 Bomb line out 1415 - down at Y 73 at 1548
- D. Nil
- E. No ground control. RV at Briefed place. Bombers were 3 minutes late. There was 80 A 20's The right area was bombed, but NRO because of overcast. At RV bombers were at 10,000 ft. Thereafter they flew at 13,500 ft. and they bombed at this altitude. Our planes left the bombers at the RV place at 1415.
- F and G. Nil
- H. Target area: LG/10 cloud covered. - ~~stratus~~ clouds - base unknown - top 9,000 ft.- visibility good above overcast., one half mile below overcast
- I. Squadron code no used.
- J. No ground control.
- K. No IT R/T jamming.

Hogan Ches Patrick Woodworth
Fein Macchulzen Horowitz Johnston
Yandel Buck LeGrand Barco.

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397th S - 2 Report on an air field strafing and armed race mission - 15 April 45
 Squadron mission no 527

- A. Opns No _____ Mission No J 29-7 Mission number for day 2 15 April 45
 Mission was to have been strafing of air field at F 5858 and armed race
 without bombs. from base to TEMPLITE - SOMONAU (F3044) to PILSEN (10545)
 to airfield at F 5858 to base. Weather conditions preventing the execution
 of this mission.
- B. ~~Original~~ 368th Fighter Group, 397th Fighter Squadron, Twelve aircraft
 dispatched, no abortives.
- C. Up 1755 down 1944
- D. Two planes destroyed as the result of a mid air collision. One pilot bailed
 out and is safe.
- E. Lt Wright and Elliott had a mid air collision in the area of N 8062, according
 to gun post, and in the area of N 7282, according to one of our pilots. The
 planes crashed in the area of the collision. One pilot bailed out. and he was
 seen on the ground waving his hands. several soldiers were with him. The
 collision was the result of bad weather. Our planes scattered because of bad
 weather and when they reached the area of O- 0095 they had to turn back.
- F and G Nil
- H. Area of collision; 10/10 cloud coverage stratus clouds, base 4500 ft. top
 7500 ft.
 10/10 cloud coverage, stratus clouds base 9,000 ft top unknown,
 In places the top of the lower layer joined the bottom of the upper layer
 visibility between layers was good -- visibility in clouds was very bad.
- I. Squadron code not used.
- J. Ground control satisfactory.
- K. No RF jamming.

Base Leubaugh Leavoy Thornton
 Helen Elliott Baker Koenig
 R. D. Sharp, Chancellor Wright Deputy.

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397th B-2 Sgt ad's Armed Recon without bombs-16 April-44. Miss No. ~~44~~ 528

1. Opus C No. _____ Miss No. 399-4- Miss for day one- 16 April 1945
 Armed recon without bombs against road and rail movement- Base to Marienberg (2844)
 to Prague (17887) to Dresden to Marienberg (2844) to base. strafing.
2. 368th Fighter Group- 397th Fighter Squadron- 11 B-2s dispatched- 1 plane pilot
 returned early. His element did not take off, and he was ordered to return as
 needed man.
3. Up 3708-bomb line in 0745 -bomb line out 0745- down 1044.
4. Nil
5. Out planes were controlled by Gunpost. They followed the assigned armed recon
 strafing (area of 23020) - Lts. Halen and Shepard destroyed three locomotives;
 one locomotive was attached to five boxcars and it was going north. Each of the
 other two locomotives was attached to five passenger cars, and they were going
 east. Lt. Shepard damaged four or five passenger cars. Maj Witte and Lts.
 Chancellor destroyed two locomotives and damaged five passenger cars. One
 locomotive was attached to five passenger cars, and was going west. The other
 locomotive was attached to ten boxcars, and was going south.
 strafing (area of 23070) Maj Witte's flight destroyed ten BT's and two horse
 drawn vehicles. Lt. Chancellor destroyed one flak car out of five stationary
 flak cars. Lts. Sharp and Leavoy destroyed ~~fourteen~~ fourteen BT's and one ~~one~~
 that looked as if it might perhaps be a work shed. Lt. Johnston destroyed one
 BT and one locomotive. The locomotive was pulling four oil cars north. Lt.
 Frisbie destroyed one BT.
6. Night not very accurate light guns on the flak cars mentioned above.
 Weak, inaccurate, light flak in the area of 23030.
7. Nil
8. Good weather. Visibility 8 to 10 miles in target areas. There were clouds on the
 way out, but they dissipated.
9. Squadron code not used.
10. ~~Ground control satisfactory.~~ Ground control satisfactory.
11. No R/T jamming

WITTE CHANCELLOR FRISBIE ROSTRACH
 HALEN SHEPARD KOENIG (returned early on orders)
 R.D. SHARP LEAVOY FRISBIE JOHNSTON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

397th Ftr Sqdn 3-2 Rpt on a Armed recon without bombs against road and rail movement --
16 April 1945 -- Sqdn Mission No. 529

- A. Opns O No. _____, Miss no. J29-4 -- miss for day two - 16 April 45
Armed recon without bombs against road and rail movement - base to Marienberg K 8442
to Prague L 7887 to Dresden to Marienberg to base - Strafing
- B. 36820 - 39720 - 12 a/c disp no aborts
- C. up 1805 -b/1 in 1300 - b/1 out 1425 - down 1522
- D. No battle damage to our planes.
Lt Yandel and Lt Fein each des one ME 262 as they were taking off at an a/f at
L 6689 - the time was 1430. About 12 e/a, all me 262's, took off at this time. One of th
them was seen at 3000' or 4000' - those that were not shot down flew away from our p
planes. On the field 75 a/c were seen - JU 52's, gliders and ME 262's
- E. Ripsaw three "A" controlled our planes. They flew to Marienberg, then almost to
Prague, and then home. In the area of K 9922 Lt Hogan's flight strafed and des
1 MT and trailer. In the area of L 0687 Lt Fein's flight strafed and des 16 MT.
In the area L5592 Lt Hogan's flight des one loco standing stationary in a a/y. This
loco was not attached to cars. In the same area Lt Hogan's flight des one loco pull-
ing 6 or 10 box cars aw. This train was not in the a/y. All the cars on the train
were strafed and des by Lt Fein.
- F. Inten fairly acc light flak at the a/f mentioned above.
- G. There was scattered vehicles in the area over which our planes flew.
- H. Generally good weather between Schweinfurt and Plauen there was a 40% cloud coverage -
light cumulus clouds with base of 4000' and top at 7000' - - vis generally good -
vis at enemy a/f poor -
- I. no sq code
- J. ground control good
- K. no rt jamming

NO BOMBS: HOGAN KEIL PATRICK PRICE
FEIN BRAYTON THORNTON LE GRAND
YANDEL KNOCHHUISSEN BAKER BARCO

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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397th s-2 Rpt on a a/f strafing mission - 16 April 1945 - 39 Miss no. 530

- A. Opns O No. _____, Miss no. J 29-4 -- Miss for day three -- April 16
Strafing of Prague a/f at L 8792 and of a/f at L 6689 -
- B. 368MU - 397FS - 12 a/c disp plus one spare - 3 aborts - first: rough engine; second abort was the spare who took the place of the first (belly tank trouble); third abort accompanied second.
- C. up 1635 - b/l in 1700 - a/f strafing betw 1745 and 1830 - b/l out 1910 - down 1934
- D. 2 a/c dam by flak cat "AC"
Col Carbine dam one JU 52 in the air at L 8792 a/f
- E. Our planes had set out on an ~~xxxx~~ armed recon mission. Lindsay called them and gave them as priority strafing tets the Prague a/f at L 8792 and the a/f at L 6689.
Strafing results at a/f at L 8792: Col Carbine dam 1 camouflaged 1 plane of unknown type and des 1 silver plane of unknown type with a big canopy on top. Lt Woodworth des one JU 52, dam 1 JU 52 and dam 1 JU 88. Lt Kalen dam 1 JU 52 and des 1 JU 52. Lt Laubaugh des 1 JU 52. Lt Koenig dam 1 JU 88 and Dam two planes of unknown type. Lt Sharp des 1 plane of unknown type and dam 2 of unknown type. Lt Shea dam 1 JU 88. Lt Kostrach des one ju 88. Lt Laubaugh dam 1 flak position. Lt Koenig dam a depot area.
Strafing results at a/g at L 6689: Col Carbine des 1 ju 52 and dam 1.
At the a/f at L 8792 there were 20 planes of mixed types. At the a/f at L 6689 there were 50 planes of mixed types.
- F. Mod very acc light flak at the a/f at L 8792. Mod inacc light flak at the a/f at L 6689. Weak inacc hvy flak at the a/f at L 6689.
- G. There were many rr cars and much rr activity in the Prague area.
- H. CAVU
- I. sq code not used
- J. Ground control satisfactory
- K. Generator type jamming of low tone in tgt area during the whole time our planes were out there. This jamming did not prevent them from ~~xx~~ carrying out there mission.
- NO BOMBS: CARBINE WOODWORTH FAULKY (ABORT - ACCOMPANIED JOHNSTON) HUNT (ABORT-ROUGH ENGINE)
KALEN LAUBAUGH HOBOWITZ KOENIG
R D SHARP SHEA KOSTRACH HORD
SPARE: JOHNSTON (TOOK HUNT'S PLACE- ABORTIVE BECAUSE OF BELLY TANK TROUBLE)

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397th Str Sq B-2 Rpt on a Armed Recce without bombs: Sqdn Miss No 531.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. J29-7 Miss ONE for Day. 17 April 45
Armed Recce without bombs against rd and rr movement - base to Marienburg, RS442,
to Prague, to Dresden, to Riase, RS916, to base.
- B - 368 FG, 397 FG. 12 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 0743, BL in 0845, Strafed at about 0915, BL out 1040. Down 1153.
- D - 3 a/c dam flak cat "A".
- E - Our planes were controlled by RIFAW 3a.
Strafing by Lts Woodworth and Hord in area of Komotau, F0020. 6 locos dam, 4 dest.
6 cars in a troop train of 12 to 14 cars going S. 15 to 20 personnel killed.
1 goods wagon dest. Several boxcars dam.
Strafing by Lts Hogan and Keil in area of Komotau. 4 locos dest, 1 dam. 2 of the 4
locos were on opposite ends of a train of 30 boxcars and red cross cars. This train
was stationary. 1 loco was pulling 10 boxcars N.
Strafing by Lts Patrick and Shea at Postelberg, F2412. 5 locos dest and 1 dam. 1
loco was pulling 20 boxcars N. A second was pulling 10 pass cars S. 2 of the locos
were switch engines, and it was one of those which was damaged. An other loco was
pulling 25 boxcars N. 2 MTs dest, 1 steamshovel dest, 15 personnel killed.
Strafing by Lts Thoratton and Hunt in the Pilsen M/Y. 2 locos dest. 1 loco was
pulling 8 to 10 pass cars E. The other was attached to 3 or 4 boxcars and was
stationary.
Strafing by Lts Weinstein and KAMLER Handlin, in the area of L2697. 2 locos dest.
6 were stationary in a M/Y and were unattached. Each of the other 2 was attached to
10 boxcars in the M/Y and was heading W. A roundhouse in the M/Y containing locos
was strafed. The roundhouse and 3 locos were dam. In the M/Y there were 30 box
and pass cars. One of the locos mentioned above was attached to 20 pass and oil cars,
and was heading N.
Strafing by Lts Legrand and Barco, in area of L2697. 1 loco dest. This loco was
pulling 8 boxcars W. 1 loco dam. This loco was unattached and stationary. 3 MTs
dest, 1 stationhouse dam.
- F - Mod acc lt flak at L2395. Mod fly acc hvy flak at F1 638.
- G - In the area of F0020 there were roundhouses full of engines. In the area of F1630
there was a factory with 9 funnels going full steam. There was much rr traffic
in the tgt area.
- H - TOT area: Ground fog haze at base vis 10 mi in tgt area.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground controller good.
- K - No R/E jamming.

Hogan, Keil, Woodworth, Hord.
Patrick, Shea, Thoratton, Hunt.
Weinstein, Handlin, LeGrand, Barco.

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397th S-2 Rpt on a Armed recon without bombs - 17 April - Sq Mission No. 532

- A. Opas C No. _____, Miss No. J29-7 - Miss for day two - 17 April 45
Armed recon without bombs against road and rail movement - base to Marienberg K 8442 to Prague to Dresden to Riesa K 8916 to base - Strafing
- B. 362FG - 397 FS - 12 s/c disp - no aborts
- C. up 1324 - b/l in 1415 - strafed 1500 - b/l out 1550 - down 1648
- D. Two planes dam by flak out "A" --
On a strafing pass in the area of Y 5232 Lt Koenig hit a telephone pole. He was seen going in. In the area of Pirna, F 3280 Lt Banks was hit by flak. He was heard to say that he would bail out but he was not seen to bail out. His plane was not seen to crash, and no-one thought that it was on fire. He was seen smoking. At one point he was seen heading toward a large hill but he wheeled south with the squadron when it made a south turn. An s/c was seen flying at a rather low altitude at this time. It is not knowwhether or not this plane was that of Lt Banks.
- E. Our planes were controlled by Ripew three "A". He gave them a tgt consisting of 11 trains at F 2981. Our planes never got there because of the losses and the flak dam mentioned in "D" above. Capt Krause's flight strafed a m/y at F 4831. Two locos were destroyed. Both of them were attached to a train of twelve flat cars and box cars heading east. All the cars were damaged, and three fires were seen on the train. Five cars were loaded with MT, three on a car. Two MT were des and 13 were dam. Capt Krause's flight strafed and des 5 MI at F 5331. They strafed a group of 12 round concrete oil tanks at F 4030. Six oil tanks were hit but the bullets were seen to ~~flame~~ ricochet. At F 5150 what looked like ammo boxes were being hauled out of a haystack and loaded on an MI. The MI loaded 4 or 5 boxes high. Capt Krause's flight strafed here and dam the MI. No fires were seen.
- F. At 1414 a jet plane was seen flying at 16000' in the area of Marienberg, K 8442, perhaps a little southwest of the city.
very intan very acc hvy flak at F F 3280. Very intan very acc light flak at F 3280. light flak in the strafing areas.
- G. At 1410 a hvy allied bomber was seen going down in flames just northeast of Marienberg K 8442.
- H. Vis into sun was 2 or 3 miles. vis down sun was 8 or 10 miles. in places vis was very low.
- I. No sq code
- J. Ground control good except that on at least one occasion our ~~pat~~ planes were given a wrong heading.
- K. No rt jamming, but one channel was overloaded and there was so much conversation during the period in which our planes were in the tgt area that comm was very difficult.

NO BOMBS: KRAUSE BANKS BAKER KOENIG
RD SHARP HUCK HONOWITZ JOHNSTON
YANDEL LAUBAUGH LEAVY KNOOBUIZEN

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397th B-2 Rpt on an Armed recon without bombs -- 17 April - Sq Mission No. 533

- A. Opns O No. _____, Miss No. J 29-7 -- 17 April -- Miss for day Three
Armed recon without bombs against road and rail movement - base to Marienberg E 8842
to Prague to Dresden to Miss E 8916 to base - strafing
- B. 368FS - 397 FS - 12 a/c disp - no aborts
- C. up 1751 - b/l in 1840 - strafed 1900- b/l out 1948 - down 2050
- D. Nil
- E. I saw three controlled our planes. The suggestion that he had a tgt came to late
to be acted on. Major Tuite and Lt Chancellor strafed and des 3 MT out of 30
scattered MT moving south at # 3938
- F. two a/c (fighters- either ME 109 or FW 190) were seen on the ground apparently
about to take off on an a/f at # 0817. The time was 1830.
Inten see light flak at the place of strafing. Inten see hvy flak at # 1040
Inten inacc light flak at E 3761 (one pilot reported that this flak came from 30 to
40 trucks parked in a field apparently for the night. This point is on our side of
the b/l.)
- G. It was reported that there were 200 or 300 enemy vehicles including tanks on the
Autobahn west of Chemnitz moving west.
- H. Poor vis - 3 to 6 miles -
- I. no sq code
- J. Ground control good
- K. No rt jamming

NO BOMBS: TUITE CHANCELLOR FAULEY HUNT
KALEN KEIL LE GRAND WOODWORTH
FEIN SHEPARD THORNTON BRAYTON

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397th B-2 rpt on an Armed recon without bombs - 18 April 1945 - Sq Mission No. 534

- A. Opns 0 No. _____, Miss no. J 49-3 - Miss for day one - 18 April 1945
Armed recon without bombs - base to Karlsbad to Prague to Komotau F 0081 to Karlsbad to base.
- B. 368FD - 397FB - 12 a/c disp - no aborts
- C. up 0707 - b/l in 0750 - b/l out 1000 - down 1036
- D. 2 a/c dam by flak out "A"
- E. Our planes comm with Ripsaw three, who offered them a tgt. This tgt, which was not a priority tgt, was in the area covered by flapper squadron. For that reason our planes did not set out to attack it. The western half of the armed recon area was covered. The vis on the way out on the first leg was bad hence our planes had to cut the armed recon short.
Strafing (area of L2096, near Schonwald): Lt Leavoy des 1 loco. Lts Leavoy and Johnston dam the 5 pass attached to this loco. The train was going southeast. They strafed personnel in the train and Lt Johnston strafed the woods in which the Germans sought to find cover
Strafing (area of F 0315, near Brezno): Lt Barco des 1 loco in a w/y. Lt Knocin izan den 5 out of 20 to 25 box cars attached to this loco. The train was going southeast. There were three other burned out trains in the same w/y.
Strafing (area of K 9704): Col Carbine and Lt Chancellor des 1 loco. The loco was pulling 4 box cars to the north.
Col Carbine and Lt Chancellor strafed and des 1 loco in the area of P 8484. There was oil in this RT.
Strafing (area of P 5693): Lt Chancellor des 1 loco at P 5693. This loco was pulling 30 to 40 mixed cars to the east. Near the end of the train there were some tank cars. Lt Pauley dam 2 box cars. Lt Leavoy dam 8 cars and des an ammo car. The ammo car blew up and in doing so blew up a road bridge in the vicinity. The explosion of the ammo car caused the des of three or four other cars. Lt Johnston dam 3 cars, 4 houses in the vicinity. The cars on this train were fully loaded.
- F. A jet plane was seen at Karlsbad at 25000' at 0805 to 0810
mod acc 20 mm flak at P 6094. weak acc hvy flak at a/f at P 1711
- G. There was a strand of new copper wire stretched along the north side of a road betw K 9502 and K 9702. At one point in the course of the mission bandits were called in moving in the direction of our planes. There was very little road activity in the tgt area. Even scattered vehicles were very rare. There was very little movement in the tgt area. A Red cross train was seen in a town at P 6094. An a/f was seen at P 1711. 2 a/c were seen on this field.
- H. 5/10 cloud coverage cumulus clouds base 5000' top 9000' There was such haze in the tgt area. The top was at 6000' or 7000'. This haze restricted vis
- I. no sq code
- J. ground control satisfactory
- K. RT jamming of low tone type in the tgt area during the whole period in which our planes were out there.
- NO BOMBS: CARBINE CHANCELLOR BARCO KNOCINIZAN
PAULEY BUCK LEAVOY JOHNSTON
YANDEL DEPUTY FRISBIE HORD

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397th S-8 Rpt on a Dive Bombing and Strafing Mission - 18 April -- Sq Miss No. 535

- A. Opns O No. _____, Mission No. J 29-3 - Miss for day TWO - 18 April 45
Dive bombing and strafing of 100 tanks reported to be betw U0483 and T 9570.
- B. 368th FG - 397 FG - 12 A/C Disp - no aborts
- C. up 1431 - b/l in 1514 - tot 1518 - b/l out 1621 - down 1710
- D. 1 a/c dxn by enemy Flek Cat "A"
- E. 12 x 2 x 100gal ~~napalm~~ bombs - 24 bombs in tgt area - ~~4/4/4/4/4/4/4/4/4/4/4/4~~
Our plane used no ground controller. Ripsaw was too far away to be contacted in tgt area. Our planes were unable to find the tanks reported at U0483 to T 9570. 20 bombs were dropped on a concentration of about ten MT and numerous personnel at T 8867. Capt Lane destroyed 2 MT with bombs and the remaining bombs des 2 more MT and killed at least 20 personnel. 2 bombs were dropped at U 1384 NW. Capt Lane strafed and des 4 MT and 2 oxen in the area of T 8867.
- F. 2 MT 262's were seen at T 7083 - hight 10000' at 1620 hours - Our planes did not attack because they were low on gasoline.
Weak inscc light at T 8275
- G. 2 groups of 300E each PW's were seen moving south on a road at T 9360. They had British battle dress and black berets. ~~There was a scattering of German soldiers among them.~~ They had white flags, which they waved. 5 other scattered groups of about 20 each were seen in the same area. A P 31 was seen belied in at T 9160, bearing the markings LZ G and having a red tail.
- H. Fairly hvy haze, 4/10 cumulus and strato-mumulus clouds at 8000' - vis 1 to 2 miles.
- I. No sq code
- J. Our planes were out of range of ground control
- K. RT jamming at 1700 hours five minutes from field, whizzing noise like a generator of 1 minute duration.

ALL BOMBS: DANE SHEPARD HONOWITZ KEIL
FRAN BRAYTON THOMPTON HUNT
HEINSTEIN HANDLIN LE GRAND WOODBORN

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397 1-2 Not on a Armed recon -- without bombs -- 18 April 45 - Mission No. 836

- A. Opns 0 no. Miss No. J 29-3 -- Miss for day THREE - 18 April 45
- B. Armed recon in area of Prague, Karlsbad and Komotau - strafing
- C. 36879 - 397 1-2 - 12 A/c disp - no aborts
- D. up 1802 - b/l in 1850 - tot 1900 - b/l out 1930 - down 2018
- E. Nil
- F. No bombs. Sipsaw three gave our squadron an a/f at Pilsen as their tgt but they decided it was too far to go. Lt Sharp des 1 RT with a double trailer at P 4298. They then flew north but saw no farther tgts.
- G. Inten fairly ecc light flak at P 8294
- H. Nil
- I. haze - and 3/10 thin strato - cumulus at 12000' - vis 1 mile upsun - 5 down sun
- J. no sq code
- K. Ground control good
- L. No RT Jamming

NO BOMBS: BARKER LAUBACH BAKER HENNINGSEN
KALIN RUCK LEAVY HORD
SHARP FRICK PATRICK CHANCELLOR

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397th S-E Rpt on a Armed Recon -- 20 April 1945 -- Sqdn Mission No. 537

- A. Opns O No. _____, Miss No. J 59-4 - Miss for day on s -- 20 April 45
Armed recon in area of Tzer, Komlice and Kistofy.
- B. 36272 - 39723 - 13 a/c disp - 1 abort -- Lt Salens landing gear failed to retract.
- C. up 0646 - b/l in 0745 - toto 0815 - b/l out 0830 - down 1036
D Nil
- E. No bombs - While our planes were on the recon Rabbi red sent them to K 6132 where there was a concentration of about 20 half tracks and MT, headed west. Lt Hogan and Handlin des 3 half tracks. Lt Patrick and Rust des 6 MT and down one half track. Lt Fein and Laubaugh des a loco and down 20 cars headed north at K 6230. They des one truck at K 6728 and strafed a goods depot down one building at K 6628.
- F. Nil
- G. Many groups of boxes about 6 by 10 feet or larger seen along the roads in the strafing area.
- H. 10/10 low stratus clouds - base 500' top to 1500' moving southeast from the target area. Vis good after passing thru clouds
- I. No s a ctd
- J. Ground control good
- K. No r# jamming
- NO BOMBS HOGAN HANLIN PATRICK RUST
SALENS (ABORT) SHUPARD Horowitz IR GRAND
FEIN LAUBAUGH THORNTON SUGARSKIN
- Lt Salens aborted. Lt Horowitz took over yellow flight and Lt Shea (spare) flew yellow four. Lt Grand flew yellow three.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

397th S-2 Spt on Armed Recon Mission - 20 April 1945 - Sgdn Mission No. 538

- A. Opns S No. ____ Miss no. J 23-4 - Miss for day two - 20 April 1945
Armed recon mission in area of Ngor, Domazlico and Klatovy.
- B. 368th S3 - 357FS - 12 a/c drop - no aborts
- C. up 1407 - b/l in 1310 - b/l out 1430 - down 1523
- D. Nil
- E. 5 bombs - Ripway three was their controller. At U 8899 Col Carbine dam 10 out of 50 cars and des a tank position. He des one car and dam a trailer at P 8724. Lt Barco and Ford des 14 cars at P 8202. Yellow flight des 1 loco and 2 cars and dam 1 loco and 48 cars at U 9857. Lt Chancellor des 1 tractor and trailer and 2 horse drawn trailers, at P 8724. Lt Sharp and Neil des 1 car and 1 trailer at P 8724. Red and yellow flights strafed a large building area some buildings of which were revetted and 8 or 10 buildings and causing a large oil fire at P 8825. *of Deputy damaged in buildings.*
- F. mod acc lt 6 9899
- G. Klatovy L 0305 at had several fire s burning. The town of Miles F 5834 was burning violently. South of Waseritz 7558 a group of 500 refugees was seen moving east. They carried white flags and the women wore white head dresses
- H. Scattered high Cirrus - vis good
- I. sq code not used
- J. Ground control good
- K. At jamming of a low humming variety lasted through out the mission

NO BOMBS: CARRISON CHANCELLOR BARCO FORD
SHARP NEIL FRISBIE DEPUTY
WEINSTEIN PRICE BAKER BRAYTON

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Armed Recon Mission without bombs: 20 APR 45: Sqdn Miss No. 539.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. J89-4. Miss THREE for Day. 20 April 45.
Armed Recon without bombs. base to Eger, P3274, to Domazlice, P7608, to
Klatovy, LOSOS, to Eger, to base. Strafing.
- B - 368 FG, 397 FG. 18 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1633, BL in 1745, Strafe 1810, BL out 1850, Down 2003.
- D - Nil
- E - Our planes were controlled by RIPSAN 3. They selected their own strafing tgt.
Lts Leavoy and Shea strafed boxcars and several pass cars, 30 cars in all, at
Weissen, P9544. 2 boxcars were dest (burning), 23 cars, at least 1 of which
was a pass car, were damaged. The assigned A/R area was covered, and the
legs were fairly closely followed, but they were taken in reverse.
- F - Nil
- G - RIPSAN 3 called in many bogies.
- H - Weather had no bearing on mission.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground control good.
- K - No R/T kessing.

Tuite, Laubaugh, Leavoy, Shea.
Faulley, Johnston, Thornyon, Knocihuizen.
Yandel, Arrington, Horowitz, LeGrand.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of A/R without bombs Mission: 21 Apr 45: Bdr Miss No. 540.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. J29-1 Miss ONE for Day. 21 Apr 45.
A/R without bombs. Base to Eger, P3274, to Domazlice, P7608, to Klatovy, L0305. Strafing.
- B - 368 PG, 399 FB. 12 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 0653, BL in 0745, EL out 0945, Down 1048.
- D - Nil
- E - Controller was GUNPOST. They performed the assigned A/R. Lt Yandal strafed and dest 1 Do217 and dest 1 Helll at the Cheb A/D (S A/D) in area of P3375. Lt Price and Leavoy, and Hunt each strafed and dest 1 Do217 at the same A/D. Capt Dame dest 1 unidentified trng plane at the N Cheb A/D in the area of P3375. Capt Dame and Lt Arrington strafed and dest 1 Me410 at the same A/D.
- Strafing by Capt Dame and Lt Knocinhuizen: 2 stationary unattached locos dest at P9737. 2 unattached locos des at P 7855. 2 unattached locos des at P 8040. 1 loco des at an unknown place.
- Capt Dame strafed and destroyed 1 MT at P 4066. Lt Hunt strafed and des 1 house at the southern a/f at Cheb. Lt Knocinhuizen strafed and des 1 house at P 9649. Lts Barco and Brayton des 2 MT and a large double trailer to which a smaller vehicle was attached at P 8343. Lts Barco and Brayton des 3 MT at P 7710.
- F. weak inacc lt flak and small arms fire at both Cheb a/f with strafing at the southern a/f silenced the flak there.
- G. There was a red cross train of at 15 cars without a loco just outside of Milson. West of Eger there was several towns on fire. At the a/f at Milson 4 PW 190's and 4 large planes were seen. What looked like a V bomb launching sight was seen in the area of Heid P 6366. A factory and 30 to 40 warehouses and barracks buildings were seen at P 9137. At P 8341 about 25 men and 2 horses were seen. The men seemed to wear wearing GI clothing and GI overcoats and there were waving white flags. There presumed to be PWs.
- H. Weather had not seen on the mission
- I. No sq code
- J. ground control good
- K. No rt jamming

NO BOMBS: DAME ARRINGTON FAULKY HUNY INQUIRY
RD SHARP SERA BARCO BRAYTON
YANDAL PRICE LEAVOY HUNT

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~~XXXXXXXXXX~~397th B-2 Rpt on an Armed Recce Mission - 21 April - Squadron Mission Number 541

- A. Opns O No. _____, Miss No. J 29-1 - Miss for day two - 21 April 1945
Armed recce in area of Eger, P3274, Domazlice F 7808, and Z Klatovy L 0305
- B. 308 FG - 397 FB - 12 a/c disp - no aborts
- C. up 1210 - b/1 in 1300 - b /1 out 1405 - down 1513
- D. Nil
- E. No bombs -- Gunpost was the controller. Lt Fein des 1 MT southwest of Pilsen at P9319
he also des a search light battery at P 9324. The sq completed its armed recce without
further action or observations
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. North part of tgt area 10/10 - base 5000' lowering - south part of tgt area 10/10
base 8000' -- from tgt area to base 10/10 with base from 8000' to 5000' -- via good
except under lowering clouds
- I. No s, code
- J. Ground control good
- K. No rt jamming

NO BOMBS: TUIE CHEMELICH BAKER HORD
KALAN SHEPARD HOROWITZ LE GRAND
FRIC LAUBAUGH THORNTON WOODBURN

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Report of Cross-Cover Mission: 22 April 45. Area Mission No. 315.

- A - Op/Ord No. _____ Miss No. J49-3. Apr 22 45. Miss for Day: 315.
Area Cover for W/Ds at Nurnburg, Nurnberg, Bayreuth, and Gotha.
- B - 368 FD, 397 FD. B a/e disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 3000, down 4000.
- D - Nil
- E - Our planes flew to Nurnburg, Nurnberg, and Bayreuth, then turned
back because of bad weather.
- F - Nil
- G - Nil
- H - IC/10 cover in places from deck to indefinite height. Vis good in
clear spots. Very heavy rime icing at 4000 ft.
- I - Code code not used.
- J - Ground control good.
- K - No W/I jamming.

Rogan, Chancellor, Barco, Weil.
Lelah, Shepard, Morowitz, Buck.

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Armed Recon Mission: 23 April 45: Sqn Miss No. 543.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. J29-0 Miss ONE for Day. 23 Apr 45.
Armed Recon in area of Taschau, P5144, Pilsen, Prague, and Karlsbad.
- B - 368 PG, 397 FS. 12 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1614, Cr BL 1730, TOT 1735, Cr out 1745, Down 1905.
- D - Nil
- E - 8x2x260 frag bombs inst nose and tail. 16 bombs in tgt area.
4 a/c used as escort.
GRMPOST was the controller. Sqn picked a tgt of 12 MT's at U5961.
16 bombs were dropped destroying 8 MT's.
No strafing.
- F - Nil
- G - A large concentration of our vehicles was seen at Kallmunz, N of Regensburg, at U0571.
- H - Patch of High cirrus at 14,000 ft. 10/10 cover with large breaks from 9000 to 13,000 ft. Towering cumulus 4000 to 9000 ft. Broken cirrus beneath. Vis generally good.
- I - Sqn code not used.
- J - GRMPOST had difficulty in receiving even when our planes were overhead.
- K - No R/T jamming.

Bombs: Tuite, Arrington, Brayton, Knooihuizen.
Patrick, Moore, Leavoy, Hunt.
No bombs: Sharp, Laubaugh, Baker, Shea.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

397 B-2 Rpt on an Armed Recon and Dive Bombing Mission -- 24 April - Sq mission 544

- A. Ops C No. _____, Miss no. J 29-3 - Miss for day ONE - 24 April 1945
Armed recon and dive bombing mission in area of Pilsen, Prague, Karlsbad. Alt tgt
MT Park at L 085399
- B. 368 FG - 297 FS - 12 A/G Disp - No aborts
- C. up 0836 - Cr b/l in 0915 - tot 1025 - b/l out 1115 - down 1207
- D. One of our a/c dam by flak Cat "AC" - One dam by flak Cat "A" -
- E. 8 x 2 x 260 frags - Inst rose non-delay tail - 16 bombs in tgt area. - 4 a/c used as
escort.
Gunpost was the controller but our planes exceeded his range. The assigned tgt was cover
ed with clouds. Our planes flew east and bombed a m/y and an MT depot believed to be
near Jihlava M 7018. There were 150 cars in the m/y and 10 to 15 locos headed north.
Red flight dropped eight bombs on the m/y des 3 locos and 15 cars and dam 25 cars.
Yellow flight dropped eight bombs on the MT depot which consisted of 5 or 6 modern
yellow brick buildings. 100 plus MT were at the depot. Bombing destroyed 10 MT and 1
building and dam 10 MT and 3 buildings. The squadron strafed the m/y des 4 locos and
dam 18 cars. They also strafed the MT depot des at least 50 MT and dam 30. They also
strafed a group of 35 MT in woods west of the MT depot. 5 were des and 15 were dam(MT).
Many fires were left in these three strafing locations. They also strafed a troop
train of 5 cars slightly west of the m/y des all of the cars and killing or wounding
about 100 personnel as they left the train.
- F. one probable jet propelled plane was sighted at a distance west of Prague at 1015 hours
altitude 20000'.
Mod acc light flak at M 7018 -
- G. Nil
- H. 10/10 cumulus - base 3500' top 10 to 12000' scud above - vis 5 to 7 miles
rain showers
- I. Sqdn code not used
- J. Ground control satisfactory while in range
- K. No rt jamming
- BOMBS: KRAUSE CHANCELLOR THORNTON HORD
KALLIN HANDELIN HOROWITZ BUCK
- ESCORT: WEINSTEIN SHEPARD WOODWORTH PRICE

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397th T-8 Spt on an Armed Recon and Dive Bombing - 24 April 1945 - W/da Mission No. 545

- A. Opns No. _____, Mission No. J29-3 - Miss for day T80 - 24 April 1945
- B. Armed recon and dive bombing in area of Pilsen, Prague, and Karlsbad -
- C. 366AFG - 397 FS - 12 a/c disp - no shorts
- D. up; 1332 - b/1 in 1515 - tot 1590 - out 1535 & down 1655
- E. Nil
- F. 8 x 2 x 160lb Frag - inst nose non-delayed tail - 16 bombs in tgt area - 4 a/c escort
- G. Gunpost was the controller - 16 bombs were dropped at 4152. A few piles of supplies were in a field near a farm. Capt Lane des a barn and a wagon and 2am 1 M and a house. Lts Frisbie and Barco each cut the road.
- H. Nil
- I. The town of Legendt at U 8339 was on fire
- J. 9/10 cumulus - from deck to 7000' - vis good
- K. No sq code
- L. Gunpost tried to send our planes beyond the effective range of his control.
- M. No rt jamming

BO BS: LANE ABRINGTON FRISBIE HUNTER
 FEIN MOORE BAICO LAUBACH
 ESCORT: SHARP SHEA KESTRICH KEIL.

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397 B-2 Rpt on an Armed Recon and Dive Bombing Mission - Miss for day Three -
 397th Bombardment Group Mission No. 546 - 24 April 1945

- A. Opns C. _____, Miss No. J 397-3 - Miss for day Three - 24 April 1945
 Armed Recon and dive bombing in area of Pilsen, Prague, and Karlsbad - alt tgt at Park
 H. at L 085399
- B. 308 FB - 397 FB - 12 A/c disp - no aborts -
- C. up 1756 - b/l in 1850 - tot 1910 - b/l out 1930 - down 2030
- D. Nil
- E. Sixty 250lb frag - Inst non-delayed tail - 16 bombs in tgt area - 4 a/c escort
 Gunpost was the controller. Yellow flight dropped 8 bombs on the assigned tgt, an
 MT park at L 085399. It consisted of 15 to 20 low buildings. 30 plus MT were parked
 in a court yard. Lt Shepard saw 2 buildings, Lt Leavoy 4 buildings, Lt Baker 3 build,
 and Lt Johnston 3 build. The MT were not hit. Red flight dropped eight bombs on the
 Pilsen a/f at L 0840. They hit the adm build area but results could not be assessed
 because of haze.
- F. 1 2 engine a/c was seen taking off from the a/f at L 0840 at 1915 hours.
 very intense smoke at flak L 0840. weak smoke hvy flak L 0840 -
- G. Mod hvy traffic was seen leaving Pilsen headed southeast. Hvy landing was seen
 in the a/f at Pilsen. No locos seen. 1 single engine and one twin engine a/c were
 seen on the a/f L 0840. Gunpost called in 228 locos at U 835150 but our planes did
 not attack as it was growing late and this location was off their maps.
- H. 9/10 star stratus base 7000' - top 9 to 10000' - thick haze - vis good above clouds
 1/2 mile below -
- I. Sq code not used
- J. Ground control good
- K. No rt jamming

MEMBER NAMES: HOGAN CHANCELLOR BRAYTON HUNT
 KUCIENI BAKER ONE PAUL LEAVOY JOHNSTON
 REPORT: ~~REPORT~~ HANDELIN HORDWITZ BUCK

Kalen

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Area Cover Mission: 25 April 45 : Sqdn Mission No. 547

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. J29-2 Miss for Day:ONE 25 Apr 45
Area Cover - Wurzburg, Nurnberg, and Bayreuth.
- B - 368 FG, 387 FS. 8 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 0610, Down 0914
- D - Nil
- E - Sqdn flew the assigned area cover without incident.
- F - Nil
- G - Nil
- H - Slight haze.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground control good.
- K - No R/I jamming.

Hogan, Johnston, Barco, Hunt.
Patrick, Arrington, Baker, Shea.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Area Cover Mission, Report of : Apr 25, 45 : Sqdn Mission No 548.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No J29-2 Miss TWO for Day 25 Apr 45.
Area Cover - Wurzburg, Nurnberg, and Bayreuth.
- B - 368 FG, 397 FS. 8 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 0930, ~~Y&K~~ Reached 1st leg 0951, left last leg 1145, Down 1212.
- D - Nil
- E - GUNPOST was controller. Our planes flew the assigned course twice without incident.
- F - Nil
- G - Nil
- H - Scattered cumulus base 6000 ft top 7000 ft. vis 8 to 20 mi.
- I - Code not used.
- J - GUNPOST could not receive our planes between base and a point 15 mi S of Wurzburg.
- K - Jamming, loud hum variety at 0940 hours at Ashheffenburg. Duration 10 seconds.

Tuite, Chancellor, Frisbie, Hord
Yandel, Moore, Leavoy, Keil.

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Area Cover Mission: 25 April 45: Sqdn Mission No. 549.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Mission No J29-2 Miss THREE for Day. 25 April 45.
Area Cover - with attention to S & R A/D's at O 8062, O 2813, and T 2791.
Base to Wurzburg to Nurnberg, to Bayreuth to Wurzburg to base.
- B - 368 FS, 397 FS. 3 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1136, Ent area 1157, left area 1413, Down 1438.
- D - Nil
- E - Our planes followed the assigned routes and observed the 3 a/d's assigned.
- F - Nil
- G - Nil
- H - Fairly bad haze. Vis downsun 15 mi, upsun 10 mi. In area N of Bayreuth there were strato cumulus clouds of 4/10 coverage base 3000 ft top 4900 ft. Vis same as above.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Good
- K - No R/T jamming.

Reinstein, Shepard, Brayton, Price,
Kalen, Hendlin, Horowitz, Buck.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Area Cover Mission: 25 April 45 : Sqda Mission No 560

- A - Ops Ord No _____ Miss No J29-2 Miss FOUR for Day. 25 Apr 45.
Area Cover. With special attention to S & E a/d's at C-8062, O-2813,
and T-2791. Base to Wurzburg, to Nurnberg, to Bayreuth, Wurzburg, base.
- B - 368 FG, 397 FG. 8 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1346, Ent area 1415, Left area 1640, Down 1911.
- D - Nil
- E - During the first part of the mission our planes were controlled by GUNPOST.
During the latter part they were controlled by RIPSAN 3. The assigned
area was covered and the three a/d's were observed.
- F - Nil
- G - Nil
- H - Small clouds at 7000 ft W of Bayreuth. Haze in general from ground to
4000 ft. Vis good.
- I - Sqda code not used.
- J - Ground control good.
- K - No R/T jamming.

Sharp, Moore, Woodworth, Laubaugh.
Patrick, Frisbie, Thornton, Knooihuizen.

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Area Cover Mission: 25 April 45: Sqdn Miss No. 551.

- A - Ops Ord. No. _____ Miss No. J29-2. Miss FIVE for Day. 25 April 45. Area Cover. With special attention to the A/D's for S & E at O-8062, O-2813, and T2791. Base to Wurzburg, to Nurnberg, to Bayreuth, to Wurzburg, to base.
- B - 368 FO, 397 FS. 8 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1604, Ent area 1625, Left area 1805, Down 1839.
- D - Nil
- E - Controller was RIPSAN 3. Assigned area was covered. Assigned A/D's were observed.
- F - Nil
- G - 4 small fires in M/Y at Nurnberg. They may have been rubbish fires.
- H - Generally good. Vis upsun 3 mi. downsun 8 mi.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Good.
- K - No R/T jamming.

Yandel, McWilliams, Kostrack, Johnston,
Krause, Duncan, Barco, Keil.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

397th B-2 Rpt on an Armed Recon and Dive Bombing - 26 April 1945 - Sq Mission No. 552

- A. Opns No. _____, Miss No. J29-1 - Miss for day One - ²⁶ April 1945
Dive bombing of a/f at Erding 2 1977 - armed recon - base to Erding a/f to Munich
to Markt 2 7875 to strafing to base - strafing
- B. 3 6870 - 29700 - 18 a/c dist no aborts -
- C. up 0744 - b/l in 0850 - tot 0855 - b/l out 0950 - down 1108 -
- D. No battle damage
Its Fein and Duncan shared in the destruction of an ME 108 trainer plane in the area
of U 3006 near Landshut. This plane was flying alone at 5000ft/ -- It was shot down
at 0948.
Its Fein and Duncan strafed an airfield at the same place and dam two ME 108's on
the ground. There were fifteen burned out ME 108's on this air field.
- E. 6 x 2 x 250lb frag bombs - inst nose non-delayed tail - 18 bombs in tgt area -
4 a/c used as escort.
Ripsaw controlled our planes. 18 bombs were dropped on the assigned a/f. 30 a/c
were seen. A few were single engine planes and the rest were TKA twin engine a/c.
Two were damaged. Many bomb craters were seen on the field. About 1/2 mile north of
the field there is a square of about ten buildings, apparently new. Planes were seen
on a road near the field. There was a direct hit on a hangar and the hangar
was destroyed (blew up). There were hits on adm buildings and ten were dam.
Strafing: Lts Hogan and Handlin dam a loco and ten pass cars in the area of Markt
Schwabach, 2 0763. The train was moving SW. There dam a loco and 20 freight cars in the
area of Markhafen, 2 1269. The train was moving NE. Lts Sharp and Arrington dam 15
rr cars (half pass and half box) at 2 3098 near Gangkofen. The cars were stationary
and no loco was attached to them.
- F. 15 inacc lt guns at the a/f bombed - inter inacc 40 mm flak at the a/f bombed
one fairly acc light gun at the a/f strafed
- G. The m/y at Landshut was full of craters. It seems to be completely des. There is a PW
camp at U 2909. One building about as large as a barracks building was seen. The rest
of the area seemed to be avillage. The letters POW were painted in white on the roof
of this building. 4 towns were seen burning in the area of U 1046.
- H. South of bombed a/f and east of Munich: 8/10 cloud coverage - cumulus clouds -
base 6000' top 12000' - vis good above clouds, 2 miles below
- I. No sq code
- J. Ground control good
- K. No rt jamming
- BOMBS: HOGAN HANLIN BARCO KEDDINHUTEN
FEIN DUNCAN THORNTON LAUBAUGH
ESCORT: RD SHARP ARRINGTON ARLEDGE KEIL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

397th 1-2 Rpt on an Armed Recon, Dive Bombing and Rocket Mission - 26 April 1945 --
 Opdm Mission No. 553

- A. Opdm No. 553, Mission No. 7 28-1 - Miss for day 1st - 26 April -
 Dive bombing, armed recon and rocket firing in area of Munich, Markt(27575) and
 Straubing.
- B. 36870 - 387 20 - 12 a/c plus 1 spare disp - 3 returned early - Shepard's radio was
 out, Moore had a loose rocket, Frisbie accompanied Moore back to base --
- C. at 1330 - b/1 in 1330 - out 1400 b/1 out 1330 down 1337
- D. Nil
- E. 8 x 2 x 250lb frags - inst nose non-delayed tail - 8 x 4 x 8" HVAR rockets - 16 bombs
 and 8 rockets in tgt areas - 12 rockets returned to base.
 Benchouse directed our planes to bomb at T 7223 on the south edge of Ingolstadt
 across the river from the part of the city occupied by our troops. 16 bombs were dropped
 das 10 houses and dam 10. Bombing was very acc. 8 rockets were fired at a fort at
 T 7530 -- All scored direct hits and several large holes were knocked in the fort.
 Red and Yellow flights strafed personnel southwest of Ingolstadt but trees obstructed
 observation of results.
- F. small arms fire from Ingolstadt. and insce hav from Neuberg a/f T 5519.
- G. At 1315 hours our tanks and half tracks were observed at Waldorf U 0246 and Sanderst.
 T 8461. Repcraft requested recon of two bridges at Sanderst T 8831. Both were found
 in tact and reported.
- H. 4/10 to 8/10 cumulus base 4000' to 5000' -- top from 8000' to 15000' -- vis 3 to 10
 miles - a wall of clouds from 8000' to 22000' centered at T 0693 prevented completion
 of eastern part of recon.
- I. No sq code
- J. Ground control good
- K. No rt jamming

BOMBS: TUITT CHANCELLOR BRAYTON JOHNSTON
 YANDEL MC WILLIAMS HALPIN BERA

ROCKETS: CLAY SHEPARD FRISBIE PRICE

SHEPARD AND FRISBIE RETURNED EARLY. MOORE TOOK SHEPARD'S PLACE AND RETURNED EARLY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

397th B-2 Rpt on an Armed Recon, Dive Bombing, and Rocket Firing Mission - 26 April --
 Same Mission No. 554

- A. Spus No. _____, Miss No. J 29-1 -- Miss for day Three - 26 April 1945 -
 Armed recon - base to straubing to Marktitz, I 7875 - to Munich to 2 1277 to base -
 Dive bombing, rocket firing and strafing -
- B. 368 FB - 307th FB - 12 a/c disp - no aborts -
- C. up 1711 - b/1 in 1738 - bombed strafed and fired rockets betw 1830 and 1900 - b/1 out
 1905 - down 2042
- D. Nil
- E. 8 x 2 x 560lb frag bombs inst non-delayed - 4 x 4 x 3" HVAR rockets - 16 bombs in tgt
 area - 1 rocket returned to base - 4 rockets jettisoned in bomb jettisoning field.
 Our planes were controlled by Ripsaw one "A" and particularly by Hopcraft. Hopcraft
 told them to bomb the town of Neustadt T 9631. 16 bombs were dropped here. Our planes
 made no special observations here. The bombing results were excellent. The bombs hit
 in the middle of the 50 buildings in the town. There were fires but no big explosions.
 There was a big cloud of smoke over the town. All our pilots did excellent work in the
 bombing. Hopcraft told our planes to fire rockets in Mauern T 9529. Lt Handlin fired
 four rockets here. They hit right in the middle of the town. Several buildings
 bl w up and one fire was started. Hopcraft also told our planes to fire rockets in
 Gaden T 9229. Its Patrick and Hunt fired seven rockets here. They started one fire and
 des several buildings.
- F. strafing: Capt Dame des two motorcycles, 1 MT, and 2 horses and wagons at Pfaffenham.
 U 1216. In addition he either killed or serious/wounded one soldier
- G. very weak inacc 20mm flak at Pfaffenham., U 1216 --(this flak was portable)
- H. Hopcraft Hopcraft was at EX T 9031. A great many tanks were seen there. Our troops
 are up to the west side of the river in that locality. The roads on the west side of
 the river are filled with dust. Most of the towns on the east side of the river are
 smoking.
- I. 4/10 cloud coverage - cumulus - base 7000' - top 12000' -- vis 2 to 10 miles -
 scattered rain showers - below several clouds -
- J. No sq code
- K. Ground control good
- L. No rt jamming

BOMBS: DAME ARRINGTON WOODWORTHY HILL
 Helen MOORE EDSTRACH BUCK

ROCKETS: WEINSTEIN HANDLIN PATRICK HUNT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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397th S-2 Rpt on an Armed Recon, Dive Bombing, and Rocket Firing Mission -- 27 April
 558 Sign Miss No. 555

- A. Opns @ No. _____, Miss No. J 39-2 -- Miss for day One - 27 April 1945
 Armed recon base to Eilren to Fisek to Domazlice to Techau to base - (Area No. 2)
 Dive bombing and rocket firing.
- B. 368FD - 397 FD - 18 a/c Disp - no aborts -
- C. up 1339 - b/l in 1505 - tot 1600 to 1623 - b/l out 1640 - down 1737 -
- D. Two a/c dms by flak - One Cat "A" wanders cat "AC"
- E. 8 x 2 x 250lb Frag bombs - inst case - non-delayed tail -- 4 x 4 x 5" HVAR Rockets -
 16 bombs in tgt area - 16 rockets in tgt area - (A/F).
- F. Ripsaw two acted as controller. He gave our planes a tgt at Linz V 8587. The weather conditions were very bad and Ripsaw two was told that our planes could not undertake this mission. He replied that XIX TAC had ordered it and our planes set out to accomplish it. They reached a point about 20 miles north of Linz at 1620. But low clouds and rain in that area forced them to abandon the attempt and they bombed and fired their rockets at tgts of their own selection. 8 bombs were dropped on a m/y at Strakonice at 1431-021. 150 cars were in the m/y. They were square black cars and most of them were box cars. In addition there were several flak cars. 5 cars were des and 10 dam. 3 houses near the m/y were des. 8 bombs were dropped on a m/y at Sudomer 158916. There were 50 assorted cars in the m/y and they seemed to be loaded. 8 cars were des and 15 dam and several fires were started. Orange smoke poured forth from one car. Capt Barker's flight bombed the first m/y and Lt Balanis's flight the second. All 8 pilots did excellent work in the bombing. Lt Clary's flight fired 16 rockets at a m/y at Nepomak at 1 250149. There was 75 assorted cars in two rows in the m/y. Each of the four pilots des one car and scored one rail cut.
- G. Inten fairly see lt barrage flak at the first m/y bombed (some of this flak came from flak cars) weak fairly see light flak at the second m/y bombed.
- H. All the m/y in the area were loaded and all contained box cars. H
- I. 6/10 to 7/10 cloud coverage - mostly cumulus clouds also Cumulo-nimbus clouds, Strato-nimbus clouds, Alto-stratus clouds, alto-cirrus clouds, and cirrus clouds - base in tgt area 5 to 2000' - base from home for 50 miles out 2000' - base in Linz area 1000 to 1500' - rain and hail - via 1/4 to 1/2 mile in Linz area -
- J. Ripsaw two told our planes to land at Nurnburg because this was thought to be a strange order our planes almost used the squadron code. When they asked for an explanation Ripsaw two checked and said that it would be alright for them to land at base.
- K. Ground control good
- L. RT jamming of generator type for 1 hour in Linz and tgt areas - rt jamming that sound ed like engine noise five miles east of the field

BOMBS: BARKER CHANCELLOR WOODWORTH JOHNSTON
 KALIN DUNCAN LEAVY PRIS
 ROCKETS: CLARY MOORE BRAYTON SHEPARD

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SECRET

377th AF Bpt on an armed recon and dive bombing mission - 29 April 1945 -
 4th mission No. 394

1. pass 5 W. _____, Miss No. 377-1 - also for day one - 29 April 1945
 2. armed recon - base to Lohndorf 0 2500 to Salzbury 0 9027 to Feldkirchen 0 9551 to
 3. trailing 7 9777 to base - support for Intercept, 3rd Corps, at 7 7355 - dive bombing
 and strafing.
4. 36000 - 37777 - 17 a/c also - no shorts -
5. in 3774 - b/1 in 0600 - tot 0615 - b/1 out 0910 - base 1004
6. 111
7. 8 x 1 = 500lb GP bombs - lost 1/40 - 16 bombs in 1st area - 4 a/c used as escort.
 Our planes were at first controlled by German ops, then they contacted Lindbeck,
 who told them to contact Hoptcraft and Beaman. They could not reach like those two
 controllers. Lindbeck contacted our planes for a radio check and instructed them
 to proceed on their armed recon. The assigned armed recon was carried out. Our planes
 selected their own bombing and strafing sites. 16 bombs were dropped on a w/y at
 2873 near Walster-Hessen. In the w/y there were four or five trains without locos.
 Each train consisted of 15 flat supply cars covered by canvas. Results: one fire
 in car; five rail cuts (all the rails in the w/y were cut); 20 cars dca; 30 cars dca;
 one factory on the south side of the w/y dca. All our pilots did excellent work in the
 bombing.
8. strafing: The Brown and Patterson strafed at 2 1773 near Fellen. They dca 20 cars
 current attached to a loco. They dca 8 out of 15 piled cars at 2 1473 near Walperts-
 kirchen. The Pate and McMillan strafed at 2 2174 near Hohenberg. They dca 1 loco
 attached to one another, but not attached to cars. These locos were moving west,
 but stopped at the approach of our planes. They dca one HT and 4 trailers in the same
 area going south. The HT was a camouflaged oil truck and the trailers carried oil,
 they thought. Black smoke led them to this belief. The Patrick and Grayton strafed at
 2 0451 near Selg. There tpt van 23 box cars and 10 cars. Five flat current a loco
 going east. 4 box cars and 1 flat car were dca. The loco was slightly dca. They damaged
 one engine at 2 9623 near Feldkirchen. In addition they dca 1 or 2 cars the engine
 was pulling 20 pass cars east. The Sharp and Moore dca 3 HT at 2 1574 near Gaggling.
 The HT were stationary, but headed east.
9. Inter sec it click at 0 0950.
10. Lindbeck told our planes that Hoptcraft and Beaman were at 7 9413. At an w/y at
 01590 there were 14 a/c and two camouflaged bombers. There were 2 HT 100 and 1
 HT 100 and the rest were main engine planes that looked like HT 111, but were not
 necessarily HT 111. Our locos are in the area of 7 9925. They seemed to be temporarily
 stopped there and it looks as if they stayed there last night. It is not known
 whether US tanks are in that area but red panels were seen there.
11. 1st area: 2173
 From base to 1st area: 1 1/2) 01000 0070000 stratus clouds - base 2500' top 3500' --
 vis below 5 miles.
12. No sig cdxs
13. Ground con rel good
14. No rt jamming

REMARKS: NONE REPORTED PATRICK STRAFING 7 9413
 REPORT: NO SHARP MOORE STRAFING 2 1574

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Armed Recon Mission: 30 April 45: Sqdn Mission No. 557.

- A - Ops Ord No _____ Miss No. J29-3. Miss ONE for Day 30 April 45.
Armed Recon base to Strakonice, to Budejovice, to Linz, to base.
(area #2) Dive bombing, rocket firing and strafing.
- B - 366 FG, 397 FG. 12 a/c disp. no aborts.
- C - Up 0647, BL in 0815, TOT 0830, BL out 0815, Down 1038.
- D - Nil
- E - 8x2x500 GP's in at 1/40 - 1x4x5 in HVAR rockets. 16 bombs and 4 rockets in target areas. 3 a/c used as escort.
Our planes were controlled by WIPRAN 2. Their tgts were their own selection. They worked NE of Strakonice for a long enough time to preclude the possibility of accomplishing the assigned A/R. 8 bombs were dropped on a M/Y at 46597 near Pisek. In the M/Y there were 30 to 35 boxcars and 30 tank cars. The results were very good. 6 bombs fell in the midst of the car 15 boxcars and 10 tank cars were dest, 5 boxcars and 5 tank cars were dam. 6 bombs were dropped on a M/Y at 46699 near Pisek. In the M/Y there were 35 boxcars and 4 oil cars. There were direct hits in the yard. 6 boxcars were dest, and 4 dam. There were 2 railcuts. Lts Benk, Price, Arledge, Lewis, and Thornton did excellent work in the bombing.
Lt Handlin fired 4 rockets at a train in a M/Y at 46494. The train consisted of 20 to 30 flat cars on each car there was one MT or possibly one tank. The results were 4 near misses. There was one railcut and 2 flatcars were damaged.
Strafing: Lt Clary's flight and Lts Handlin and Chancellor strafed the train attacked by rockets. 3 flat cars were dam. If the objects on the flat cars were MT's, 20 to 30 were destroyed. If they were tanks, 20 to 30 were damaged. Lts Arledge and Price dest 14 RV's going NE on a road in area of 46994. Lt Price dam 25 Or 30 of 50 60 oilcars in M/Y at 46492. Lts Lewis and Duncan strafed the M/Y at 46699. 2 oilcars were dest. All the cars in the M/Y not accounted for so far were damaged.
- F - Nil
- G - The M/Y at 17508 had been hit. There were 20 boxcars there. The attack was recent and 2 cars were smoking.
- H - Tgt area: 8/10 coverage cumulus base 2000' top 9000' via fairly good. The tgt area is for the most part covered now. Elsewhere: 10/10 coverage towering cumulus rain showers bases of ceilings ranged from 200' to 4000'.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Control good.
- K - Nil

Bombs: Clary, Benk, Price, Arledge.
Bombs: Lewis, Duncan, Walpin, Thornton.
NO BOMBS: Howowitz, Johnston, Handlin (rockets), Chancellor.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

0321