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* HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON *

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DOD DIR 5200.9

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* INSTALLMENT THIRTEEN *
* Covering the month of February 1945 *

* HISTORICAL OFFICER *
* 1st Lieutenant *
* RICHARD H. BICKENSBERGER *

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Feb 1945
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Installation: Mill HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section "A"

1. DISMEMBERATION (e.g., changes effected by the transfer of the unit or by new L/O's)
None.
2. STRENGTH ON THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH:
Unit strength as of the 28 February 1945:
OFFICERS ASSIGNED 65
S. A. ASSIGNED 243
OFFICERS ATTACHED 3
S. A. ATTACHED 3
3. ARRIVAL AT AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED IN THE E.T.O.:
No change in station.
4. LOSSES IN ACTION:
No losses in action.
5. AWARDS TO AND EDUCATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE SQUADRON:

2nd Lt Airdge 1st 2nd Br OLC to AM	2nd Lt Kalen 3rd 4th 5th Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Baker 4th 5th Br OLC to AM	Capt Kerr 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Barker 5th Br OLC to AM	2nd Lt Kozluch 1st 2nd Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Bauer 4th 5th Br OLC to AM	Capt Krause 5th 6th 7th Br OLC to AM
Lt Col Barbine 5th 6th 7th 8th Br OLC to AM	2nd Lt Leavoy 1st 2nd Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Clary 1st Br OLC to AM	1st Lt Lewis 1st Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Fauley 7th Br OLC to AM	2nd Lt Patrick 4th 5th Br OLC to AM
1st Fein 5th Br OLC to AM	1st Lt Sharp 3rd 4th 5th Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Frisbie 5th 6th Br OLC to AM	1st Lt See 14th Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Hogan 7th Br OLC to AM	2nd Lt Inernton AM 1st Br OLC to AM
Capt Horlacher 16th Br OLC to AM	2nd Lt Uterhart 1st 2nd Br OLC to AM
2nd Lt Horowitz 1st 2nd Br OLC to AM	1st Lt Weinstein 7th 8th Br OLC to AM
	2nd Lt Wright 1st 2nd 3rd Br OLC to AM
	1st Lt Fandel 1st Br OLC to AM

GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS:

S/Sgt McKenzie
S/Sgt Saunders
Sgt Diekvoss
Sgt McKnecht
Sgt Murray
Sgt Savage
Cpl Bardsley

Cpl Biener
Cpl Bronheim
Cpl Gill
Cpl Jenkins
Pfc Maria
Pfc McCoy
Pfc Signs

Pfc White

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Installation XIII

HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section "B"

 * SECTION "B" *
 * Narrative *
 * Covering the Month of *
 * February 1945 *
 * ***** *

ALG Y-34, Metz, France -- (Feb 1) -- The month opened with a day of fog and rain which did not permit our planes to take off.

Our basket ball season got off to a flying start tonight with two games. They were played in the gymnasium in Metz under somewhat adverse conditions. Moisture from the walls and ceiling made the floor slippery and hazardous. In the first game, the 397th enlisted men beat "A" team of the 382nd Service Squadron by a score of 27 to 16. Sgt Heath took scoring honors with 14 points to his credit. The team consisted of Sgt Heath, Sgt Floyd, Sgt W. J. Lewis, Sgt J. Nelson, Sgt D. E. Nelson, Sgt Lenahan, Cpl Barret, Sgt R. L. Barnard, Cpl Hilgendorf, Cpl Katz, Sgt Watson, Sgt Wych, Sgt Hamilton, and Sgt Drake.

The Officers Team of the 397th trounced "B" team of the 382nd Service Team Squadron 29 to 7. Scoring honors were evenly divided among Capt Johnson, who also acts as coach, Lt Clary and Lt Woodworth with six points each. Lt Hamilton, Lt Frisbie and Lt Yandel followed close behind with four points each. Others on the team were: Major Ruite, Lt Uterhart, Lt Arledge, Lt Galen, Lt Leavoy, and Lt Patrick.

Ninth Air Force Special Orders No. 32 of this date announces the promotion of Lt Kerr to the grade of Captain.

FEB 2 -- The weather cleared up today permitting the squadron to get in two missions. The first of these cut rail lines in several places near Koblenz and destroyed over thirty railroad cars by strafing. Mission pilots were: Krause, Koenig, Clary, Uterhart, Bauer, Le Grand, Frisbie, Wright.

The second mission beat up the marshalling yard at Metzlar. Major Carbine and Lt Arledge hit a fuel storage dump causing large fires and smoke. Lt Barker destroyed a locomotive and six cars and Lt Kerr six cars. Lt Hunt hit the eastern choke point of the yard. On the mission were: Carbine, Arledge, Weinstein, Horowitz, Barker, Hord, Kerr, and Hunt.

Squadron Special Orders No. 3 of this date relieves Capt Johnson from his duties as unit Soldier Voting Officer.

FEB 3 -- Inclement weather prevented flying.
 Group Special Orders No. 7 of 22 Jan 1945 sent Lt Clary to Paris for seven days for instruction in bombing tactics.

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FEB 4 -- *****
 * GROUP RECEIVES DISTIN* * Continued bad weather, no flying.
 * GUISHED UNIT CITATION * * Ninth Air Force General Orders No. 14,
 * ***** * * of 22 January 1945 received today, contain the
 * ***** * * Distinguished Unit Citation for the 368th Group,
 as announced in last months history. The citation reads in part: "For outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on 3 September 1944, * * * in vicinity of Mons. The Group destroyed 262 motor transport and damaged 30 more, * * * 230 horse drawn vehicles were destroyed as well as an undetermined number of enemy personnel. * * * a staggering blow to the enemy's supply of armored vehicles and transport."

FEB 5 -- Bad weather continued to ground all planes.
 A new group policy started last month has at last given our ground personnel a long

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Installation XIII HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section "L"

awaited opportunity to visit Paris. One Officer and three enlisted men from each unit leave for Paris every two days and spend sixty hours in the city. It provides welcome relief from our somewhat drab existence here at Metz as well as an opportunity to taste the many pleasures for which Paris is famous.

Group Special Orders No. 10 of 31 Jan 1945 received today send Lt Hamilton to Paris for six days in connection with making a broadcast on a Ninth A.F. radio program. We understand that Lt Hamilton was chosen because his is the highest total of enemy transport destroyed of any pilot in the Ninth Air Force.

FEB 6 -- The squadron was sent out today to attack the A/F at Giebelstadt. Clusters of frag bombs were used so that it was difficult to assess damage. One dispersal area with about 15 planes present was thought to have been pretty thoroughly pounded, however. Mission pilots were: Carbine, Tuite, Baker, Uterhart, Lewis, Halpin, Sharp, Thornton, Kerr, Hunt, Soo, and Fein.

FEB 7 -- Poor visibility again halted operations today.

FEB 8 -- Two successful missions marked today's operations. The first of these concentrated on a small marshalling yard where an unknown number of cars were destroyed as well as a roundhouse and several small buildings in the vicinity. Mission pilots were: Krause, Kostrath, Baker, Morowitz, Barker, Halpin, Yandel, Leavoy, Acrlacher, Koenig, Weinstein, and Wright.

The second mission took a large toll of Jerry's motorized transportation. Major Carbine destroyed 5 vehicles and damaged 20. Lt Lewis destroyed one half track and damaged 13 and teamed up with Lt Hord damaged nine more. Lt Kerr damaged 13 goods cars, destroyed three tanks, eleven half tracks, ten vehicles, and a gas truck and, teamed up with Lt Hunt, damaged twenty more vehicles. Lt Kerr also damaged fifteen houses. Quite a one man air force! Lt Hunt destroyed two more tanks and still others were scattered among the remaining members of the squadron. Those on the mission were: Carbine, Tuite, Hogen, Kalen, Lewis, Hord, Frisbie, Patrick, Kerr, Hunt, Soo, and Fein.

FEB 9 -- Today's mission started out after a rail bridge but was unable to attack because of weather. Instead they bombed a small town near Dellfeld where 16 houses were destroyed, six of which blew up. Ten more were left burning. The railroad was also out. Mission pilots were: Carbine, Tuite, Frisbie, Wright, Lewis, Koenig, Sharp, Thornton, Kerr, Hunt, Soo and Fein.

Group Special Orders No. 14 of this date send Capt Briscoll to Paris for seven days to have a camera installed in a P-47. Lt Wright is sent to Burtonwood U.K. to pick up a P-47. Four new pilots are assigned to our squadron by the same order. They are: 1st Lt Whitney W. Brayton, and 2nd Lts James W. Chancellor, Marion L. Deputy, and Richard G. Elliott.

FEB 10 -- Today's mission pilots' bombed a bridge near Laveling. Two direct hits were scored on the bridge of which Lt Bauer scored one. There was also one out on the railroad and several on nearby roads. On the mission were: Krause, Le Grand, Clary, Morowitz, Bauer, Leavoy, Hogen, Kalen, Barker, Halpin, Yandel, and Uterhart.

Squadron Special Orders No. 4 of this date appoint Lt Frisbie Squadron Court of Inquiry Officer for alleged violations of the Geneva Convention.

Report Number 41 of the IX TAC Victory Credits Board places in the confirmed category the damage of one ME 109 on 6 Dec 44 north of Duren by Major Richard E. Leary. It places in the unconfirmed category the damage of one FW 190 west of Cologne by Capt Dams in addition to an ME 109 destroyed on the same date as awarded on Report No. 36. The claim of Lt Lewis to one ME 109 damaged northeast of Duren is confirmed and the claim of Lt A D Sharp to one ME 109 damaged west of Cologne is placed in the unconfirmed category, both of 6 Dec 1944.

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HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section "B"

FEB 11 -- Low-hanging clouds and fog prevented a take-off today.

Group received several copies of Ninth Air Force 2nd Phase Interpretation Report US10/D SPECIAL today which give dramatic photographic proof of the tremendous destruction wrought in the marshalling yards at Neunkirchen by pilots of this squadron on 13 January 1945. Our pilots reported an explosion of enormous proportions, but this photographic evidence exceeds in magnitude even their most hopeful reports. The pictures show an area of devastation 85 by 40 yards in extent, with many railroad cars destroyed and four rail lines cut and torn up for a length of 120 feet. It seems probable that a train load of bombs or torpedos was hit. A copy of this report is included with this history.

FEB 12 -- All planes were grounded again today.

Group Special Orders No. 15 of this date send Lt R B Sharp to Burtonwood U. K. to pick up a P-47.

The same orders award the Good Conduct Medal to the following enlisted men for -- "fidelity through faithful and exact performances of duty, efficiency -- behavior -- such as to deserve emulation:" S/Bgts James N. McKenzie, Vernon D. Saunders, Sgts Merlin J. Dickvoss, Raymond C. Hofknecht, William E. Murray, George W. Savage, Cpls Charles W. Berdaley, Cpl Irvin M. Beiner, Bernard Bronheim, Charles L. Gill, August J. Wankens, and PFCs Joseph B. Harris, William T. McGoy, Michael Signe, Daniel E. White.

FEB 13 -- Capt Krause and Lt Yandel went on a weather recon mission early this morning during which they strafed and destroyed the locomotive and several cars of a train near Trier.

The second mission was one of futile direction and misdirection by a number of controllers. Our planes wandered around over most of western Germany over a 10/10 overcast which prevented them from finding and suitable targets. Finally they dropped their bombs on a small town seen through a break in the clouds, and returned home somewhat disgusted. On this mission were : Krause, LeGrand, Yandel, Patrick, Lewis, Hord, Frisbie, Thornton, Horlacher, Kostrack, Weinstein, and Arledge.

FEB 14 -- Three missions gave us a busy day to day. The first mission escorted some P-47's to their target and then continued on to bomb and nearly destroy two small towns. Pilots were: Carbine, Tuite, Clary, Kalen, Horlacher, Kostrack, Frisbie, Arledge, Kerr, Leavoy, and Fein.

The second mission concentrated on an MT depot at Ahrweiler, destroying most of the buildings and at least eight vehicles. On the mission were: Krause, Le Grand, Lewis, Hord, Yandel, Thornton, Bauer, Hunt, Soo, and Hogan.

The third mission did great damage to the often bombed marshalling yards at Neunkirchen. On this mission were: Carbine, Woodworth, Clary, Kalen, Barker, Horowitz, Weinstein, Sharp, Kerr, and Halpin.

Squadrons Orders No. 5 of this date relieve Lt Gundlach of his duties as Unit War Bond Officer and appoint him Savings Officer.

FEB 15 -- Good weather continued today permitting three more missions. They did an extremely accurate job of bombing on the marshalling yards at Nonweiler and Muhlfield. There were many cuts scored on the rails and about seventeen cars were destroyed. Krause, Woodworth, Patrick, Halpin, Lewis, Hord, Sharp, and Thornton, took part.

Concurrently with the first mission, Bauer, Leavoy, Hogan, and Kalen dropped leaflet bombs in the Bitburg area on an uneventful mission.

The third mission, which took-off late in the afternoon, supported units of the XX Corps. It bombed several targets immediately in front of the lines with great accuracy but undisclosed results. Mission pilots were: Carbine, Tuite, Yandel, Uterhart, Clary, Le Grand, Weinstein, Horowitz, Kerr, Hunt, Soo, and Koenig.

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HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section "B"

FEB 20 -- Today's only mission bombed barges in dock areas at Cernsheim. Eleven barges were destroyed and five damaged. Major Tuite destroyed three of four railroad cars with one bomb and Major Carbine's flight damaged twenty-five more cars. On this mission were: Carbine, Price, Hogan, Le Grand, Barker, Kostrach, Fauley, Arledge, Lewis, Hunt, Fein, Wright, Kerr, Tuite, Yandel, and Horowitz.

* SQUADRON'S BUSIEST DAY ** Today was by far the busiest in the history of the 397
* 60 SORTIES ** 21 FEB 45 * Fighter Squadron. Fourteen missions were flown and sixty
* * * * * individual sorties. Thirty tons of bombs were dropped on enemy territory. One of the most surprising features of the day was that there were no losses and no damage due to enemy action nor were there any abortives, which reflects great credit on the men who service the planes. Our work was all done in support of two corps of the Third Army. The 12th Corps was pushing down from the north and the 6th Corps was driving up from the south in an attempt to make a juncture along the Frum River and to cut off the enemy armor and vehicles which remained in the area behind the former Ardennes salient. It was also an attempt to cut the communication lines and to destroy the supply dumps which fed these forces.

A tabulation of the missions and their results is as follows:

1. Krause, Shea, Frisbie, and Thornton: One factory damaged, one locomotive and one flak position destroyed; seven cars damaged.
2. Clary, Koenig, R D Sharp and Horowitz: Leaflet bombs dropped in four planes
3. Carbine, Leavoy, Baker and Uterhart: An ammo dump and two MT destroyed, many MT damaged.
4. Lewis, Wright, Kalen, and Arledge: One factory and town damaged, eight rail cars, and one MT damaged, two guns and MT destroyed.
5. Barker, Hord, Fauley and Kostrach: One town damaged, two anti tank guns destroyed.
6. Kerr, Woodworth, Yandel, and Tuite: Two GF's and eight other buildings destroyed.
7. Horlacher, LeGrand, Patrick, and Halpin: A rail bridge near Cochem probably destroyed.
8. Bauer, Price, Weinstein, and Fein: Ten MT and six houses destroyed.
9. Krause, Shea, Frisbie, and Hunt: Three houses, eight MT, three guns destroyed, one tank damaged.
10. Clary, Koenig, Sharp, Arledge: Two tanks destroyed, four damaged, three MT destroyed.
11. Lewis, Wright, Baker Uterhart: Two buildings, one MT destroyed, 6 damaged, troops strafed.
12. Carbine, Leavoy, Fauley, and Kostrach: One town destroyed, two tanks damaged nine MT destroyed and nine damaged.
13. Barker, Hord, Yandel, and Tuite: One tank destroyed, one damaged.
14. Kerr, Woodworth, Fein, Patrick, Horlacher, Price, Weinstein, and Hunt: At least 25 buildings destroyed and one GF. One tank and four MT destroyed.

FEB 22 -- Today our squadron cooperated in an all our efforts of planes of the 8th and 9th Air Forces to paralyze all rail traffic in western Germany. Over 6000 aircraft took part flying over 6000 sorties. Our group acted as escort to mediums out to several bridges just west of the Rhine. 108 fighters rendez-voused with 109 mediums over Metz. The target for our squadron was two rail bridges at Steckweiler. Our planes scored several hits on on both bridges and did more damage than the mediums which they escorted. Pilots were: Carbine, Price, Tuite, Leavoy, Bauer, Koenig, Fauley, Porter (100th Ftr Wing), Kerr, Woodworth, Yandel, and Wright.

In an all star game which featured the Gp EM All Stars and GF All Star Officers the EM came out victorious by a score of 36 to 35. This was a hard contested game but the EM's gained the initiative and held it for the remainder of the game.

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HISTORY OF THE 97TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section "A"

FEB 23 --

* ONE OF 97TH'S BEST DAYS. MANY RECORDS BROKEN *

Today was one of very great activity, exceeded only by Feb 21 in number of sorties flown. But today's accomplishments exceed or equal those of any day in our history so far. Our official totals for the day were 218 MI destroyed, 23 MI damaged, 45 tanks destroyed, 46 tanks damaged. In addition many miscellaneous targets were destroyed. 78,000 rounds of ammunition were fired on the thirteen missions (53 sorties). Our normal expenditure is about 150,000 rounds per month. This great field day took place in the salient just west of the Rhine River on which the Third Army is converging from three directions. A breakdown of the day by missions is as follows:

1. Krause, Buck, Fein, and Patrick: Ten houses destroyed; one tank destroyed; 9 MI destroyed, 3 damaged.
2. Kerr, Nord, Yandel, and Frisbie: 14 tanks destroyed, 16 tanks damaged; 6 MI destroyed, 16 damaged.
3. Clary, Uterhart, Weinstein, and Sharp: 5 tanks destroyed, 1 damaged; 7 MI destroyed, 1 damaged; 1 fuel dump and 1 wagon destroyed.
4. Barker, Shea, Hogan, and Arledge: 1 tank destroyed, 13 MI destroyed, 6 damaged.
5. Lewis, Hunt, Baker, and Wright: 2 buildings destroyed; 1 tank destroyed, 4 damaged; 10 MI destroyed, 3 damaged; 1 gun destroyed.
6. Carbine, Koenig, Tuite, and Leavoy: 6 tanks destroyed, 4 damaged; 2 MI destroyed, 3 damaged. Many buildings destroyed.
7. Krause, Price, Patrick and Fein: 10 tanks destroyed, 6 damaged; 16 MI destroyed, 4 damaged.
8. Kerr, Buck, Frisbie, and Yandel: 9 tanks destroyed, 3 damaged; 29 MI destroyed, 9 damaged; 1 fuel dump and 5 billets destroyed.
9. Clary, Woodworth, Weinstein, and Uterhart: 49 MI destroyed, 5 damaged; 6 guns destroyed.
10. Baker, Nord, Sharp, and Arledge: 4 tanks destroyed, 6 damaged; 2 MI destroyed, 3 damaged; 3 wagons and 5 guns destroyed.
11. Lewis, Hogan, Hunt, and Wright: 4 tanks destroyed, 1 damaged; 17 MI destroyed, 20 damaged; 2 buildings, 1 fuel dump, and 2 guns destroyed.
12. Carbine, Koenig, Tuite, and Leavoy: 14 MI destroyed, 6 damaged; 3 buildings destroyed.
13. Krause, Price, Baker, Patrick, and Fein: 30 MI destroyed, 12 damaged; 13 tanks damaged.

Today found the 97th EM's scheduled to play the 3d Officers in what was considered to be a close and hard contested ball game. With the half ending with the score of 11 to 8 in favor of the EM's it looked as though these predictions were to come true. However, when the whistle blew for the start of the second half the EM's came out with a spark that sent them on a scoring spree and at the final whistle the score was in their favor with a margin of 16 points. The final count showed the score to be 33 to 17 with Sgt Jones and Sgt Leshan chucking in twelve and nine respectively. Though the score seemed lopsided, the game lived up to expectations and it was a hard contested ball game.

FEB 24 -- Today would have been again a day of intense activity in continuation of our support of the VIII Corps, but low-hanging clouds held up the first take-off until shortly after noon. Even so, a weather resce and eight missions were crowded into a busy afternoon.

1. Capt Krause and Lt Lewis flew an uneventful weather resce over the tgt area.
2. Carbine, Price, Hogan, and Leavoy: one tank destroyed, 3 damaged; 6 MI destroyed, 8 assorted MI and armored vehicles damaged.
3. Clary, Buck, Sharp, and Uterhart: 2 tanks destroyed; 6 MI destroyed, 3 damaged; 3 guns damaged.

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4. Barker, Shea, Fauley, and Arledge: 2 tanks destroyed, 4 damaged; 2 MT destroyed, #7 damaged.
5. Krause, Woodworth, Tuite, and Wright: 3 buildings destroyed; 1 tank destroyed, 4 damaged; 5 MT destroyed, 3 damaged; 1 gas truck and 1 gun destroyed.
6. Lewis, Nord, Friebe, and Hunt: trenches strafed, 75 railroad cars damaged.
7. Kerr, Koenig, Hogan, and Patrick: 5 buildings destroyed, others damaged; 1 tank destroyed 3 damaged; 2 halftracks damaged.
8. Carbine, Price, Sharp, and Leavoy: 1 tank and 1 CP destroyed. Several MT damaged.
9. Clary, Buck, Fauley, and Uterhart: 4 MT destroyed, 9 damaged.

FEB 25 -- The squadron resumed its more regular routine today with two sixteen ship missions and one six fourteen. The first mission went out after a railroad bridge at Salzkrohn but due to high wind they didn't score any direct hits on the bridge. The rails at the approached were cut however. A locomotive was destroyed and 70 cars damaged by strafing. A supply center was strafed and 10 MT were destroyed. Pilots were: Krause, Koenig, Tuite, Nord, Barker, Shea, Fauley, Arledge, Lewis, Price, Patrick, Hunt, Kerr, Woodworth, Hogan, and Leavoy.

The second mission also went out after the same bridge and scored one hit on it, but the bridge did not collapse. On this mission were: Douglas, Shea, Friebe, Wright, Clary, Buck, Sharp, Uterhart, Morlacher, Nord, Tuite, Leavoy, Carbine, Shepard, Briscoll, and Arledge.

Third mission went out after armor and vehicles in the area north and east of Trier and was very successful. 9 tanks were destroyed and seven damaged. Eleven buildings and a CP were destroyed. 106 vehicles were destroyed including several gas and ammunition trucks and several half tracks. Krause, Korowitz, Lewis, Price, Fauley, Hunt, Kerr, Wright, Hogan, Kelen, Clary, LeGrand, Patrick, and Thornton. flew on this mission.

Squadron Special Orders No. 6 of this date appoint Lt Clmstead Squadron Safety Officer and 1/Sgt Fortner Squadron Safety Noncommissioned Officer.

FEB 26 -- Bad weather today halted all operations.

Group Special Orders No. 17 of 19 February received today send Pfc Michael Signe to Brussels, Belgium to pick up rations. ~~He took this opportunity to go immediately and was on his way back to the area while the squadron was quartered there. He had been engaged for several months.~~

The same Special Orders assign S/Sgt Thomas J. Barton to this squadron.

FEB 27 -- Continued bad weather grounded all planes.

Group Special Orders No. 19 dated 25 February, received today, send Lts Bauer and Weinstein to the Riviera for seven days leave in accordance with a recently inaugurated policy.

Report No. 45 of the IX TAC Victory Credits Board confirms the destruction of one ME 109 109 by Lt Bauer on 17 December 1944 near Trum. Lt Clary's claim to one ME 109 destroyed and one ME 109 damaged on 18 December placed in the unconfirmed category. Lt Weinstein's claim to one ME 109 damaged on the same date is confirmed.

Report No 57 of the XIX TAC Victory Credits Board confirms Lt Bauer's claim to one FW 190 destroyed on 14 January, but places his claim to a second FW 190 destroyed in the unconfirmed category.

Squadron Special Orders No 7 of this date appoint Lt Dixon Graves Registration and Personal Effects Officer.

Ninth Air Force Special No. 51 dated 20 February 1945 promote 1st Lt William G. Morlacher to the rank of Captain and 2nd Lt Milton A. Weinstein to 1st Lieutenant.

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HISTORY OF THE 397th FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section "B"

FLB 28 -- Low clouds and mist held today's operations until the middle of the afternoon. Three four ship missions were flown, however, in support of the 12 Corps. Two small towns were bombed on the first of these and great damage was done. Lt Arledge was forced to belly in his plane after it had been shot up pretty badly by enemy flek. He landed on our side of the bomb line, however, and escaped with a few scratches on his face. Carbine, Malpin, Carson, and Arledge flew on the mission.

The second mission with Lewis, Shepard, Frisbie, and Wright bombed the town of Butzweiler destroying five houses. They also strafed and damaged twelve vehicles and two tanks and knocked out six flek positions.

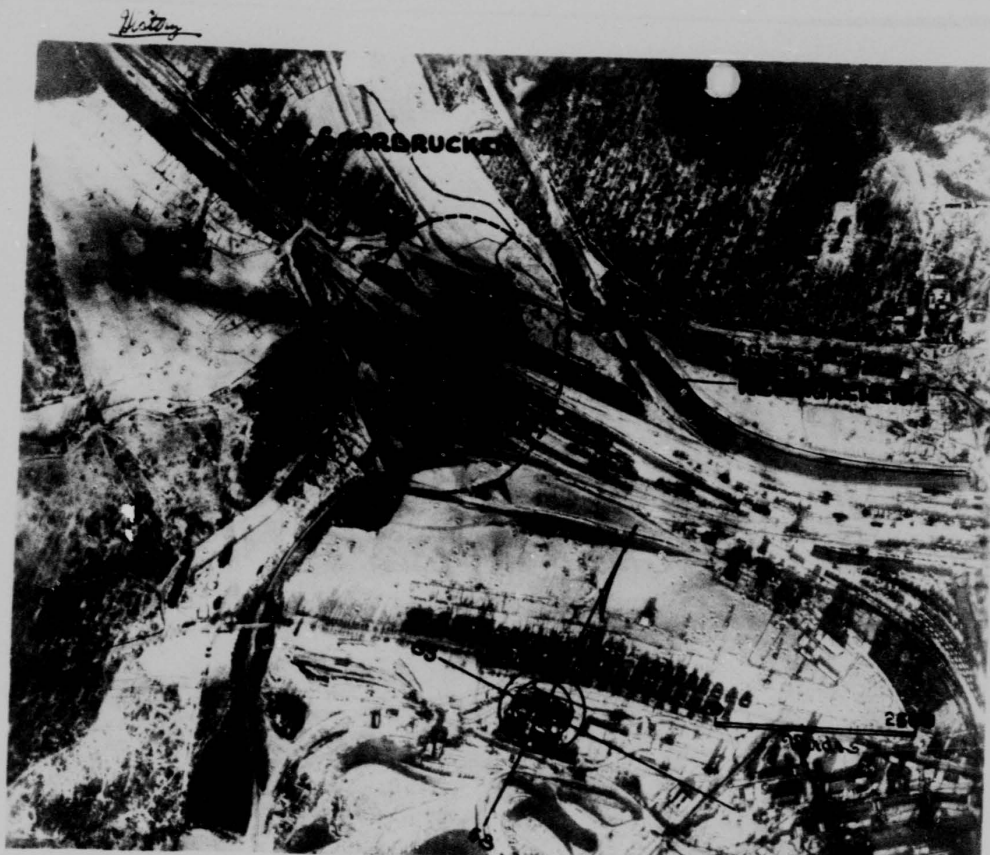
The third mission bombed some artillery positions but results could not be ascertained. Barker, Ford, Faulley, and Kestrich took part.

Thus ended operations for the shortest month of the year, but it has been a month of great activity for the 397th keeping pace with the renewed surge of activity along our section of the front.

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REMARKS AND PHASE INTERPRETATION REPORT USIA/S
 TITLE: WASHINGTON, D.C. 4416/1-1, 5000351.
 DATE: 15 Jan 48 SCALE: Graphic
 TIME: 1700A

REMARKS: This report covers all damage to annotated area through 15 Jan 48.

REMARKS: The WY is covered on prints of good quality.

REMARKS: Within the dotted lines is evidence of a terrific explosion. The area of devastation measures approximately 80 yards by 40 yards, and debris has been thrown for a distance of at least 250 yards. The central area of the explosion is so black that an accurate assessment cannot be made from this cover; however, at least fifteen damaged or destroyed wagons are visible, and many others have probably been blown to pieces. Some rail lines have been cut for a distance of approximately 100 feet.

REMARKS: No activity is noted.

APPROVED: 5000

DATE: 15 Jan 48

TIME: 1700A

Mission of the 347th F.S. - Jan 15, 1948

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

D-8-4

597th Ptr Sqdn 2-2 Spt on a Armed Recon and Dive Bombing Mission -- 2 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 322

- A.- Opas C No. _____, Mission No. 322-5 -- Mission No. for day 000 -- 2 Feb 45 --
Armed Recon and Dive bombing mission in area of Mayen, Limburg, Weisen, Friedburg,
Rock Hill, Bad Schwalbach.
- B.- 368th Ptr Sp -- 597th Ptr Sqdn -- 10 A/U Disp -- 2 Aborts (At Kostrach's plane
leaked oil on the windshield when he was about ten miles out. Lt Dorlach's accompan-
ied.)
- C.- 0940 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 0950 -- TO: 1015 -- Crossed b/line on way
out at 1110 -- Down: 1116 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- 10 x 2 x 500lb Sp Bombs -- Inst n se, 1/40 tail -- 16 bombs in tgt area -- 4 returned
to base. --
Sqdn contacted Nipsaw five but there were no tpls. They continued on their armed
Recon and dropped eight bombs at L 8875, about 12 miles south of Coblenz. At least
one rail cut was scored at this point. Another rail line was bombed at L 8637 (265),
about 20 miles south south west of Coblenz. seven bombs were dropped and at least
one cut scored. The sqdn then proceeded to the town of Sockenau at L 9657 about
thirty-five miles south of Koblenz. Here the one remaining bomb was dropped on the
marshalling yard, results not observed. Four rows of cars totaling about 60 were
strafed in this marshalling yard. They were raked several times and it is estimated
that at least 50% were damaged. No explosions or fire were seen. Our sqdn called in
Serua and Flapper squadrons which had not yet disposed of their bombs.
- F.- Light mod inacc flak at L 9075 -- Light weak inacc flak at L 9658 --
- G.- Tracks in the area covered appeared shiny indicating that they were used, but no
rail traffic was seen.
- H.- 2/10 stratus clouds, base 1,000' top 2,000' -- visibility good -- patches of Cirrus
at 15,000' --
- I.- Sqdn code not used. --
- J.- Ground control not used --

ALL BOMBS:	KRAUSE	KORNO	CLAY	CHERRY
	BAUER	LE GRAND	BRIDGES	WRIGHT
	DORLACHER (AGENT)		KOSTRACH (AGENT)	

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

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D-8-4

597th Ftr Sqdn B-2 Apt on a Armed Recce and Dive Bombing Mission -- 2 February 1945 --
Sqdn Mission No. 256 -

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "J29-3" -- Mission No. for day : TWO -- 2 Feb 45 --
Armed Recce and Dive Bombing mission in area of Mayen, Limborg, Weisen, Friedburg,
Mockheim, and Bad Schwalbach.
- B.- 568th Ftr Gp -- 597th Ftr Sqdn -- 10 W/O Diep -- Two Aborts (Lt Patrick's radio went
out when three minutes over bomb line. Lt Bein returned with him).
- C.- Gp: 1558 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1410 -- TOT: 1440Z -- Crossed b/line on way
out at 1545 -- DOWN 1621 --
- D.- Nil
- E.- 10 x 2 x 500lb Gp Bombs inst Nose, 140 tail -- 16 bombs in tgt area -- 4 returned to
base.
Lt Weinstein had radio trouble in the vicinity of Coches and headed for home accom-
panied by Lt Morowitz. They bombed a wood in which they believed there was a troop
concentration at L 0744. The remainder of the sqdn bombed the W/I at Wetzlar (G-5519)
Major Carbine and Lt Arledge hit a fuel storage dump and observed smoke and flames.
There were 300 to 400 cars in the marshalling yard and five locos. Lt Barker destroyed
one loco and at least six cars. Lt Kerr destroyed at least six cars. Lt Bunt cut the
tracks at the choke point at the east end of the W/I G-567199. The sqdn then completed
the recce.
- F.- Hvy mod unknown acc AA at Koblenz. Light weak inacc AA at Wetzlar.
Hvy mod fairly acc AA at G-6020. Hvy mod fairly acc AA at G-6615.
Hvy mod fairly acc AA at G-7424.
- G.- A train of 20 to 25 cars was seen headed north out of Weisen. A train of 20 to 25
cars was seen headed north about ten miles west of Weisen at G-4614. These trains were
not attacked because sqdn was acting as top cover at the time. 11 locos were seen
steaming in the W/I on the west side of Frankfurt.
- H.- Tgt area: 10/10 overcast -- Base 15000' top unknown -- visibility very good. --
East of Rhine low patches unknown altitude -- thin high Cirrus at 25 to 30 Thou sand.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control good.

ALL BOMBS:	CARBINE	ARLEDGE	WEINSTEIN	BURONITZ
	BARKER	KERR	BEIN (ABORT)	PATRICK (ABORT)
	KERR	BUNT		

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D-2-4

597th Fighter Squadron B-2 Spt on a Dive Bombing Mission -- 6 February 1945 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 527

- A.- Opus O No. _____, Mission No. "FOJ-2" -- Mission No. for day: 022 -- 6 February 1945 --
Dive Bombing of Siebelstadt Airfield (H-6119).
- B.- 368th Ftr Sq -- 597th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- UP: 1055 -- DOWN: 1420 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- 12 x 2 x M27 Frag Clusters (12 x 90lb) -- 5 5/4 seconds delay (nose) -- 138 bombs in
tgt area -- 6 dropped during take-off --
Our squadron bombed the northern section of the airfield at Siebelstadt. Two flights
bombed the permanent installations and one flight the dispersal area north of the
north side of the airfield. The small size of the bombs and the altitude from which
they were dropped, 5,500', made assessment of damage difficult. However hits were
seen on the runway and on one hanger at the northeast corner. It is believed that
good results were obtained in the dispersal area but no definite claims can make.
There were about 15 A/C in the dispersal areas that our planes bombed. Approximately
60 planes were seen on the entire airfield, most of which were twin engined. One B-
410 was identified on the north side, also one JU 88 with a damaged wing tip. Planes
were seen in areas east and south of the runway and around the village of Siebelstadt.
The majority of the planes were painted blue.
- F.- In tgt area: Light and Hvy; Inten and sec. At Mannheim Hvy Inten sec. Airfield east of
Neustadt Hvy Inten sec.
- G.- The R/I at Mannheim was heavily loaded. Three loco were seen in stream. No barges
were seen on the Rhine.
- H.- 5/10 strato-cumulus over tgt area base unknown, top 11,000' -- visibility good.
10/10 thin overcast at 17,000' --
- I.- Squadron code not used. --
- J.- Ground control satisfactory --

ALL BOMBS:	CASPER	TUITE	SABA	STRAHAT
	LEWIS	HALPER	SHARP	THURMAN
	EMM	ROTT	SOO	REIN

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B-2-4

An Ftr Sqdn B-2 Rpt on a Dive Bombing, Rocket Firing, and Armed Recon Mission --
8 February 1945 -- Sqdn Mission No. 358

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. " BAE-1 " -- Mission No. for day : ONE -- 8 Feb 45 --
Support for Ironclad (80th Inf Div), at F 9155 -- Dive Bombing and Rocket Firing --
- B.- 368th Ftr Gp -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/G Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- UP: 1030 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1030 -- TOT: (for bombs) 1115- TOT: (for
rockets) 1125 or 1130 -- DOWN: 1215 --
- D.- Nil
- E.- 8 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 4 x 4 x 5" Mk I Rockets --
15/1000 second fixed base fuse -- 16 bombs in tgt area -- 2 rockets returned to
base. --
Our planes were supposed to have contacted Ironclad, but they could get no answer
from him either on A or B Channel. They called Flabby on A Channel and told him that
since there was a 10/10 coverage in the general area in which Ironclad was located,
they were going to conduct an armed recon in the area to the north east. They bomb-
ed a small marshalling yard at F-268167. There were 25 to 30 cars in the yard. No
engines were seen. There was one building in the yard that looked as if it might be
a roundhouse. There were several small factories in the yard. There was one direct
hit on a group of cars, and there were hits on the roundhouse. A fire was started
in houses slightly south of the track. Another fire in houses was started slightly
south of the first fire. Dirty grey smoke poured forth from both fires.
Strafing: Capt Krause and Lt Kostrack strafed an MI at F-268125. This MI appeared
to have been already burned out.
Rockets: 14 rockets were fired at a M/I at Ndr. Mendig at L-676975. 40 cars in three
rows were seen here. There were box cars. Hits were scored on the M/I. Lts Wein-
stein and Wright together destroyed five box cars. Lt Horlacher and Koenig destroyed one
building. The planes which fired rockets strafed on the first of their two passes.
F.- Mod acc, hvy flak at the bombing tgt, the M/I at F-268167. Mod not very acc light
flak at same M/I -- weak inacc hvy flak at the rocket tgt, the M/I at Ndr. Mendig at
L-676975. Int inacc light flak at the same place. (the flak at the rocket was sent
up in a barrage)
- G.- Six black balloons were seen flying at Kolbiana over what seemed to be a bridge.
They were flying above the clouds at 4 to 5 thousand feet. A small fire was seen
at Ahweiler, at F 629256. The town looked as if it had been hit by hvy bombers.
10 barges were seen south of Bonn on the River at F-629256.
- H.- Area southwest of tgt area and betw tgt area and base: 10/10 cloud coverage --
stratus clouds - base 2000' - top 3000' - visibility above clouds was very good.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control by Ripsaw one was very good. Our planes were always seen by him.

BOMBS:	KRAUSE	KOSTRACK	BARBER	ACRONITZ
ROCKETS:	BARBER	WALFIN	LANDEL	BRAYON
	HORLACHER	KOENIG	WEINSTEIN	WRIGHT

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D-2-4

... Ftr Sqdn 3-2 rpt on a Dive Bombing, Rocket Firing, and Armed Recce Mission -- 8 Feb 1945 -- Sqdn Mission No. 222

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "2AS-1" -- Mission No. for day: TWO -- 8 Feb 1945 -- Support for Ironclad (80th Inf Div), at F-9155. Armed Recce, Dive Bombing, and Rocket Firing.
- B.- 366th Ftr Gp -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- UF: 1402 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1420 -- TOT: (for bombs) 1440 -- TOT: (for rockets) 1445 -- Crossed b/line on way out 1525 or 1530 -- DOWN 1548 --
- D.- ~~with 1 a/c damaged by flak - cot. A~~
- E.- 8 x 2 x 500lb GP Bombs - Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 4 x 4 x 5" M. Mark I Rockets - 15/1000 fixed base fuse -- 16 Bombs in tgt area -- One rocket returned to base -- Our planes did not contact Ironclad. Ripsaw one gave our planes a bombing tgt which he said was at L-4192. Serun found the tgt. Our pilots maintain that this tgt was actually at L-5090 (near Ndr. Ehe) the tgt was a column of vehicles which Ripsaw one said was on a road. There were 22 vehicles seen. They were large white camouflaged vehicles, and were probably MI's. Results could not be observed because of a cloud cover.
- Strafing: (Area of L 5090 - Ndr. Ehe)
- Major Carbine destroyed 5 vehicles and damaged 20. They were horse drawn vehicles and MI with troops riding on them. Major Ruite destroyed one AA gun position. Lt Hogan destroyed one horse drawn vehicle carrying goods and driven by one man. Lt Kalen damaged two gun positions and two horse drawn vehicles and shot up personnel. Lt Lewis destroyed one half track and damaged 15. Lts Lewis and Ford together damaged nine camouflaged vehicles. Lt Hunt damaged one truck at Aremberg, F-541024.
- Strafing in area of W/I at L-505910, near Ndr. Ehe:
- Lt Kerr damaged 15 goods cars.
- Lt Kerr destroyed 15 tanks and one half track and damaged four tanks at F 526005. Lt Kerr damaged 15 houses at Aremberg. He destroyed 10 MI, 11 half tracks and one gas truck near Aremberg. Lts Kerr and Hunt together damaged 20 MI in Aremberg.
- Rockets: (Area of Ndr. Ehe W/I at L-505910) 8 rockets were fired here by Lts Kerr and Fein. Six went into the W/I and two went over. They destroyed a big shed and three goods cars. Fires were seen in the cars and in the shed. Lt Hunt destroyed 4 tanks at F-526005.
- The total results for the sqdn in strafing and rocket firing were: 18 vehicles destroyed and 52 damaged; one gun position destroyed and two damaged; three goods cars destroyed and 15 damaged; 15 tanks destroyed and 19 damaged; 15 houses damaged; two rails out; one railway shed destroyed; 16 half-tracks destroyed.
- F.- Nvy mod fairly acc flak in two places in the general strafing area. Light (20mm) inten acc flak in at least four or five places in the general strafing area. There was a cluster of about 30 guns at each of these four or five places. One 20 mm gun at Aremberg (its fire was acc, but it shot in front of the plane fired at). Light very inten very acc flak at W/I at L-505910. Nvy weak (four bursts), very acc at F-541024 (Aremberg)
- G.- There was a grouping of armor and motorized infantry on the roads in the tgt area. 200 to 300 vehicles were seen. They included armored vehicles, half tracks, tanks, and MI's (both horse and motorized) There were moving east and northeast, or they were grouping. No loco were seen on railroads. Smoke was seen about five miles north of bombing tgt. A factory was seen steaming at L 505910. One pilot strafed a W/I at F-1603, he made no claims, but he saw 25 burned out cars there. In the area of L-5090 there are two parallel roads leading through woods. Half tracks were seen there bumper to bumper etc. These half tracks were camouflaged.
- H.- Tgt area: 8/10 to 9/10 understast with breaks - stratocumulus clouds - base 300 to 500' top variable - good visibility, no haze.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control by Ripsaw one was good
- BOMBS: CARBINE RUIE HOGAN KALEN LEWIS HORD FRISSE PATRICK
- ROCKETS: KERR HUNT 300 FEIN

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397th Ftr Sqdn B-2 Apt on a Dive Bombing Mission -- 9 Feb 45 -- Sqdn Mission No. 360 --

A.-Opns O No. _____, "FOO-2" -- Mission No. for day: ORE -- 9 Feb 45 --

B.-~~368th Ftr Sqdn B-2 APT~~ ~~397th Ftr Sqdn~~

Mission was to have been Dive Bombing of railroad bridge at F-259877. The alternate tgt was a W/I at F-182665. Weather conditions made the execution of this mission impossible, and our planes bombed a small town at Q-8070, slightly southwest of Bellfield.

B.-368th Ftr Sq -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --

C.-OP: 0925 -- TOT: 1045 -- Crossed b/line on way out at 1100 -- DOWN: 1156 --

D.-Nil

E.-12 x 2 x 500lb GP Bombs, 1/10 nose, 1/40 tail -- 24 bombs in tgt area --

After our planes had flown oncourse for 18 minutes, Ripsaw informed them that the assigned mission had been cancelled because of wa conditions. He instructed them to undertake a fighter sweep to the east in the "W" section of the map. They bombed a little town at Q-8070 slightly southwest of Bellfield. 16 houses were destroyed. 6 blew up and 10 were set on fire. There was a small W/I or railroad siding on the west side of the town. One track was hit. One road was cut, and one crossroads on the south-east side of the town was hit.

Strafing: Lt Kerr set one house on fire.

F.-Light inten very inacc flak at tgt. 4 bursts of hvy acc flak at the tgt. 6 or 7 bursts of light inacc flak in a woods about four or five miles northwest of the tgt. Light inten acc flak southwest of the tgt.

G.- On the side of a hill about west of the town bombed there was a ditch forming the letters "C W". The ditch seemed rather old, and the work was probably done some time ago.

H.-Tgt area: 10/10 cloud coverage with breaks- Cumulus clouds - base 2000', variable tops ranging from 12000' to 18000'- visibility satisfactory.

I.-Sqdn code not used.

J.-Ripsaw did not control the sqdn to any great extent; his control was satisfactory.

For the most part, sqdn was controlled by Ripsaw five, whose control was poor. On several occasions, he directed our sqdn to a point considerable beyond the b/line and then confused matters and delayed our planes by cautioning our pilots to be careful lest they hit our own troops.

ALL BOMBS: OMBINE
LEWIS
KEAR

TUITE
KUBNIS
ROST

FRISBE
SRA.F
300

WRIGHT
TRANTON
PLIN

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277th SW2 Spt of Dive Bombing Mission 10 Feb 43 Sqn Miss No 351/

- A - Op Ord No. _____ Miss No 351-2 Miss for Day 1 10 Feb 43
Dive bombing of bridge at F259877, alt tgt at W/I at F182669
- B - 360 Fu 397 Pa 12 a/c disp. no aborts
- C - Op 1400, Green 21 to 1910, Tot 1610, Or 24 out 1600, Down 1720.
- D - Nil
- E - 12x2000 GP bombs, 1/10 nose 1/40 tail. 24 bombs in tgt area.
Sqn cont acted Moslice on C channel but there was too much traffic on this channel. They proceeded to the primary tgt, a bridge at F 259877. The bridge was covered withavy clouds and they orbited for about 20 min. waiting for a break. The break did not occur so they flew a few miles south and bombed a road bridge over the rail line at ~~F259877~~ on the outskirts of Lavcling. Two direct hits destroyed the west end of the bridge. Lt Bauer ~~XXXX~~ scored one of these. There was one out on the tracks immediately south of the bridge and at least two hits on roads east of the bridge. Two bombs hung up and were dropped on the way home on the second ary tgt, a W/I at F182669. No results were observed. A few scattered cars were seen in the W/I.
- F - Avy Mod Fairly acc Flak at Biltburg.
- G - Avy bombers were seen attacking Munsterself at F3128. They were running into intense flak. 5 MI's were seen about 4 mi W of Neusa headed NW. No barges were seen on the Rhine. Intense friendly ground activity was seen on the front near Schternach, with many phosphorus shells seen.
- H - 4 to 5/10 camilus base 5500 to 4000' top 8000' to 9000' vis good over tgt area.
- I - Sqn code not used
- J - Ground control good except for excessive activity on C channel.

F246843

all bombs: Krause, Le Grand, Clary, Korowitz.
Bauer, Leavoy, Hogan, Nelson.
Barker, Thornton, Tansel, Oterhart.
Harper

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397th B-2 Report of Divebombing Mission 11 Feb 45 Sqn Miss No 362

- A - Ops Ord No _____ Miss No 305-2 11 Feb 45 Miss for Day 1
Dive bombing of RR bridge at F 259677 with alt tgt W/I at F182665.
- B - 363 PG 397 PG 12 a/c disp no aborts.
- C - Up 0800, or 8L in 0825, TOT 0855, or 8L out 0920, down 0951.
- D - Nil
- E - 12x2x500 gr's 1/10 nose 1/40 tail. 24 bombs in tgt area.
Sqn contacted Rosalee IV but did not use it for control work. They went to the area of the assigned tgt, but it was covered with a thick blanket of clouds. They then flew south. Red flight dropped eight bombs on the W/I at Stommen F319594. At least two cuts were scored in the track and two buildings were hit. Yellow flight dropped eight bombs at Heisteden F300665. A large institutional type building was hit one wing of which was destroyed. Blue flight dropped eight bombs on a RR line at F350606. The small bridge over a road at this point was not hit, but the road was cut at two points, and the other six bombs were close misses to the RR line.
- F - Mod fairly acc hvy flak at F1741
Mod fairly acc hvy flak at F3560
Mod inacc hvy flak at F3579
- G - 40 cars were seen on the tracks without locomotive at F1852, SE of Duren. A train of at least 20 cars was seen headed SE at F290712. The sqdn leader did not see it, so that it was not attacked. A single locomotive was seen on the SW outskirts of Cologne at F4464. A train of undetermined size was seen at a distance headed SE at F4545.
- H - In assigned tgt area 10/10 undercast base unknown top 4000'. S of tgt area, there were breaks in the undercast and an overcast at 12,000'.
Visibility good.
- I - Sqn code not used.
- J - Ground control not used.

All bombs: Carbine, Tufts, Hagan, Patrick,
Soo, Koenig, Keinstein, Kostrach,
Lerr, Hunt, Fein, Korowitz.

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277th FS S-2 Report of Divebombers Mission 11 Feb 45 Sgdn Miss No 263.

- A - US Ord No. _____ Miss No. 205-2 11 Feb 45 Miss for Day- #2
 B - Divebombers of 277th FS at F259677 with alt tgt WY at F182669.
 C - 368th FS, 397th FS. 12 A/C disp. No shorts.
 D - Up 1115, Or S/L in 1130, TOT 1150, Or S/L out 1250, Down 1557.
 E - Nil
 F - 12x2500 GP's 1/10 nose 1/40 tail. 24 bombs in tgt area.
 Sgdn contacted ALPHEA II and switched to ROSALEK on G channel.
 ROSALEK called in several bandits in the area, but none were sighted.
 When they reached the assigned tgt, there was a heavy overcast over
 it. They orbited until a hole gave them an opportunity to attack.
 20 bombs were dropped on the bridge. There was a large hole made at
 the S end of the bridge by two or possibly four bombs hitting at the
 same point. The tracks were torn up and the end of the bridge was
 severely damaged, although it did not collapse. There was another
 hit scored at the S end which cut the tracks and may have damaged the
 bridge structure. Lt Lewis and his wingman bombed another bridge
 at F248055. Lt Lewis scored two hits on the bridge but could not
 assess the damage caused.
 G - 100d inacc 1 1/2 flak at F2688
 " " hvy " at F2688
 H - One locomotive and 12 to 15 cars were seen stationary facing S at
 F2594. They were not attacked because the weather was closing in.
 Five or six barges were seen through small holes in the clouds in the
 Neuss locks. Ten cars and a locomotive were seen on a siding at F240243.
 I - Over tgt area 10/10 cumulo-stratus base 3500' top 5000' vis good.
 Sgd overcast from Duren back nearly to base from ground to 15,000'.
 J - Sgdn code not used.
 K - Ground control satisfactory.

All bombs: Kruse, LeGrand, Clary, Leavoy.
 Lewis, Ford, Sharp, Thorton.
 R.D.
 Barker, Galpin, Isadel, Uterhart.

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CONFIDENTIAL397th Ftr Sqdn 8-2 Npt on a Weather Recce -- 13 Feb 45 -- Sqdn Mission No. 264 --

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. _____, Mission for day ONE -- 13 Feb 45 --
 Sea Recce Mission in area of Lux and Trier.
- B.- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 368th Ftr Sq -- 2 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- UP: 0805 -- Crossed b/line n way in 0815 -- Crossed b/line on way out 0905 --
 DOWN: 0924 --
- D.- Nil
- E.- Nil Our 2 planes flew north to Lux but there was 10/10 undercast in that area,
 so they headed northeast to the Trier area. They saw a train at L 46045 consisting
 of a loco and sixteen cars headed north. They strafed and destroyed the loco and
 one flak car. In addition they damaged one flak car and two goods cars.
- F.- Light fairly inten fairly acc flak from the train at L 46045.
- G.- A loco and three cars was seen in a small yard at L 3678. Numerous vehicles were
 seen in this area including two convoys of eight to ten MT headed northeast.
- H.- 10/10 undercast with breaks base 2500' to 3500' top 5500' to 7000' visibility good.
 Scattered high thin Cirrus. There was a break in the undercast near Bonn.
- I.- Sqdn Code not used
- J.- Ground control not used.

PILOTS: KAUSE YANDEL

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397th Ptr Sqdn 3-2 Spt on a Armed Recon and Dive Bombing Mission -- 15 Feb 45 -- sqdn
Mission No. 362

- A.- Opns C No. _____, Mission No. 4EA-1 -- Mission No. for day TWO -- 15 Feb 45 --
Armed Recon to Trois Vierge (N7570), Prum, Adenau, Cochem, Elzberg. Tpts: Ooms
centers at Wolsfeld (L090460), Wettingen (L045487), Mittendorf (P995505), and Weckel
(L125441).
- B.- 368th Ptr Op-- 397th Ptr Sqdn -- 12 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- 02: 1117 -- Crossed b/line on way in 1150 -- Crossed b/line on way out 1400 --
DOWN: 1417.
- D.- Nil
- E.- 8 x 2 x 500 GP Bombs inst nose 1/40 tail -- 4 x 1 Napom bombs -- 20 bombs in tgt
area --
Our plane flew north for about 25 minutes but the low overcast was unbroken. They
flew back to Lux where they contacted Kipsaw three. Kipsaw three vectored them north
to about 24000 where Flapper had reported breaks in the undercast when they reached
this point the undercast was still 10/10. They were told to contact Newpink for a
584 mission. They were unable to make contact with Newpink. They were then vectored east
to area of Mayen but the undercast was still unbroken. They flew back southwest at
240 degrees. They contacted Kipsaw one who sent them north again on a course of 355
degrees for 10 minutes. They then contacted Newpink who gave them several headings
in an easterly direction. After a considerable time Newpink faded out. They called
Kipsaw three and said that they were xx going to return to base as gas was getting low.
At this time they saw several small towns through a break in the clouds and
dropped all bombs armed. No results were observed. They then called Kipsaw three for
a heading home. They were given a heading of a 190 degrees which they flew for 50
minutes. The heading was apparently wrong and they headed west and returned to base
without use of controls.
- F.- Inten fairly acc light AA at L 4855. Inten acc hwy at L 8092.
- G.- An operational grass airfield was seen at L 4855 with three four unidentified A/C
on it. Another Airfield apparently unused with a large barracks and radio mast was
seen at L 4946.
- H.- 10/10 undercast with very few breaks base 2000' top 7000' -- scattered high Cirrus --
visibility good.
- I.- Sqdn code was used by the sqd leader -- xxxxxx confirms the apparently wrong heading
given by Kipsaw three. He received the correct identification reply.
- J.- Ground control very confused.

ALL BOMBS:	KRAUSE	LE GRAND	YANDEL	PATRICK
	LEWIS	HORD	BRAXFISSE	TRUNTON
	HUNLACHER	ROSTRACH	WEINSTEIN	ARLEDEE

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CONFIDENTIAL597th Ftr Sqdn G-2 Spt on a Escort and Armed Recon Mission -- 14 Feb 45 -- SA Miss No. 76

- A.- Ops O No. _____, Miss No. 765-A -- Mission for day:ONE -- 14 Feb 45 --
Escort for G 47 from P 6171 to P 9684 and Armed Recon in area of Trun, Adensau, Cochem,
and Bithurg.
- B.- 368th Ftr Sq -- 597th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- WP: 0927 -- Rendezvous with G 47 at 0957 -- Left G 47 and crossed b/line at 1010 --
TOT 1140 -- Crossed b/line on wayout 1150 -- DOWN 1222 --
- D.- One of our A/C damaged by enemy flak Cat "A"
- E.- 12 x 2 x 500lb GP Bombs Inst nose 1/40 tail -- 24 Bombs in tgt area --
Our planes escorted the G 47 without incident to the drop point (P 9684). They then
Contacted Summerflock who gave them a tgt, a small town, Kleinlangerfeld at L 1966.
They proceeded to this point but there was a heavy overcast and they were prevented
from bombing. As there gas was running low they picked several tgts for themselves
with out ground control. They dropped 14 bombs on the town of Rirterweiler at L 300825.
There were 8 hits on buildings in the town and two on the road intersections in the
center of town. Damage could not be assessed. Two bombs were dropped on the A/I at
Ringen (L 3681). Results not observed. Lt Olary strafed this A/I damaging at least 3
four cars. The town of Putshorn at L 309774 received the eight bombs of Blue Flight
and was nearly wiped out.
- F.- Inacc mod light flak at L 3681. very acc mod heavy AA from the north eastern edge of
Bithurg extending about eight miles to the northeast.
- G.- Five vehicles were seen on a road headed north at L 2583.
- H.- 10/10 stratus cloud cover developing to about 6/10 at the end of the mission -
base 1500' top 2500' to 3000' -- visibility very good.
- I.- Sqdn code not used --
- J.- Ground control fairly good except for Kipsaw three whose courses seemed inaccurate.

ALL BOMBS:	CASING	TOTAL	CLAY	WAGON
	FRASCHER	ROSTACH	FRISCH	FRISCH
	REER	LEAVY	FR IN	FR IN

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0027

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

597th Ftr Sqdn B-2 Apt on a Armed Recon and Dive Bombing -- 14 Feb 45 -- Sq Miss No 367 --

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "J 29-3" -- Mission for day : TWO -- 14 Feb 45 --
Armed Recon to Trier, Koblenz, Sinzig, Wittburg. Tgt: Ahrweiler MT Depot at F 522161.
- B.- 368th Ftr Gp -- 597th Ftr Sqdn -- 10 A/C Miss -- No Aborts --
- C.- 08:1550 -- Crossed b/line on way in 1345 -- 101: 1415 -- Crossed b/line on way out
1450 -- Down: 1526 --
- D.- Nil
- E.- 10 x 2 x 500lb GP Bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 20 bombs in tgt area --
Sqdn contacted Ripsaw five called in bogies several times. They all were F 51 A/C
they were very aggressive and made several passes at our planes. All planes bombed
the assigned tgt, the MT depot at Ahrweiler (F522161). Two buildings were destroyed
and seven or eight MT were destroyed by bombing and strafing. Several F 51 which
had been reported as bogies were investigated on the way home.
- F.- One JU 88 was sighted at F5020 flying at 1000' or less at 1420 hours headed east.
Mod acc hvy flak at F 5216 -- Mod acc light flak at F5216 -- Mod acc hvy flak at
F 5531 -- weak very acc hvy flak at F 6915 --
- G.- 39 plus barges were seen on the Rhine for a five mile stretch south of Bonn.
There was a complete absence of rail and motor traffic. A possible launching ramp
was seen at L 5405 pointed northwest. It was about 1500' long and had been hit by a
bomb.
- H.- Scattered alto cumulus - base 1500' top 2500' -- visibility very good --
- I.- Sqdn code not used --
- J.- Ground control very good --

ALL NAMES: K. ROSE M. WAID L. H. ROSE
YARD L TRICHTER R. ROSE K. ROSE
BOO BOON

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 Fts Sqdn 8-2 Rpt on a Dive Bombing Mission -- 14 Feb 45 -- Sq Mission No. 328 168

- A - Ops Ord _____ Miss No. J29-5 Miss for day- 75 14 Feb 45.
Dive bombing of A/I at Neunkirchen (397040).
- B - 568 FD 597 FA 12 w/c disp, 2 aborts. Cocker box on Lt Leavoy's plane was cracked and he was forced to land shortly after takeoff. Lt Patrick accompanied him back.
- C - Up 1651, or SL in 1650, TOR 1655, or SL out 1715, down 1752.
- D - Nil
- E - 12x2x900 GP's inst nose 1/40 tail. 20 bombs in tgt area. 4 ret to base by aborts.
19 bombs were dropped in the A/I at Neunkirchen (397040). 17 of these were well concentrated on the rolling stock and tracks of the yard. Large fires and smoke were seen, which were still burning when the planes left the area. There was moderately heavy landing in the A/I. No accurate assessment of damage could be made. Two other bombs landed on buildings just outside the SW border of the A/I causing severe damage to them. One of Lt Clary's bombs hung up and was later dropped in the center of the town of Urexweiler (392925). Lt Aalen also strafed this town. Three houses were left burning.
- F - Moderate heavy flux of unknown accuracy was seen firing at a group of B-26's at 12525.
- G - Nil
- H - 0.000
- I - Sqdn Code not used.
- J - Ground control satisfactory.
- All bombs: Werhine, Woodworth, Clary, Aalen,
Barker, Borowitz, Weinstein, Sharp, AB,
Merr, Galpin, Patrick (abort), Leavoy (abort).

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

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127th S-2 Bpt of Armed Reces and Dive bombing Mission 12 Feb 45. Sqdn Miss #569

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. FVB-1 Miss for Day: 1 15 Feb 45.
 B Support for AA Corpd at Q0124, and Armed Reces in area of Thionville, Wertzig, Saarburg, Leebach.
- B - 368 FG, 597 FG. 12A/2A 8 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Op 1229, Cr SL in 1290, TOT 1310, Cr SL out 1415, Down 1511.
- D - Nil
- E - 8x2500 GP's, inst nose, 1/40 tail. 16 bombs in tgt area.
 After many attempts our planes finally contacted STOWAWAI (94th Div). They could not contact HIFER at all. STOWAWAI was very weak and could only be heard when in his immediate vicinity. STOWAWAI attempted to direct our planes to woods E of Sinz at L042072, as was learned later. Through inability to receive the message clearly, our planes went to a location many miles E of the tgt. They did not see the white marking smoke and were unable to receive STOWAWAI. They then went on the armed reces. 8 bombs were dropped on the W/I at Nonweiler at L445124. All bombs landed in the W/I. There was one hit on a possible transformer or ammo car as it was followed by flames and sparks for several minutes. 10 or 12 cars were damaged or destroyed. 8 bombs were dropped on the W/I at Reinfield at L445041. There were six hits in the yard. Four or five oil and boxcars were damaged. They were then joined by four of our planes returning from a leaflet dropping mission and proceeded to base.
- F - Nil
- G - Nil See Below
- H - Slight haze over tgt area; no clouds; vis. at least seven miles.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground control: HIFER could not be received; STOWAWAI was very weak, as noted in narrative.

All bombs: Krause, Woodworth, Patrick, Galpin,
 Lewis, Ford, Sharp, AD, Thornton.

Addenda:

- G - At approx 1500 hrs the Sqdn leader, Capt Krause, saw a plane come in on the deck from the East. It circled around a train at U062905. Capt Krause went down on it and identified it as a camouflaged F51. He turned back to rejoin the sqdn and the other plane strafed the train. Capt Krause gave chase but lost the plane which disappeared in a northeasterly direction on the deck. It was thought later that it might have been an #109. The train consisted of about 20 cars and was headed E towards Thionville.

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

397th Fg a-2 Rpt of Leaflet Bombing Mission 19 Feb 45 sqdn Miss No. 279

- A - Ops ord No. _____ Miss No. FFA-1 Miss for Day: 2 19 Feb 45
Leaflet dropping mission at Sitburg, Marlenbach, Sarresdorf, Wittlich.
- B - 368 Fg 397th Fg. 4 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Op 1229, or 31 in 1245, or 31 out 1419, down 1911.
- D - Nil
- E - 4x7 Leaflet bombs.
Our planes carried out leaflet dropping on Sitburg, Marlenbach, Sarresdorf, and Wittlich as assigned without incident. They used AFBAN as accontroller and found that at times the fixes given to them were as much as 10 to 15 mi in error. They joined the other two flights of our sqdn as of Trier and returned to base with them.
- F - wk, inacc, hvy flak at Wittlich.
wk, inacc, hvy flak at 22200.
- G - Nil
- H - Slight fog seen along river; vis good.
- I - sqdn code not used.
- J - AFBAN inaccurate in giving fixes.
- All leaflets: Sauer, Leavoy, Hogan, Kalen.

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

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397th Ftr sqdn 2-2 Spt on a Armed Recon and Dive Bombing Mission -- 15 Feb 45 --
sqdn mission no. 371

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "FV-1" -- Mission No. for day; Three -- 15 Feb 45 --
Support for 20th Corps (40194) and Armed Recon in the area of Thionville, Metz, Sarburg, and Lebach.
- B.- 368th Ftr sq -- 397th Ftr sqdn -- 12 1/2 Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- 07: 1510 -- Crossed bomb line on way in 1650 -- Crossed h/line on way out 1725 --
Down: 1749 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- 12 x 2 x 500lb GP Bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 24 bombs in tgt area --
Our planes contacted Liver (20th Corps) and were relayed to Stowaway. Stowaway directed them to bomb the woods east of Sins at L 070042. 16 bombs were dropped in an excellent concentration on the tgt which had been marked by two bursts of white smoke. Eight bombs were dropped on Oberluzen at L 062016. The bombs were well concentrated causing great damage, but accurate results could not be assessed. The tgt was marked with two bursts of white smoke. GP and Gun implacements were strafed east of Oberluzen at L 79016. Also the town of Kollsluzen at L 115062 was strafed as were ammo barns and personnel at this location. The town of Irasson at L 129092, the town of Fisch at L 099142, and the town of Hiff at L 091055 were all strafed throughly. Hay stacks south of the town of Bilsingen at L 071116 were strafed. It is believed that they were used to conceal MG.
- F.- Mod inacc light AA at L 067076.
- G.- An A 20 or B 26 was seen belloyed in at L 069029. A P 47 was seen belloyed in at L 065-049.
- H.- A layer of haze at 5000' ceiling unlimited--visibility 50 miles down sun --7 up sun --
- I.- sqdn code not used --
- J.- ground control very good --

ALL BOMBS:	UNARMED	TOILET	FANCLL	STRENGTH
	CLAY	AS STARD	WATERBURY	ROBERTS
	EMER	ROSE	BOY	ROBERT

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327 th Ftr sqdn 8-2 Apt on a Armed Recon and Dive Bombing -- 16 Feb 45 -- Sq Mias No. 572 --

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. " was-1 " -- mission No. for day: Oad -- 16 Feb 45 -- Support for 8th Corps (Summerfrock) at F 7570 and armed recon in the area of Summerfrock (F7570), Blankenheim, (F2105), Dorast (L5598), and Bitburg.
- B.- 368th Ftr Sq -- 327th Ftr sqdn -- 11 A/C Disp -- One short. Lt Clary's radio failed to operate and he returned to base shortly after take off. --
- C.- OF: 0919 -- crossed b/line on way in 0950 -- TOT: 1000 -- crossed b/line on way out 1105 -- SOON: 1159 --
- D.- One of our s/c damaged by enemy flak bat "AC" --
- E.- 7 x 2 x 500lb GP Bombs -- inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 4 x M27 frag clusters -- 20 bombs in tgt area -- 2 returned to base (GP Bombs) -- sqdn contacted Finkesop and were vectored by Finkesop to bomb the marshalling yard at Gerolstein at L 2481. All bombs were dropped at this point and all fell on building installations in the yards. Great damage was done to the buildings but an accurate assessment of results was impossible. The town of Gerolstein was strafed. Pilot saw five then vectored our planes to a reported armored vehicle concentration at L 0661. Our planes strafed a group of eleven armored vehicles at least nine of which were tanks at L 0671. They were thoroughly strafed and probably destroyed. Another group of 10 mixed armored vehicles and tanks was thoughtly strafed at L 052710. A group of eight tanks was heavily strafed and probably destroyed at L 065710. A group of seven HT was strafed at L 0267. Clouds interfered with an accurate assessment of damage, but smoke and fires could be seen.
- F.- Mod acc hvy AA at L 1376 --
Inten fairly acc light AA at L 2481 --
weak inacc hvy AA at L 2481 --
Mod to inten inacc light AA at L 0575 --
mod unknown acc hvy AA at L 0974 --
mod acc light AA at L 0267 --
- G.- Numerous scattered vehicles of all types were seen stationary and camouflaged in the strafing area.
- H.- 10/10 to clearlow stratus from 0' to 200' - visibility good above --
- I.- sqdn code not used --
- J.- Ground control very satisfactory --

EQSBS:	GANNING	TUITH	CLARY (ASST)	STERNART
	BARKER		YANIEL	BAISER
FRAG:	BERK	IB GRAB	BOO	RUSS

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597th Ftr Sqdn B-2 Spt on a Close Support, Armed Recce and Dive Bombing Mission --
16 Feb 45 -- Sqdn Mission No. 373

- A. Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "AW-1" -- Mission No. for day: TWO -- 16 Feb 45 --
Support for 6th Corps (Summerfrock), located at F7570. Armed Recce in area of F7570,
Blankenhelm, (F2105), Dorfel (L5998), and Bitburg. Dive Bombing and strafing
- B. 368th Ftr Gp, 597th Ftr Sqdn 8 A/C Disp No Abortives
- C. OP: 1515 Crossed b/line on way in at 1545 TO: (First flight 1405 TO: (second f
Flight 1500- First flight Crossed the b/line on way out 1445 second flight crossed at
1510 down; 1529
- D. Nil
- E. 8 x 2 x 500lb Gp Bombs inst nose 1/40 tail 16 bombs in tgt area
Our planes contacted Summerfrock, who assigned as a tgt vehicles which he said were about
six miles northwest of Bitburg. In the area of L060640, a wooded area, there were several
small curved roads. In the shadows on these roads there were groups of MT's. They were
all together 60 to 70 MT in the area. Four bombs were dropped here and four MT were
destroyed. Four bombs were dropped in a wooded area at L 070570 at what were thought were
vehicles, but after the bombing it was thought improbable that there were vehicles in the
area the bombing done in this area northwest of Bitburg was the work of one flight. The
second flight bombed a tgt of its own selection, the W/Y at Kyllburg, L180607 there was
20 freight cars here but no engines six bombs were dropped several buildings near the
tracks were well hit there were two direct hits on a string of ten cars and all ten were
destroyed. The fourth plane in this flight developed engine trouble before the other
planes bombed and had to drop its bombs before the bombing of the W/Y it dropped two
bombs on a town which was thought to be Emmerath, L4571. WAO Lts Lewis & B Sharp and
Thornton did especially good work in the bombing. Lts Sharp and Thornton destroyed the
ten freight cars mentioned above.
Strafing Capt Krause's flight destroyed ten MT seen at L 063657, and ten MT seen at L060650
seven trucks were seen at L 091591, and all were well hit
- F. Light acc mod flak at L040670
- G. Navy mod acc flak at EN intersection at L 1654
- H. A battle was observed east of a stream in the area of L 050450 much white smoke was seen
I. there were no clouds in the tgt area, and the visibility was up to 8 to 10 miles at low
altitudes
- I. Sqdn code not used
- J. Ground control very good

COMB:	KRAUSE	WAO	PATRICK	FAHEY
	LEWIS	SHARP	A B SHARP	THORNTON

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397th Pz Bn 2-2 Rpt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recce Mission -- 19 Feb 49 --
 Bn Mission No. 374

- A.- Opns No. _____, Mission No. "CDB-1" -- Missin No. for day WE -- 19 Feb 49
 Support for 12th Corps units and armed recce in area of Lux, Trier, Stadfeld
 (15070), Dochem. Alternate tgts RR Bridge at 1561476 and UF at Wissemendorf
 (1675552).
- B.- 368th Tr Bn -- 397th Pz Bn -- 3 A/C disp -- no Aborts --
- C.- UP: 1252 -- crossed h/line on way in 1255 -- TO: 1320 -- crossed h/line on way
 out 1400 -- DOWN: 1425 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- 2 x 2 x 900lb W Bombs -- 1st nose -- 1/40 tail -- 16 bombs in tgt area --
 Our planes checked in with Pipeaw one then contacted Brandy who told them to go
 on their assigned armed recce. They went to Trier and Wittlich but the area
 was completely overcast. Brandy then told them to go north to see if they could
 find a break. They found a break and four planes tried to bomb the RR bridge
 at Echeld (1400000). The eight bombs missed the bridge but completely destroyed
 the town which consisted of 15 to 20 buildings, West arena, Lt Hogan, and Lt
 Le Grand bombed a RR bridge slightly west of the first tgt at 1560000. Smoke
 prevented an accurate assessment of the damage by the last four bombs but pilots
 claim at least two and probably three hits on the bridge. Lt Uterhart aimed his
 bombs at a rake of about 15 box cars at 1440000. He missed the cars but cut the
 track.
- F.- Nil --
- G.- Nil --
- H.- 10/10 Alto-cumulus - base 800' top 1200' to 2000' -- visibility very good --
 North of the southern boundary of the "P" this layer was broken to scattered --
 There were patches of clouds at 9000' and a exact 10/10 overcast of thin cirrus
 at 11000'. --
- I.- Bdn code not used --
- J.- Ground control very good --

ALL CORPS **	FAUCS	FR 10	ROGAN	LE GRAND
	CLAY	KORNE	FAURER	UTERHART

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597th Ftr Sqdn 4-2 Apt on a Close Support, Dive Bombing, and Armed Recon -- 19 Feb 45 --
 Sqdn Mission No. 575

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "OEB-1" -- Mission No. for day Two -- 19 Feb 45 --
 Support for units of 12 Corps (Brandy - at Lux) -- Armed Recon in area of Trier,
 Stadtfelt, Cochem, Dive Bombing and strafing.
- B.- 568th Ftr Sq -- 597th Ftr Sqdn -- 5 A/B Disp -- One Abort (light planes were to have
 taken off. Three planes in one flight did not take-off. For this reason the fourth
 plane returned shortly after taking off.)
- C.- DT: 1532 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1555 -- TOT: Unknown -- Crossed b/line on
 way out at 1630 -- BOM: 1707 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- 5 x 2 x 500lb GP Bombs - Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 5 bombs in tgt area - two returned
 to base by abort.--
 Our planes contacted Pipeaw One. Then they contacted Brandy, who told them to
 contact outbreak. Outbreak gave them a tgt and then told them not to attack it
 because it was too close to the front lines. Then outbreak told them that there
 were tanks north of the town of Mettendorf at 43090 and instructed them to look over
 the activity in the area. When they were in the area he asked them to bomb the town
 of Mähl at 4-007518. According to outbreak, there was a CP in the town. Eight
 bombs were dropped there. Six were close and two landed directly on something.
 Strafing: Our planes noticed several AF at Sinspelt, 4-965555. By the time authori-
 zation to attack them had been obtained from outbreak, no vehicles were seen. Our
 planes strafed a clump of trees. Then they saw vehicles in Geckler, 4-965554. Outbreak
 instructed them not to attack these vehicles. Then Major Carbine and Lt Woodworth
 strafed the town of Wiesmannsdorf, 4-075550. At briefing, the CP of the 55th German
 Corps had been reported to be there. Our pilots reported that the town seemed not
 to have been hit prior to their arrival. No fire was seen after the strafing. Then
 our planes performed the assigned armed recon.
- F.- Mod fairly acc hvy flak at Metach, 4-1552.
 Mod fairly acc hvy flak at Oberkeil, 4-2460.
- G.- See E Above. --
- H.- Tgt area: A haze layer at 4000'. Visibility into the sun was zero. Visibility down
 sun was two miles. There was a great deal of cloud at the top of the haze layer.
 Armed Recon area: 10/10 cloud coverage at 5000'. Thickness of clouds unknown.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control satisfactory. --

ALL BOMBS: GABLE WOODWORTH KALIN RALPH
 (ABORT)

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

597th Ftr Sqdn Rpt S-2 on a Armed Recon and Dive Bombing Mission -- 20 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 276

- A.- Opns O No. ____, Mission No. "023-3" -- Mission No. for day 023 -- Feb 20 45 --
Armed Recon in area of Mainz, Mainz, Aschaffenburg, and Bamstadt.. Strafing and
Dive Bombing of dock areas at W-555285 (Town of Bernshelm),--
- B.- 368th Ftr Sq -- 597th Ftr Sqdn -- 16 A/C disp -- No Aborts. --
- C.- OF: 1025 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1040 -- TOF: 1120 -- Crossed b/line on way
out at 1215 -- DOWN: 1250 --
- D.- Nil.--
- E.- 16 x 2 x 500lb SR bombs - Inst nose, 1/40tail -- 32 bombs in tgt area --
Our planes bombed the dock areas at Bernshelm, W-555285. There were thirty barges on
the river in that area. 11 barges were destroyed and five were damaged. Two of three
dock areas were destroyed. A road near the docks was hit by two bombs. Thirty-one
bombs were dropped here. One bomb hung up at this place and was dropped on a W/I at
W-1196. The bombs hit directly on a track and cars. Three or four cars were destroyed
and the track was cut. Our planes performed the assigned armed recon.
~~xxxxxx~~It was Major Ruite who bombed the W/I
Strafing: Major Carbine's flight damaged 25 cars on a RR at W-975950. There were 25
cars at this place. At the approach of our planes the loco was detached and run under
a tunnel. 5000 rounds were fired at this train.
- F.- Very inten fairly acc light flak at the strafing tgt, W-975950.
Mod inacc light flak at the dock areas at Bernshelm, W-555285.
Weak inacc hvy flak at W-5627.
- G.- The W/I area west of Kaiserlautern was filled with cars, and there was a smoke screen
over the whole W/I area. This area ~~xxxxxxx~~ covers a long stretch of track. There
was much RR and factory activity in the area of Weunkirchen and in a town at W-5636.
Locos were seen switching up at Bad Airmansbach. There were thirty or forty RR cars
in each of the W/I on a RR running through Busel (L-7600), L-7700, and L-7910).
- H.- Armed Recon areas: 10/10 cloud coverage - stratus clouds - base unknown- top 14000'-
visibility 10 miles.
Tgt areas: A 10/10 overcast of thin stratus clouds- base 6000' - top 14000' -
visibility zero to ten miles. -
- I.- sqdn code not used. --
- J.- ground control satisfactory --

ALL: NAME:	NAME	NAME	NAME
BARBER	K. STACH	FABER	ARMSTRONG
LEWIS	SMITH	PLUM	W. DAVIS
ALAN	TATE	TANDEL	W. WHITE

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597th Ftr Sqn S-2 Rpt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recon Mission -- 21 Feb 45-- Sqn
Mission No. 577

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "XXX-1" -- Missio. for day: ORE -- 21 Feb 45 --
Armed recon to Lux, Trier, Badem, (L2057), Baum (L3578), and Gochem. Alternate tgt 7th
Army CP at Eisenschmidt (L 2761).
- B.- 568th Ftr Gp -- 597th Ftr Sqn -- 4 A/C Bisp -- No Aborts --
- C.- OP: 0808 -- Crossed b/line on way in 0855 -- TOT: 0915 -- Crossed b/line on way out at
1000 -- DOWN: 1032 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb GP Bombs - inst Nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area --
All eight bombs were dropped in the W/I sk and factory area at Kirn (L 805519). Two
landed in W/I, two in the town, and two beside the rails. All HAO. Two landed in the
factory buildings causing considerable damage to minor buildings in the factory area.
A train of 15 cars was attacked as it left the W/I headed east. Capt Krause and Lt
Shea damaged seven cars by strafing. Capt Krause destroyed the loco which had been
dis connected and driven east L827530. He also destroyed a flak position at L 8135.
- F.- Mod fairly acc sk light AA at Kirn L805520.
- G.- 60 to 65 cars were seen in the W/I at Kirn. 15 cars were seen on a siding at L 9132.
- H.- weather: 10/10 cloud cover - with small holes alto-cumulus -- base 200 to 1000' - top
5000' -- visibility poor below - very good above --
- I.- Sqn Code not used --
- J.- Ground control: Ripsaw's three courses was very inacc.

ALL BOMBS: KRAUSE SHEA FALBE THURTON

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397th Ftr Sqdn 3-2 Rpt on a Leaflet Dropping Mission -- 21 Feb 45 -- Sqdn Mission No. 578

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "A&A-1" -- Mission for day: T&O -- 21 Feb 45 --
Leaflet dropping - designated planes were Spicher L 2149, Bickendorf L 1262,
Mullenborn L 2085, and Putzborn L 3477. Putzborn was not bombed, instead, Bickendorf
was bombed twice. --
- B.- 368th Ftr GP -- 597th Ftr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- OP: 0620 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 0630 -- TOT: 0840, 0845, 0855, and ~~0915~~ --0915 --
Crossed b/line on way out at ~~0945~~ -- EOMN 0948 --
- D.- Nil --
0950
- E.- 5 x 7 Leaflet bombs -- 1 x 6 Leaflet bombs -- (Belly bomb carrying P&B 44 was missing
on this plane) -- 27 bombs in tgt areas --
The weather was very poor. Our planes contacted Ripsaw three after they had been on
course for five minutes. Shortly after that Capt Krause leader of the first mission
called them and told them to contact Ripsaw three in order to be vectored to the tgts,
so that the poor weather might not interfere with the bombing. They contacted Ripsaw
three as they were crossing the b/line. He vectored them to Spicher, where one plane
dropped its bombs. Then they flew to Bickendorf without vectoring another plane dropped
its bombs. Then they were vectored to Mullenborn, where a third plane dropped its bombs.
This town was not bombed by P&B 44's. Then they were vectored back to Bickendorf,
which was thus bombed twice. Putzborn was not bombed at all.
No strafing. --
- F.- Nil --
- G.- Nil --
- H.- 10/10 cloud coverage - Strato-cumulus clouds top 4500' to 5000' - visibility above clouds
excellent - below clouds 1 1/2 to 2 miles on landing. --
- I.- Sqdn code not used. --
- J.- Ground control satisfactory --

ALL BOMBS: GRAY KENNEDY R B BRADF ACROBITA

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397th Ftr Sqn 8-2 Rpt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recce Mission -- 21 Feb -- Sqn
Mission No. 379

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "XXX-1" -- Mission No. for day: TERS -- 21 Feb 49 --
Armed recce in area Lux, Trier, Badem (L2057), Baum (L3357) (3375) (L5578), and Cochen.
Alternate tgt 7th Army GP at Eisenschmidt (L2761).
- B.- 368th Ftr Gp -- 397th Ftr Sqn -- 4 A/G Bisp -- No Aborts --
- C.- DT: 0855 -- crossed b/line on way in at 0900. TOT: 0950 -- Crossed b/line on way out
at 1005 -- BORN: 1030 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500gp Bombs - Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area --
All bombs were dropped on the W/I at Lissendorf (L-200915). Two landed in the town HQ.
Four landed on the tracks scoring at least two outs. Two fell on buildings on the edge
of the W/I and a fire was left burning in one large building. Lt Lewis strafed eight
cars at L 2192 which had been hit before. He destroyed one and did further damage
to the others. Lt Kalen strafed an active factory on the east side of the town. HQ.
Lt Lewis strafed and knocked out two gun positions and destroyed one MI at L 5784.
Lt Wright damaged one MI at L 4455.
- F.- Mod acc light AA at L 5482. Mod acc light AA at L 4365. (eight guns were seen in a field
at this point and about seven others near by.)
- G.- A P. camp was seen at L 4255.
- H.- 10/10 cloud cover with small holes -- alto stratus -- base 200 to 1000' -- top 5000' --
visibility poor below - very good above --
- I.- Sqn code not used --
- J.- Ground control satisfactory. --
- ALL BOMBS: LEWIS WRIGHT KALAN WRIGHT

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

597th Ftr Sqdn 8-2 Rpt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recon Mission -- 21 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 380

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. ~~XXXX-1~~ * -- Mission No. for day: FOUR -- 21 Feb 45 --
Armed recon in area of Lux, Trier, Badem (L2057), Baum (L2070), and Cochem. Assigned
alternate tgt 7th Army OP at Bisen Schmidt (L2761).
- B.- 368th Ftr Sqdn -- 597th Ftr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Miss -- No Aborts --
- C.- UF: 0915 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 0930 -- TOT: Unknown -- Crossed b/line on way
out at 1030 -- BOM: 1102 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- ~~xxxx~~ 4 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- ^{→ L0053.} 8 bombs in tgt area --
Outbreak sent our planes looking for a tgt area of L 0650 (Wettendorf). No tanks were
seen, either because there were no tanks there or because of the poor visibility
flow from cloud cover. Two bombs were dropped ^{in woods} at ~~L 0650~~. There may of perhaps have
been one tank there. MO. Six bombs were dropped on Brecht at L 0764. Explosions and
fires were seen and the smoke was of a dirty grayish color, and suggested the presence
of ~~xxxx~~ powder. It was thought that the bombs might perhaps have hit ammo.
strafing: (in area of L 085555, slightly west of Bitburg)
Col Carbine and Lt Leavy destroyed two MI's. Col Carbine damaged several MI's. There
were ten to twenty MI's in the area.
- F.- Mod inacc light flak at L 0733. Mod hv flak at L 0749 (this flak was not fired at our
planes. There can therefore be no precise statement on its acc, but it was thought
that the flak was not very acc)
- G.- Nil
- H.- Tgt area: about 10/10 cloud coverage with breaks - strato cumulus clouds - base 3000'
top 5000' -- visibility good.
The clouds were breaking up at time of landing.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control was poor. The controllers radio was out, and his transmission was garbled.
His instructions were too indefinite. Our planes wanted a definite tgt when they are
working betw the front line and the bomb line. They do not want an armed recon when they
are working so close to the b/line.

ALL BOMBS: CARBINE LEAVY BAKER JERRETT

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

0041

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397th Ptr Sqdn 3-2 Apt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recon Mission 21 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 381

~~SECRET~~

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. XXX-1 -- Mission No. for day: Five -- 21 Feb 45 --
Armed recon in the area of Lux, Trier, Baden (L2057), Baum (L5578), and ~~and~~ Cochem.
- B.- 368th Ptr Gp -- 397th Ptr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Disp -- No aborts --
- C.- GF: 1025 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1050 -- TOT: 1115 -- Crossed b/line on way
out at 1140 -- DCH: 1158 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb GF -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt areas --
Our planes contacted a ~~liaison~~ liaison ship called ~~Bygone~~ which relayed them to
Outbreak. Outbreak gave them a co-ordinate, L 995505. The mission leader questioned
this location and they spent several minutes checking it. There was a mistake in the
co-ordinate letter. The correct location was the tgt of Wittendorf at F 995505. 8
bombs were dropped there, all of which landed in the center of town. Very extensive
damage was done. 20 tanks were said to be in the town but none were seen. The town
had been marked with three red smoke bursts which were repeated. Outbreak then gave
the location of two anti tank gun positions at L 016521. They were marked by three
red smoke bursts. They were strafed and probably destroyed. One of the crew was seen
to have been killed.
- F.- Nil
- G.- Five possible tanks or MT's camouflaged with hay were seen in the vicinity of L 005516.
- H.- 3/10 to 4/10 strato-cumulus clouds at 5000' -- visibility good down sun - fair up sun --
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control good except for incident noted in narrative.

ALL SCHEM: BAVEN RORD FAULEY ROSTRACH

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397th Ftr Sqdn 8-2 Rpt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recon Mission -- 21 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 382

- A.- Opns 8 No. _____, Mission No. 382-1 -- Mission No. for day: 382 -- 21 Feb 45 --
Armed recon in area of Lux, Trier, Badem (L2057), Baum (L2278), and Cochem. Assigned
alternate tgt 7th Army CP at Eisenschmidt (L2761)
- B.- 368th Ftr Sqdn Op -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 4 A/G Bisp -- No aborts --
- C.- UP: 1107 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1150 -- TOI: 1200 and 1215 -- Crossed b/line
on way out at 1250 -- DOWN: 1248 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb GP Bombs -- Int nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt areas --
4 bombs were dropped on a castle near ~~MARK~~ Merkeshausen at L055608. Brandy assigned
this tgt and described it. It is on a river. There were four direct hits on the castle.
It was completely destroyed. It collapse leaped and went to the ground. Four bombs
were dropped on the assigned alternate tgt, the 7th Army CP at Eisenschmidt at L2761.
There were ten to twelve staff cars around a big building in a group of five buildings.
The big building was taken to be the CP. Capt Kerr and Lt Woodworth bombed this tgt.
They scored two direct hits. All five buildings, including the big building, and all
the cars were destroyed. Major Tuite and Lt Yandel destroyed four other buildings.
Fires were seen at both places that were bombed. After the bombing four pilots
performed the assigned armed recon. All pilots did ~~we~~ very well in the bombing. The
CP at Eisenschmidt was strafed, but there are no claims.
- F.- weak inacc hvy flak at L 052582.
- G.- Nil
- H.- Tgt area: 5/10 cloud coverage -- stratus clouds base 2000' top 5000' -- visibility
good. Weather in the area recon area was the same, except that the cloud coverage was
7/10.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control by Brandy was good. Our pilots had some difficulty contacting him.
At first his transmission was garbled, but then it became satisfactory.

ALL BOMBS: KERR WOODWORTH YANDEL TUIE

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597th Ptr Sqn 8-2 Rpt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recce Mission -- 21 Feb 45 -- Sqn
Mission No. 583

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. XXX-1 -- Mission No. for day: Seven -- 21 Feb 45 --
Armed Recce on area of Lux, Trier, Baden (L2037), Saun (L5578), and Cochem.
- B.- 368th Ptr Gp -- 597th Ptr Sqn -- 4 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- UP: 1127 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1146 -- TOT: 1215 -- Crossed b/line on way out
at 1235 -- DOWN: 1258 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb Gf -- Inst nose, 1/40 mm tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area --
- F.- Our planes contacted Outbreak who gave them a tgt at P 994500. When our planes reached
the vicinity of this tgt Outbreak said that it was being marked with red smoke. Our
planes could not see the smoke and did not attack as it was very close to our front
lines. They went on there and bombed the RA bridge south of Cochem at
L 571671 over the Moselle River. Lt Patrick scored a direct hit toward the north end of
the bridge and it is believed that one span dropped. The other bombs scored near misses
on the southern embankment.
- G.- Weak incac light at L 571671.
- H.- A staff car was seen at L 4570. Two large buildings with the large white letters ^P on the
their roofs were seen at L 4065.
- I.- 5/10 cloud cover building up towards the north -- base 3500' top 4000' -- visibility
good down sun -- fair upsun --
- J.- Sqn code not used --
- K.- Ground control good --

ALL BOMBS: KURLACHER LE GRAND PATRICK HALPIN

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597th Str Sqdn 8-2 Apt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recon Mission -- 21 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 384

- A. Opns No. _____, Mission No. XXX-1 -- Mission No. for day: EIGHT -- 21 Feb 45 --
ARMS Recon in area of Lux, Trier, Baden(L2057), Daun(L3578), and Cochem.
- B. 348th Pir GP -- 597th Str Sqdn -- 4 A/C Miss -- No Aborts --
- C. UP:1202 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1255 -- TOT:1510 -- Crossed b/line on way out at
1325 -- Down 1402 --
- D. ~~One A/C damaged by flak over "A"~~ *fil.*
- E. 4 x 2 x 500lb H GP Bombs - Inst Nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt areas --
Our planes contacted Brandy. Brandy told them to contact Outbreak. There could not
contact Outbreak, nor could they obtain a reply from Ripsaw. They bombed the town of
Weisrath at L-445783, what drew them to the town was the presence of 10 MI's of
vehicles similar to MI's. All bombs fell in the town. Ten MI's and six houses were
destroyed. All our pilots did very well in the bombing. After the bombing, they perfor-
ed the assigned armed recon.
Strafing: There is a road under construction in the area of L 410802. Two cement mixers
and a construction crew were seen on the road. The two cement mixers were damaged. At
L 4927 70 to 80 objects which looked like log cabins were seen. Our pilots thought
that they might have been camouflaged trucks or tanks. They were strafed but there were
no results.
- F. One burst (2 guns) of inacc hvy flak at L 209581.
- G. One or two vehicles were seen in Baden.
- H. 3/10 to 4/10 cloud coverage -- strato-cumulus -- base 2500' top 5500' -- visibility good.
- I. Sqdn code not used.
- J. There was very little ground control. What there was was good.

ALL BOMBS: BACON FIVE RE INSTE IN 15 IN

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397th Ptr Sqn 2-2 Apt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recon Mission -- 21 Feb 45 -- Sqn
Mission No. 385

- A. Opns O No. _____, Mission No. XXX-1 -- Mission No. for day: NINE -- 21 Feb 45 --
Armed Recon in area of Lux, Trier, Badem (L2037), Baum (L3578), and Cochem.
- B. -- 368th Ptr Op -- 397th Ptr Sqn -- A/A/O Disp -- No Aborts --
- C. -- 0: 1235 -- Crossed F/line on way in at 1250 -- TOT: 1300 -- Crossed F/line on way out
at 1350 -- DOWN: 1406 --
- D. -- ~~HE~~ -- One Out "AC" damaged ~~by 50 cal shell cases from leaders plane.~~
- E. -- 4 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 6 bombs in tgt area --
Sqn contacted Brandy who relayed them to Outbreak who gave them the town of Neihl
at P 992500 as tgt. It was marked with three red and three green smoke bursts. All
bombs were dropped. Three hit middle of town destroying two houses, two hit edge of
town N.W. One cut road through the town, two fell in field near town. Strafing: Artill-
ary position of hill top west of Neihl, N.W. Mobile gun strafed and destroyed with
fire and explosion at L SE 012519 by Capt Krause. One flak position and two MT's
destroyed at L 000542 by Capt Krause. One trailer, 1 MT, 1 Jeep, 1 fuel truck destroyed
at P 991539 by Lt Frisbie. One house and one MT destroyed at L 000540 and one gun
position at L 000547 destroyed by Capt Krause. Two MT's and one half track destroyed,
one tank damaged at P 9659 by Lt Hunt. A troop concentration was strafed and a trailer
destroyed at L 000575 by Lt Frisbie.
- F. -- Nil
- G. -- Nil
- H. -- Up to 2/10 cloud cover base 2500' top 3500' -- visibility good --
- I. -- Sqn code not used --
- J. -- Ground control satisfactory --
- ALL BOMBS ** KRAUSE SEBA FRI SEB HUNT

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397th Ftr sqdn 3-2 Rpt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recon Mission -- 21 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 286

- A.- Ops O No. _____, Mission No. XXX-1 -- Mission No. for day: TEN -- 21 Feb 45 --
Armed recon in area of Lux, Trier, Baden (L2057), Baum (L3578), and Cochem.
- B.- 368th Ftr GP -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Disp --
- C.- OP: 1533 -- TOT 1535 -- DWN: 1535 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb GP -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area --
- F.- The sqdn contacted Brandy and was relayed to outbreak. They were given a group of
camouflaged tanks and trucks in woods at P 995530 where four bombs were dropped, the
tgts were not seen and results were not observed. Four bombs were dropped on the town
of Mäshn at L 016515 destroying two buildings. Lts Arledge and Sharp destroyed two
tanks and damaged one at L 0156 by strafing. They were headed northwest. Lt Clary
damaged three tanks at L 015652, Lts Arledge and Koenig destroyed one at this point
and Lts Clary and Sharp destroyed one Jeep each.
- G.- Weak inacc light flak at L 0549. Mod acc light at L 0156.
- H.- Nil
- I.- No clouds - slight haze - visibility good --
- J.- Sqdn code not used .
- K.- Ground control good. -

ALL BOMBS. CLARY KOENIG SHARP ARLEDGE

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397th Ftr Sqdn B-2 Rpt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recce Mission -- 21 Feb 45 -- sqdn
Mission No. 387

- A.- Opns O No. , Mission No. -1 -- Mission No. for day: -- 21 Feb 45 --
Armed Recce in the area of Lux, Trier, Maden (L2037), Saun (L5578), and Cochem.
- B.- 368th Ftr Gp -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Bipl -- No Aborts --
- C.- DT: 1545 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1455 -- TOT: 1440 -- Crossed b/line on way
out at 1520 -- DOWR: 1537 --
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb GP Bombs Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area --
Our planes contacted Brandy, who told them to contact Outbreak. Outbreak then
told them to check the valley and woods northeast of Niehl (L016516) and to attack any tgts. X
Outbreak told them to bomb troops in the town of Niehl, L016516. There were ten build-
ings in the town, two bombs destroyed two small buildings on the edge of the town.
Six bombs fell in a field on the edge of the town and possibly destroyed some build-
ings in the town. Our planes performed an armed recce which followed closely the assign-
ed armed recce.
- Strafing: Outbreak told our planes to check the valley and woods northeast of Niehl
and to straf any tgts seen. Lt Lewis and Wright damaged four trailer trucks of MT
at L 051547. Lt Wright destroyed one MT and damaged two at L 050555. X
- F.- Inacc flak fire from one light gun in a field at L050555.
- G.- Our pilots saw one ambulance going north and two MT's going east in the strafing area.
They did not attack the MT's because they were not certain that they were enemy vehicle
- H.- One tenth cloud coverage -- scattered cumulus clouds -- base 6000' top 6200' --
visibility very good -- There was slight haze below 6000'.
- I.- Sqdn code not used -
- J.- Ground control very good --

ALL BOMBS : LEWIS WRIGHT BAKER STEWART

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397th Ptr Sqdn B-2 Apt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recon Mission 21 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 208

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. XXX-1 -- Mission No. for day: TWELVE -- 21 Feb 45 --
Armed Recon in the area of Lux, Trier, Baden (L2057), Saun (L2576), and Ubehem.
- B.- 368th Ptr Gr -- 397th Ptr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- OP: 1438 -- Crossed b/line on way in at and TOT: 1500 -- Crossed b/line on way out
at 1600 -- DOWN 1635 --
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 Bombs in tgt area.
Sqdn contactd Brandy and were relayed to Outbreak, They were vectored to ^N ~~216~~ 216
P 265555. All bombs landed in center of building area and destroyed most of the town.
Lt Col Carbine strafed and damaged two tanks at L 050655. Supplies and troops were
strafed in a woods at L 0955. 20 vehicles were seen at L 130610 at least eight of which
were damaged and one at least destroyed. Lt xal Pauley destroyed one HI and damaged
a wooden observation tower at L 2462. A supply depot was strafed at L 2764. 7 of 8
vehicles and a wooden shack were strafed and damaged at L 2568.
- F.- Mod inacc lightAA at L 0955 --
- G.- Troops, supplies, and great track activity seen in woods at L 2568. One pilot reports
a white sphere 5" in diameter whizzed past his plane from east to west at 6000',
at L 0955.
- H.- Base layer at 5000' visibility good.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control good.

ALL BOMBS. CARBINE LEAVY PAULEY KOSTRACH

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397th Fg Ret of Dive bombing and Armed Recce Mission -- 21 Feb 45 -- Sq. Miss No 282

- A - Ops Ord No _____ Miss No. KAN-1 Miss for Day- THIRTEEN. 21 Feb 45.
Armed Recce in area of Luxembourg, Trier, Baden, Daun, and Cochem.
- B - 368 FG, 397th FG. 4 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Op 1503, Gr B/L in 1623, TOT 1545 to 1600, Gr BX out 1630, Down 1652.
- D - Nil
- E - 4x2x500 Gr's inst nose, 1/40 tail. 3 bombs in tgt area.
Our planes contacted BRANNY who told them to contact OUTBREAK. OUTBREAK told them that a flight (thought by our pilots to be Tropic Yellow flight) had reported 4 or 5 tanks at Baucht, L011956. He told them to look for the tanks on a road SW of the town. They saw road blocks, but no tanks. They searched the entire area for the tanks, but the quest was fruitless, they asked OUTBREAK for another tgt, but he urged them to persevere in their search for the tanks, and to cover particularly the area to the North and NE. Finally they discovered 2 tanks at L0256. One of them was burning and they refrained from attacking it. 4 bombs were dropped on the undamaged tank, and they were all near misses. Then our planes looked about for more tanks but were not successful. Therefore they returned to the first tank bombed. Four more bombs were dropped on it and two were almost direct hits. This tank was certainly damaged. The search for the tanks did not leave enough time for the assigned armed recce. Our planes took a short armed recce to the NE and then returned home.
Strafing: Lts Barker and Nord strafed a tank which was bombed after the first bombing and before the second bombing.
- F - Nil
- G - A white object was seen moving NNE in the area of L015550. Red cross vehicles were seen in the area of L 02580. One white smoke burst and then two black smoke bursts were seen at the location of the two tanks mentioned above. OUTBREAK did not place the smoke there nor did he know who was responsible for doing so.
- H - Weather was almost OAVU. There was a little haze at the time of landing. The cloud cover may have been almost 1/10.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Transmission of OUTBREAK was sometimes poor and sometimes satisfactory. He failed to give our planes any pinpoint tgt. On one occasion BIRDMAN (thought to be a P51 recce plane) acted as intermediary in communication between our planes and OUTBREAK.
- All bombs: Barker, Nord Iandel, Tuite.

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397 th FS Rpt of Divebombing and Armed Recce Mission- 21 Feb 45 - 2d Miss #290

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No XIX-1 21 Feb 45 Miss for Day - ~~XXXXXXXX~~ - 14
Armed Recce and B/D in area Luxembourg, Trier, Badem, Daun, and Cochem.
- B - 368 PG 397 FS. 3 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1623, Gr B/L in 1650, TOT 1710, Gr B/L out 1755, Down 1816.
- D - Nil
- E - 8x2x500 GP's inst nose 1/40 tail. 16 Bombs in tgt areas.
Our planes contacted BRANDI, who told them to contact QUINBEAK. He directed them to bomb the town of Baustert at L0454. 14 bombs were dropped on the town. The whole town was set afire. 8 or 10 fires were seen. At least 20 buildings were destroyed. QUINBEAK reported that TRUFIO Green Flight had attacked tanks in the town of Buscht at L011557, and he directed our planes to this town. 2 bombs were dropped there. At least 3 buildings were destroyed. The town blazed fiercely after the bombing.
Strafing: Both bombing tgts were strafed in connection with the bombing- no claims.
Town of Buscht: Capt Kerr dest one tank on the outskirts of the town.
Lt Woodworth dest one large car or small truck. The vehicle was moving SE and turned NW and then stopped. Lt Fein dest a GP, a house on a hill, and set another house on fire.
L075610 - Capt Kerr and Lt Fein dest 1 van and trailer attached to it. Both were painted white.
L0960 - Capt Kerr dest 1 tank.
L080614 - Lts Patrick and Fein dest a truck facing S. They do not know whether or not it was moving.
L100575 - Lts Morlacher and Price dest 1 parked truck. It was faced N, and was left burning.
L105565 - Lts Morlacher and Price dest a truck which was left burning.
- F - 1 light inaccurate gun on the side of a hill at L015655.
Moderate inacc hvy flak right off a RR at L161570.
Intense inacc light flak at L099520.
- G - One pilot saw a P47 in the process of being salvaged by the Germans at L081650. The P47 was in the middle of a road on a trailer. The pilot was about to go down and attack it when the sqdn leader gave the call to return home.
- H - CAVU
- I - Code not used.
- J - Ground control was good.

All bombs: Kerr, Woodworth, Fein, Patrick
Morlacher, Price, Weinstein, Hunt.

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397th Ftr Sqdn B-2 Aft on a Bomber Escort and Fighter Bomber Mission -- 22 February 45
 Sqdn Mission No. 391

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "FOY-3" -- mission no. for day/night -- 22 Feb 45 --
 Bombing and Bomber escort mission. Our planes escorted twelve A-20's. rendez-vous
 was effected at 0-0630 over Metz. The tgt consisted of the two Steckeweiler RR bridges
 at N-049199 and of possible flak positions slightly southwest of the bridges in the
 area of N-028158.
- B.- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 397th Ftr sqdn -- 12 A/C Disp-No Aborts --
- C.- CR: 1352 -- CR b/line on way in at 1431 -- 104; 1443 -- CR b/l out 1500 -- SCWR: 1555 -
 D.- Nil --
- E.- 12 x 2 x 500lb of bombs -- 1/10 none, 1/40 tail -- 25 bombs in tgt area -- one bomb
 jettisoned about five miles southwest of the tgt at 1020 --
 Time of rendez-vous was 1412. The results of the bombing by the A-20's and by our
 planes were as follows: The approaches to the southern bridge were badly beaten up.
 There was one direct hit on the center of the southern bridge, but it is still ser-
 vicable. The northern RR bridge is still in satisfactory condition. The southern road
 bridge was badly hit, but it is still standing and is still servicable. The northern
 road bridge is in satisfactory condition. The loop formed by the stream in the area
 in which it passes to the west of the RR was badly beaten up. Whatever was located in
 that area has been annihilated. The bombing by our planes was good. Both RR bridges
 were hit, and the hits were evenly distributed between the two bridges.
- F.- No E/A seen. Wipsaw called in E/A south of Kaiserlautern. Baggage called in Jet E/A
 at 42000' and also E/A about 20 miles west Worms.
- G.- Nil --
- H.- Metz area: A haze layer up to 6000' -- poor visibility --
 Tgt area: 9/10 overcast at 11000' - good visibility --
- I.- Sqdn code not used --
- J.- Ground control not relevant to mission --

ALL POS: CARY DE PRICE TUIE LEAVOY
 BAUER KOSNIG FAULEY FORTNER (100 Ftr wing Pilot)
 KEAR WOODSWORTH YANDEL WRIGHT

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397th Ftr Sqdn B-2 Fpt on a Close Support and Armed Recon Mission -- 25 February 1945
 Sqdn mission No. 592

- A.--- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. ATN-1 -- Mission No. for day: ORE -- 25 Feb 45 --
 Support for 8th Corps, USMC, at 7570 - Armed Recon, Dive bombing and Strafing.
- B - 568 PG, 597 PG. 4 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 0848, or 2/L in 0910, 101 0925, or 2/L out 1040, Down 1046.
- D - One a/c damaged cat "AD". Half track blew up and pieces hit wing of plane.
- E - 4x2x500 27's lost nose 140 tail. 8 bombs in tgt area.
 Our planes contacted ORGAN. His area was all fogged in, and our planes
 couldn't work there. They called ALPHA 5 and asked for another contact. He
 told them to contact LAMMOB. LAMMOB told them to go to Singselt, 8905555.
 He told them to bomb troops in the town. He said that he would place red
 smoke on the town. They saw no smoke while they were preparing to bomb, and
 LAMMOB told them to bomb without smoke. No troops were seen. There were
 ten houses in the town, and at least one barn. All eight bombs were dropped
 on the town. All bombs hit houses or barns. All ten houses were either
 destroyed or damaged. One barn was damaged. All pilots bombed very well.
 Strafing: (by Capt Krause and Lt Buck) 2 MT's damaged badly by two passes
 on the edge of Singselt, right next to a hill. One tiger tank going NE
 destroyed at 8976555. One MT damaged at 8961550. 3 MT's destroyed by two
 passes at 8977565. One staff car destroyed at 8991561.
 Capt Krause dest one motorcycle at 8996545.
 Strafing: (by Lt Fein) One soldier killed at 8990561. One selfpropelled
 gun badly damaged at 8991565. One halftrack destroyed at 8925651. Woods
 at 8920615 were strafed. Many vehicle tracks, but no vehicles, were seen.
 HQ. 3 MT's parked next to a house and the house itself damaged at 8991525.
 Lt Patrick dest one staff car at 8991590. Lt Patrick destroyed one MT and
 one wooden wagon at 8991589.
- F - Four bursts of insec hvy flak just east of the bombing tgt.
- G - After the bombing and after some of the strafing, as our planes were circling to the
 east preparing to strafe, they saw red smoke on a hill right ahead of our
 own troops. They informed LAMMOB of this. He told them the smoke was
 probably meant for them. What were thought to be our own AA batteries fired
 just below our planes over the area covered by the red smoke. This was
 probably a signal to them to stay up.
- H - CAVU except for spotted ground fog in tgt area.
- I - Sqdn code not used
- J - Ground control was fairly good. Organ was too badly garbled at first to be
 understood.

All bombs: Krause, Buck, Fein, Patrick.

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

597th Pwr Sqdn S-2 Aft on a Close Support and Armed Recce Mission -- 23 February 45 -
Sqdn Mission No. 595

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. ATH -1 -- Mission No. for day: TWO -- 23 Feb 45 --
Support for 8th Corps, Organ, at F 7370 - Armed Recce, Dive Bombing, and Strafing.
- B.- 597th Pwr Sqdn -- 368th Pwr Sq -- 4 $\sqrt{0}$ Miss -- No Aborts.
- C.- In: is 0929 -- Cr 2/L in 1005 -- 100: 1025 -- Cr 2/L out 1055 -- Bomb 1118
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb of Bombs - Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 3 bombs in tgt area --
sqdn contacted Organ and were relayed to Frizebook. Frizebook could not receive
them so they were relayed to Liver. Liver sent them to an armored vehicles con-
centration at L 01660. 3 bombs were dropped there. His Frisbie and Tandel destroyed
four tanks and two half tracks and damaged three half tracks with bombs. Capt Kerr
destroyed one tank and two half tracks. Lt Kerr damaged two tanks. The road was cut
in two places. In addition: ten tankwre damaged and eight half tracks by strafing.
They were then vectored to L 0262. A large armored vehicle with a turret, possible
amphibious was destroyed by strafing. Eight tanks and four half tracks were des-
troyed, four tanks and three half tracks were damaged by strafing. Three Germans
were killed. Many vehicles were left burning.
- F.- Weak inacc nvy AA at F 9005. xxxxx
- G.- At L 0865 a P 47 was seen belly-ed in. The enemy was trying to salvage it and our
planes strafed it thoughly. L 0865 was also the center of an area in which there
were many tanks and armored vehicles camouflaged.
- H.- GAVU
- I.- sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control satisfactory except for Frizebook's inability to receive.

ALL BOMBS: KERR KERR TANDEL FRISBIE

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397th Ftr Sqdn S- 2 Rpt on a Close Support and Armed Peace Mission -- 23 February 45
 Sqdn Mission No. 394

- A.- Opus C No. _____, Mission No. A14 -1 -- Mission No. for day: THREE -- 23 Feb 45 --
 Support for VIII Corps, Organ, at F 7970 - Armed Recce, Dive Bombing, and Strafing.
- B.- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 360th Ftr Gr -- 4 A/G Disp -- No Aborts.
- C.- 07:1018 -- Cr S/L in ----1045 TOT:1100 Cr S/L out 1245 1140 BOMB: 1206
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs -- 1st nose, 1/40 tail -- 6 bombs in tgt area
 Our planes contacted Organ, who gave them to Liver. Liver sent them to bomb a concentration of trucks and tanks and other vehicles at L 0902. When they arrived at this place they saw a fire caused by a previous attack made by Capt Kerr's flight. There was scattered trucks and tanks in the area. There was six or seven of them at the place in which the fire was located. 3 Bombs were dropped in the woods at L 0902. There were four near misses on one tank. This tank was damaged. There were several log huts near the tank, one was set on fire. All together two fires were caused by this flight in bombing.
- Strafing: (by flight in area of L 0902, just north of Ehlers)
 Seven HT destroyed, one HT damaged, two tanks destroyed, one tank damaged, one oil filled house destroyed (not on fire), one horse drawn wagon destroyed.
- F.- Nil
- G.- Track marks on muddy roads in the strafing area and in the area as far west as the bomb line indicate much vehicular activity in this section. There were a few vehicles in each town and wood in the strafing area. Contrails at about 20 to 50 thousand feet.
- H.- Sea was very good. A haze up to 5000' more or less what cut down visibility-- very high strato-cumulus clouds --
- I.- Sqdn Code not used --
- J.- Ground control was good. --

ALL SIGNS: CLAY UTERHANT WEINST. IN R B JEARF

0055

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597th Sqdn 8-2 Rpt on a Close Support and Armed Recon Mission -- 25 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 595

- A.- Opns No. _____, Mission No. ATR - 1 -- Mission No. for day: 70th -- 25 Feb 45 --
Support for VIII Corps, Organ at F 7970 - Armed recon, dive bombing, and strafing.
- B.- 560th Ftr Gr -- 597th Ftr Sqdn -- 4 1/2 Bisp -- No Aborts --
- C.- OF: 1035 -- Cr 8/4 in 1110 -- TOT 1116 -- Cr 8/4 out 1210 -- DOWN: 1241 --
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area --
Sqdn contactedd Organ and were relayed to Liver and later to Kipsaw three. 8 bombs
were dropped at L 0662 where there was a small vehicle concentration. All bombs
w over shot and no results were claimed. Lt Barker and Arledge destroyed four half
tracks at this point. Lt Barker and Shea destroyed two half tracks and damaged one
at L 0669. Two half tracks were destroyed and six damaged at L 040608. Lt Rogan
damaged one tank and destroyed one M1 at L 0765 and damaged two half tracks at L
0661. Lt Arledge destroyed two half tracks and damaged one at L 106629.
- F.- Nil
- G.- Three Green smoke bursts were seen at L 0557. Five abandoned vehicles were seen at
L 6207. A possible stores depot was seen at L 0664. A small pile of material were
seen in the woods at this point.
- H.- haze and smoke -- visibility three to four miles --
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control satisfactory .

ALL BOMBS: BARKER SHEA ROGAN ARLEDGE

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597th Ptr Sqn S-2 Rpt on a Close Support and Armed Recon Mission -- 23 February 1945
Sqn Mission No. 596

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. ATR-1 -- Mission No. for day: FIVE -- 23 Feb 45 -- Support for VIII Corps, Organ, at F 7570 -- Armed Recon, Dive Bombing, Strafing.--
- B.- 568th Ptr Gp -- 597th Ptr Sqn -- 4 A/O Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- OF: 1157 -- Cr B/L in 1210 -- TOT: 1230 and 1245 -- Cr B/L out 1310 -- DOWN: 1327
- D.- One A/O damaged by enemy flak. Cat "AC"
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb of bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt areas --
Our planes contacted Organ, who turned them over to Liver. Liver turned them over to two recon F-51 (sampling Black Section). The F-51 took our planes to bomb two tanks on a highway at L 0666. Four bombs were dropped here, but they overshoot and fell into a dense woods. Then the F-51's told our planes to bomb vehicles in Flutschied, L 065-662. Our planes had already noticed this town. The F-51's did not accompany our planes there. Two bombs were dropped on six MT's and one tank standing on a road leading out of the town. These vehicles were headed toward the town. Two MT's were destroyed and one tank was damaged. Two bombs were dropped on buildings in the town. Two buildings were destroyed.
Strafing: (Mutschied) Lt Baker strafed the road mentioned above and destroyed four MT and further damaged the tank. Lt Wright strafed a second road leading out of the town. On this road there were four MT and one half track, all stationary. They were headed toward the town. The four MT were destroyed and the half track damaged.
Strafing: (by Lt Lewis in the area of L 060645) One tank destroyed (burning), one half track damaged, two MT destroyed, one mobile artillery gun damaged, one camouflaged hut badly damaged.
Strafing: (by Lt Hunt in area of L 060645) Two tanks damaged, one jeep destroyed, one jeep damaged, one half track destroyed, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~
- F.- Mod acc hvy flak at Bitburg
Three bursts of inacc hvy flak about ten miles southwest of Bitburg at L 115510
- G.- Bitburg has suffered great destruction and damage.
- H.- Weather almost CAVU. haze at about 3000' restricts visibility to four or five miles.
- I.- Sdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control good.

ALL BOMBS: LEWIS HUNT BAKER WRIGHT

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

597th Ftr Sqdn S-2 Rpt on a Close Support and Armed Recon Mission -- 25 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 377

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. ATR -1 -- Mission No. for day: SIK -- 25 Feb 45 -- Support for VIII Corps, Organ, at P 7570 -- Armed Recon, Dive Bombing, and Strafing.
- B.- 368th Ftr Sq -- 597th Ftr Sqdn -- 4 A/O Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- OF: 1211 -- Gr W/L in 1235 -- TOT: 1240 -- Gr W/L out 1330 -- DOWN: 1359 --
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb Gr Bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 3 bombs in tgt area.
- F.- Sqdn contacted Organ and was relayed to Liver. Liver vectored them to Phillippe at L 055622 where vehicles were supposed to be concentrated in the town. 3 bombs were dropped, well concentrated among the buildings causing great damage. No definite claims of vehicles can be made. The sqdn then strafed in an area extending about seven miles south and east of Phillippe. Lt Leavoy destroyed two tanks, one MI, one trailer, and one horse drawn vehicle at L 055616. Major Luite destroyed one tank and damaged one at L 05569. Lt Col Gerbine destroyed 12 mixed MI's, half tracks, and tanks. Lt Koenig severely damaged one tank. In addition the sqdn strafed six concealed tgts where tracks had showed that vehicles had entered woods. No claims can be made on these.
- F.- Mod acc by AA at L 0559. armored
- G.- Vehicles believed to be the remnants of an ~~XXXXX~~ division were seen headed southeast in a gully at L 0553.
- H.- Haze and smoke made visibility poor into dwn but it was satisfactory down sun.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control satisfactory.

ALL BOMBS: CARBIDE KOBALT TOXIC LEAVOY

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

397th Ptr Sqdn S-2 Apt on a Close Support and Armed Recon Mission -- 25 Feb 45 -- sqdn
Mission No. 398

- A.- Opns O No. 4, Mission No. ATR -1 -- Mission No. for day: SEVEN -- 25 Feb 45 --
Support for VIII Corps, Organ, at 7570 -- Armed Recon, Dive Bombing, and Strafing.
- B.- 368th Ptr Gp -- 397th Ptr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Missions -- No Aborts --
- C.- Off: 1239 -- On A/L in 1310 -- Tot: 1325 -- On A/L out 1435 -- Down 1446
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail - 8 bombs in tgt area --
Our planes contacted LIMAHA Organ, who turned them over to Liver. Liver sent them
to the area of L 0463. They dropped four bombs in the woods at Lambertsberg at L040-
667. There were one tank and one vehicle on a road northwest of the woods. They were
camouflaged. They were stationary and headed east. These vehicles were damaged. There
were two camouflaged vehicles in the woods, which were stationary and headed south.
There may have been a strong troop concentration in the woods all four bombs dropped
here and the area was badly beaten up. Four bombs were dropped on two tanks at L 069-
632. These tanks were stationary and headed north. They had been strafed previously
our bombs damaged them.
- Strafing: (Capt Krause and Lt Price in area of L 035615 slightly south of Phillips)
Two tanks previous ~~tax~~ damaged by strafing were further damaged. Two horse drawn
vehicles carrying many Germans were seen. One was destroyed and one ran down a hill.
One horse drawn vehicle going south was destroyed. Two tanks were destroyed (burning).
One tank was damaged. Two MI were destroyed at L 0054.
- Capt Krause and Lt Price destroyed one MI in Phillips then Lt Price destroyed one
MI and damaged one jeep at Phillips, L 035622.
- Strafing: (by Lt Fein in area of L 064635, Staudenhol) One tank damaged, one camouflaged
flat bed big truck destroyed, two big trucks destroyed, one half track destroyed,
two MI damaged.
- Strafing: (by Lt Patrick in area of L 080640, Heilsback) Two tanks destroyed, two
half tracks destroyed, 6 MI destroyed, one command car destroyed, one horse drawn
artillery vehicle damaged, and horse killed.
- Strafing: (by whole flight in area of L 0360) 4 or 5 tanks and MI and other vehicles
which had been previously strafed but were not burning were further damaged.
- F.- Nil
- G.- On a road from L 035618 to L 071625 there was a large number of untouched tanks. These
tanks were called in by Col Carbine. Our planes could not strafe them because of a
lack of ammo. In the area of L 039622 25 tanks, half tracks, armored vehicles, and
self propelled guns were seen.
- H.- Good in tgt area. Sqdn AhaaAkat
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control good.

ALL BOMBS: KRAUSE PRICE PATRICK FEIN

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397th Ptr Sqdn S-2 Rpt on a Close Support and Armed Recon Mission -- 25 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 399

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. ATH -1 -- Mission No. for day: EIGHT -- 25 Feb 45 --
Support for VIII Corps, Organ, at F 7570. Armed Recon, Dive Bombing, and strafing.
- B.- 397th Ptr Sqdn -- 4 A/O Miss -- No aborts --
- C.- Up: 1330 -- Cr S/L in 1355 -- 101: 1410 -- Cr S/L out 1450 -- Down: 1514
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area --
Sqdn contacted Organ and relayed to Liver. Capt Kerr dropped two bombs at L 023665
destroying one tank and one half track. Lt Buck dropped two bombs at L 023669
destroying one MT and cutting road. Lts Frisbie and Yandel dropped four bombs on a
supply dump and barracks area at L 052638. They destroyed five billets and many
supplies. Strafing took place in area of ^{L 052667} ~~L 052667~~. Organ as follows: Capt Kerr and Lt
Buck; 8 tanks destroyed, three damaged; ~~17~~ ² MT destroyed, 7 damaged; Lt Buck damaged an
artillery gun. Lts Yandel and Frisbie; ~~17~~ ² ~~armored vehicles~~ destroyed, 20 armored vehicles des-
troyed, 2 damaged; three trailers destroyed.
- F.- Nil
- G.- At Lase (L093690) a hospital was seen marked with a large white cross on the ground.
There was much military traffic and armored vehicles around the hospital.
- H.- CAVU except for light haze. visibility good.
- I.- Sqdn code not used -
- J.- Ground control good.

ALL BOMBS: KERR BUCK YAA FRISBIE YANDEL

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397th Ptr Sqdn B-2 Rpt on a Close Support and Armed Recon Mission -- 25 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 400

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. AIR -1 -- Mission No. for day NINE -- 25 Feb 45 ---
Support for VIII Corps, Organ, at P 7570. Dive Bombing, Armed Recon, and Strafing.
- B.- 368th Ptr Gp -- 597th Ptr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- WP: 1422 -- Cr B/L in 1435 -- TOT: 1445 -- Cr B/L out 1555 -- DOWN 1555 --
- D.- One A/C damaged by enemy flak. Cat "A"
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area --
- F.- Our planes contacted Organ, who turned them over to Liver. Liver told them to bomb a
concentration of Mt and ~~xxxxxx~~ troops at L 0669. Nothing was seen there. They went
to Flatscheid at L 0669. There were 25 to 30 MT in the area. All 8 bombs dropped in the
area. 15 MT on the road in the woods were destroyed. All our pilots did excellent work
in the bombing. *Lt. Clary and Woodward destroyed 6 field pieces.*
Strafing: (Lts Clary and Woodward in area of L 0669) 10 to 15 MT destroyed, and troops
destroyed.
Strafing: (by Lt Clary at Flatscheid at L 0668) 1 jeep and a few troops destroyed.
Lts Weinstein and Uterhart destroyed 18 MT in the area of Margarten, L 0668. They damaged
damaged five MT in the area of Muscheid, L 1150. Lt Woodworth strafed in the area of
L 1150 and caused one big explosion.
- G.- Mod h acc light flak in woods bombed.
- H.- A 397th plane took off with our planes accompanied them throughout the mission, strafed
with them and landed with them. It did not bomb with them. One of our pilots saw
a hvy gun at Flatscheid at L 0668. He went down on it in order to straf it to mark
it for Serus sqdn so that they might bomb it. He did not straf it as he was diverted by
another strafing tgt. A Serus pilot was hit there and bailed out. All the trucks in
the strafing area were stationary upon the approach of our planes. They were headed south
south and southwest.
- I.- Good
- J.- Sqdn code not used.
- K.- Ground control good.

ALL BOMBS: CLARY WOODWORTH WEINSTEIN UTERHART

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397th Ftr Sqdn 3-2 Rpt on a Armed Recce and Close Support Mission -- 25 Feb 45 --
Sqdn Mission No. 401

- A.* Opns O No. _____, Mission No. ATH-1 -- Mission No. for day EBN -- 25 Feb 45
Support for VIII Corps, Organ, at P 7570. Dive Bombing, Armed Recce, and strafing.
- B.- 368th Ftr GP -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Bisp -- No aborts
- C.- UP: 1452 -- Or B/L in 1525 -- TOT: 1550 -- Or B/L out 1540 -- TOT (P/L) : 1545 --
DOWN: 1637 --
- D.- One A/C damaged enemy flak . Ost "A"
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb ~~bombs~~ bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area --
Sqdn worked with Liver and were vectored to a tank and half track concentration at
in a gully at L 1572. Lt Arledge dropped two bombs and strafed this concentration,
destroying three tanks and two half tracks and damaging two tanks and three half
tracks. Liver then told our planes rendez-vous with Dumpling white (A 2-51) at
Suscht L 0155. Dumpling white lead them to an armored vehicle concentration at
P 9750. six bombs were dropped destroying one tank and damaging two. Lt Sharp des-
troyed three horse drawn vehicles and three horse drawn guns by strafing. Lts Sharp,
Arledge, and Barker each damaged one tank in the same area.
- F.- weak very acc hvy at L 0860.
" " " " at P 9758
- G.- Our troops were seen in Mascheid at P 965610. The town was on fire.
- H.- 10/10 Cirrus cloud cover at 15000' -- visibility good --
- I.- Sqdn code not used --
- J.- Ground control very good --

ALL BOMBS: BARKER NO RD SHARP ARLEDGE

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397 5-2 Rpt on a Close Support ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Armed Recon Mission - 22 Feb 45 - Sg Miss No. 402

A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. ARN-1 -- Mission No. for day: ELEVEN -- 23 Feb 45 --
Support for VIII Corps, Organ, at P 7570 - Dive Bombing, Armed Recon, and Strafing.
B.- 368th Ptr Bn -- 397th Ptr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --
C.- UP: 1528 -- Or B/L in 1605 -- TOT: 1630 -- Or B/L out 1650 -- DOWN: 1720

D.- Nil

E.- 4 x 2x 500lb ~~ADX~~ Bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt areas --

Our planes contacted Organ who turned them over to Liver. Liver told them to go to Waxweiler, L 019671 to check roads running east for ~~wash~~ vehicular movement. He said that our troops were moving into Waxweiler, while our planes were over Waxweiler they heard that Flapper ~~sqdn~~ had been bounced and they went over to help Flapper. Then they came back without having been involved in the fight. Lt Hunt dropped two bombs on two white MT at L 053671 both MT were destroyed. Lt Lewis saw a gun fire flash in woods at L 061101 and he bombed there. He didn't see what the tgt was but it may have been an artillery position. After the hit there was smoke and a good explosion. Four bombs were dropped by the other two pilots on Lachied, L 05688. They destroyed two buildings and damaged one light tank. Strafing (area of L 0864, slightly west of Seilenbach) Destroyed: 15 MT, including one van; 4 tanks; one fuel dump; (explosion seen; ~~smoke~~ one house (a column of smoke was seen); Damaged: 20 MT; 2 antitank guns with long slender barrels both of which were pointed at Waxweiler; three tanks; many fires and such smoke was seen in the strafing area and something blew up, probably the fuel dump.

F.- Nil

G.- Smoke and fires in whole strafing area.

H.- Good weather -- visibility somewhat lowered by haze.

I.- Sqdn code not used --

J.- Ground control good --

ALL PAGES: LEWIS HUNT HORN WRIGHT

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

397th Ptr Sqn 3-2 Rpt on a Close Support and Armed Recon Mission -- 25 Feb 45 -- Sqn
Mission No. 405

- A.- Opns O No. _____ Mission No. ATH-1 -- Mission No. for day TWELVE -- 25 Feb 45 --
Support for VIII Corps, Organ, at # 7570.- Armed Recon, Dive Bombing, and Strafing.
- B.- 368th Ptr Gp -- 397th Ptr Sqn -- 4 A/O Miss -- No Abort --
- C.- Up: 1601 -- Gr F/L in 1635 -- Tot: 1640 -- Gr F/L out 1720 -- Down: 1745
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb RD Bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area --
The sqdn worked with Liver. 8 bombs were dropped on Scheuern at # 977500. Three build-
ings were set on fire, one large and two medium and a column of pure white smoke 15000'
high rose from one of the smaller buildings indicating probable fuel storage. Our
planes strafed at Scheuern, ~~near~~ Nueurberg (# 967582) and woods to the southwest. Claims
for the whole flight: 14 HT destroyed, 6 damaged
- F.- Nil
- G.- * Our troops were seen about three miles north of Nueurberg (# 967582) and at Altsche-
uern (#9660).
- H.- 10/10 cover at 11000' to 12000' -- visibility poor due to haze -
- I.- Sqn code not used.
- J.- Ground control good --

ALL BOMBS: CARBINE FUEL TURTLE LEAVO

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

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397th Ftr Sqdn 8-2 Rpt on a Close Support and Armed Recce Mission -- 23 Feb 45 -- sqdn
Mission No. 404

- A.- Opns C No _____, Mission No. ATM-1 -- Mission No. for day THIRTEEN -- 23 Feb 45 --
Support for VIII Corps, Organ, at P 7570 - Armed Recce, Dive Bombing, Strafing.
- B.- 368th Ftr GP -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 5 A/G Bisp -- No Abort --
- C.- Ur: 1645 -- Cr B/L in 1705 -- TOT 1715 -- Cr B/L out 1755 -- DOWN: 1812 --
- D.- One a/s damaged by flak east "A"
- E.- 5 x 2 x 500lb ~~Bomb~~ Bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 10 bombs in tgt area --
Our planes contacted Organ, who turned them over to Liver. Liver sent them on recce
to the area of L 0569. Two bombs were dropped at L 061701 on two vehicles which had
been battered. there may have perhaps been some troops at this place - RAC
6 bombs were dropped on a troop concentration and many vehicles at L 050660. There were
many troops on the edges of the woods. Although the results were not observed there are
estimated as fair. Two bombs were dropped on one tank at L 050660. They were near misses
and the tank was damaged.
Strafing (area of L 053679, Feurscheid. Capt Krause destroyed one jeep, one light Brown
batacible, one black sedan carrying passengers, and seven MT. He damaged three MT and
destroyed two little vehicles. Lt Price destroyed one jeep, one MT, and two armored
vehicles. He damaged four tanks. Lt Fein destroyed one MT, one half track, one armored
car, and damaged five MT. Lt Baker damaged one half track and two MT, he destroyed two
MT. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Lt Patrick destroyed 6 MT, and two jeeps. He damaged one half track
and seven tanks.
- F.- One light MG of acc fire at L 0964.
- G.- Nil
- H.- Good weather a little haze --
- I.- Sqdn Code not used.
- J.- Ground control good.

ALL BOMBS KRAUSE PRICE BAKER PATRICK FEIN

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

397th Ftr Sqdn S-2 Rpt on a Wea Recce Mission -- 24 Feb 45 -- Sqdn Mission No. 405 --

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. _____, Mission No. for day: 000 -- 24 Feb 45 --
Wea Recce Mission in area of Rhine River, Koblenz, and Trier.
- B.- 368th Ftr Gp -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 2 A/O Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- WP: 1122 -- Cr B/L in 1155 -- Cr B/L out 1230 -- BOSH: 1245 --
- D.- Nil
- E.- Our planes followed the B/L to approximately F 0505 at which point they flew east to Koblenz. They then flew southwest to the tgt area and home.
- F.- Nil
- G.- At 1205 hours Capt Krause saw a V-2 launged an undetermined distance east of Koblenz. This distance was estimated to be between 30 and 50 miles east of the city. The V-2 was headed on a course of about \approx 350 degrees.
- H.- 7/10 on way out - 4/10 to 5/10 and breaking rapidly on way back -- alto-cumulus cloud cover -- base 3500' to 4000' - top 4000' to 4500' -- visibility very good above and below clouds --
- I.- Sqdn code not used -
- J.- Ripsaw three's control was satisfactory.

PILOTS: KRAUSE LEWIS

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397th Ftr Sqdn S-2 Apt on a Close Support and Armed Recce Mission -- 24 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 406

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "TMC-1" -- Mission No. for day: TWO -- 24 Feb 45 --
Close Support for VIII Corps, (Organ), at F 7570.- Armed Recce, Dive Bombing, and
Strafing. --
- B.- 368th Ftr Grp -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 4 A/O Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- UP: 1220 -- Cr S/L in 1245 -- Cr S/L out 1325 -- DOWN: 1419 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb ~~AN~~ - ANM Bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 3 bombs in tgt areas --
Our planes contacted Organ, who turned them over to Liver. The first tgt assigned by
Liver consisted of two small tanks at L 020605, slightly south of Hollersdorf. Three
bombs were dropped - near misses-both tanks damaged. The second tgt assigned by Liver
consisted of two trucks at L 090595, slightly northwest of Liesen. Four bombs were
dropped - both trucks damaged. One bomb was dropped on a clearing in the woods at L
021625, close to Hollersdorf. There was nothing there.
Strafing: (Area of L 020605) Eight assorted MT and Armored vehicles damaged.
Strafing: (Area of L 090595) One half track destroyed, five MT destroyed, one tank des-
troyed, one tank damaged, one MT damaged.
- F.- Inten fairly acc light flak at L 090570 (perhaps a flak trap)
Inten fairly acc light flak at L 090595
- G.- V-2 contrails seen at 1340 - moving east to west out of Kolblenz at an altitude of
50 miles. Long US convoy moving northeast toward Neuerburg at F 967500. Camouflaged
horse drawn vehicle filled with straw and probable carrying ammo seen at L 115601,
Bickendorf. Nine ambulances at L 115625. Ambulances all over first bombing area. Tanks
bombed in first bombing area under US artillery fire which was somewhat short.
- H.- 4/10 cloud coverage - 3000' to 4000'
- I.- sqdn code not used
- J.- ground control good.

ALL HQS: CABLE RICE HOGAN LEVOR

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397th Ptr Sqdn B-2 Apt on a Close Support and Armed Recce Mission -- 24 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 407

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "IMV-1" -- Mission No. for day: THREE -- 24 Feb 45 --
Close Support for VIII Corps (Organ), at # 7570.- Armed Recce, Dive Bombing, and Straf-
ing.
- B.- 368th Ptr Gp -- 397th Ptr Sqdn -- 4 A/G Bisp -- No Aborts --
- C.- OF: 1250 -- Or B/L in 1320 -- TO: 1355 -- Or B/L out 1400 -- DWN: 1428 --
- D.- Nil --
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb MKX Bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area --
Mission was controlled by Liver. It was sent to L 0871 where all bombing and strafing
took place on a small group of tanks, vehicles, and field pieces. Lt Sharp destroyed
two tanks with his bombs. The road was also cut. By strafing Lt Olary destroyed two
half tracks. Lt Sharp destroyed one MI and damaged a horse drawn gun. Lt Sterhart
destroyed four MI and damaged three and also damaged five horse drawn guns. The horses
had been detached from the guns and driven away.
- F.- weak inacc hvy flak at L 1275 (Three bursts of hvy flak were fired as though for a
signal. There tgt could not be seen)
Inten acc light flak at L 1275
- G.- Four or five tanks at 500 yard intervals were seen moving south along a road from
L 0871 to L 0868.
- H.- 2/10 cloud cover at 5500' -- visibility very good
- I.- Sqdn code not used
- J.- Ground control very satisfactory

ALL NAMES: OLARY BUIK SHARP STERHART

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397th Ftr Sqdn B-2 Rpt on a Close Support and Armed Recce Mission -- 24 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 408

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "YMW-1" -- Mission No. for day: FOUR -- 24 Feb 45 --
Close Support for VIII Corps (Organ), at P 7570 -- Armed Recce, Dive Bombing, and
Strafing.
- B.- 368th Ftr Grp -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- UP: 1515 -- Or B/L in 1545 -- TOT: 1555 -- Or B/L out 1435 -- DOWN: 1508
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb ~~DBX~~ Bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area --
Our planes contacted Organ, who assigned as there tgt a concentration of 8 or 10
tanks right outside the town of Marlerbach at L 1975. Seven bombs were dropped here--
two tanks destroyed, four damaged. One bomb hung up and was dropped in the woods
slightly east of the town. There was nothing there.
Strafing: (by Lts Barker, and Shea - area of L 1561, Bickendorf) One MT destroyed,
seven MT damaged, one armored vehicle or heavy gun destroyed. These tgts were given
to our planes by Dumpling White, a P-51 recce plane.
- F.- Inten inacc (barrage type) light flak at L 1973
Weak inacc hvy flak at L 1973
Weak fairly acc hvy flak (Low - three thousand feet) at Bitburg, L 1554.
Fire (acc) by 20x20, and 40mm guns at Fliessen, L 1559
Eight acc 88's at Fliessen, L 1559
- G.- Six MT were seen in woods at L 1562. They were so placed that at times they were
hard to see and they could not be strafed. There were five or six MT on the road
running through this woods. Some of these are among the MT claimed in E above.
Fliessen looks like a flak trap because there is nothing of importance there and
there is a great deal of flak. All that was seen there were ten wagons which looked
like MT from a distance, one vehicle, and three hospitals.
- H.- Cloud coverage 3/10 to 4/10 - strato-cumulus clouds - base 3500' top 4000' --
Visibility good
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control good
- NOTE: Lts Barker and Shea did excellent work in the bombing.
- ALL BOMBS: BARKER SHEA FAULEY ARledge

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0069

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597th Ftr Sqdn 3-2 Rpt on a Close Support and Armed Recon Mission -- 24 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 409

- A.- Opns O No. _____, mission No. "IRK-1" -- mission No. for day: 410 -- 24 Feb 45 -- Close support for VIII Corps (Argen), # 7570 -- Armed Recon, Dive Bombing, and Strafing.
- B.- 568th Ftr Sq -- 597th Ftr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Miss -- No Aborts --
- C.- OF: 1552 -- Gr B/L in 1410 -- TO: 1420 -- Gr B/L out 1550 -- Down: 1547
- D.- One of our A/C damaged by enemy flak -- Out "AC"
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb ANM Bombs -- Dist nose, 1/40 tail -- 2 bombs in tgt area
The mission worked with Liver and were directed to L 0974, midway betw Schonecken and Satteldorf. Six bombs were dropped at this point which destroyed three buildings, one tank, and damaged three tanks. Two bombs were dropped in a woods to west at L 0772 where piles of possible stores were seen. EAC. Strafing took place in a small area around L 0775. One gasoline tank was destroyed, one tank was damaged, five MI were destroyed, and three damaged. One field gun was destroyed. All members of the flight shared equally in these totals.
- F.- Weak very acc light flak at L 2161
- G.- Scattered traffic in the tgt area was headed generally east and north (Liver had said it was headed south and west) there were many destroyed vehicles of all types in the area.
- H.- 5X10 alto cumulus at 7000' -- visibility good
- I.- Sqdn code not used
- J.- ground control good

ALL BQRS: BRAUER WOODWORTH TUIE WRIGHT

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397th Ftr Sqn S-2 Rpt on a Close Support and Armed Recce Mission -- 24 Feb 45 -- Sqn
Mission No. 410

- A. Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "YAN-1" -- Mission No. for day: SIX -- 24 Feb 45 -- Support for VIII Corps (Organ), at P 7570 -- Armed Recce, Dive Bombing, and Strafing.
- B. 368th Ftr Gp -- 397th Ftr Sqn -- 4 A/C Disp -- No Aborts
- C. US: 1501 -- Gr B/Lin 1537 -- TOT: 1600 -- Gr B/L out 1625 -- DOWN: 1655
- D. One A/C damaged by enemy flak Cat "AC"
- E. 4 x 2 x 500lb ~~W~~ BDX Bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 4 bombs in tgt area - 4 bombs jettisoned armed in woods at L 2565. There were two houses there but there were no results. One of our planes was hit by flak at L 200615. He and his element leader returned to base after jettisoning bombs.
Our planes contacted Organ who turned them over to Liver. Liver assigned as a tgt a concentration of tanks at L 154728. Our planes flew there but saw no tanks. Our planes heard Ripsaw three assigning another tgt to other planes and told him that they had bombs and would bomb this tgt. The tgt was 75 stationary RR cars (25 coal cars and 50 box cars) at L 1945 slightly south of Rosten. There was no engine seen. Four bombs were dropped here. They fell in woods and there were no results.
Strafing: (Lts Lewis and Nord) The 75 RR cars mentioned above were damaged. Trenches at Idesheim, L 1645 were strafed. Nothing was seen in them and there are no results to report. M&M
- F. Mod very acc hvy flak at L 200615
Weak inacc hvy flak at L 156625
Weak inacc hvy flak at L 154728
Inacc acc light flak at L 154728
Weak inacc light flak in area of L 1345
Weak inacc hvy flak in area of L 1345
- G. There were perhaps some vehicles around buildings in Idesheim, L 165452. The sun was seen reflected from below as if on windshields. There may have been one camouflaged vehicle in the town. The town was inhabited and smoke was seen coming from chimneys. Many trenches and dug outs were seen in the Idesheim area. No activity was seen.
At 1545 as our planes were flying ^{with area of Murlbach (L 1973)} below serum flight they saw two yellow nosed OE planes flying below them at six thousand feet. These planes orbited the area and were headed north. They had rounded wing tips, rounded tails, and inline engines. They were either F-51 or ME 109. They committed no hostile act. Our planes did not attack them because they were not identified as hostile and our planes were still carrying bombs.
- H. Tgt area: Cloud coverage 4/10 to 5/10 alto stratus clouds - base 15000' top unknown. Visibility restricted to two miles into the sun. Visibility down sun was three miles. Meta area: 5/10 cloud coverage -- scattered cumulus clouds.
- I. Sqn code not used
- J. Ground control good.
- Much interference from other planes because of radio chatter.

ALL BOMBS: LEWIS HUNT FRIEDER HUNT
 NORD

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597th Ftr Sqdn S-2 Apt on a Close Support and Armed Recon Mission -- 24 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 411

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "YMA-1" -- Mission No. for day: SEVEN -- 24 Feb 45 --
Support for VIII Corps (Organ), at P 7370 -- Armed Recon, Dive Bombing, and strafing.
- B.- 368th Ftr Gr -- 597th Ftr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Miss -- No Aborts --
- C.- OF: 1652 -- Or S/L in 1655 -- TO: 1655 -- Or S/L out 1715 -- DOWN: 1731
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb HX bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area --
Sqdn were relayed by Organ to Liver and directed to Bachscheid at L 0470 but saw no
activity there. They were then sent to Lascheid at L 052688, where four bombs were
dropped. One large building and four small buildings were destroyed. Others were straf-
ed. No A tank was damaged by strafing. Four bombs were dropped on a small concentration
of armor at L 0775. One tank was destroyed and one damaged. Two half tracks were damaged.
The road was cut. They then strafed a concentration of fox holes along a bluff at L 095-
690. No activity was seen. One tank and one HT were damaged.
- F.- Nil
- G.- Many burnt out vehicles and smoldering fires were seen in the area.
- H.- Hazy - no clouds - visibility poor
- I.- Sqdn code not used
- J.- Ground control was good

ALL BOMBS: MARK KILNEM HOGAN FANTON

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

397th Ftr Sqdn S-2 Rpt on a Close Support and Armed Recon Mission -- 24 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
666 6 66 Mission No. 412

- A.- Opns O No. _____ Mission No. "YMR-1" -- Mission No for day: EIGHT -- 24 Feb 45 --
Support for VIII Corps (Organ) at P 7570 - Armed Recon, Dive Bombing, and Strafing.
- B.- 368th Ftr Gr -- 397th Ftr sqdn -- 4 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- UF: 1602 -- Or S/L in 1640 -- TOT: 1650 & 1700 -- Or S/L out 1730 -- DOWN: 1804
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb ~~HE~~ RDX Bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 3 bombs in tgt areas
Our planes contacted Organ who turned them over to Liver. Liver assigned as a tgt
enemy movement northeast of woods near Burbach at L 1568. Our planes found nothing
there. Then Liver assigned a tgt at Backscheid, L 035700. At that time Serum sqdn
found a tank on the road at Flutschied, L 068663. Our planes attacked this tank.
Four bombs were dropped on it and partially knocked the tank side ways off the road.
Then our planes returned to Backscheid and dropped two bombs on an enemy ~~OF~~ there.
Lt Sharp scored a direct hit and destroyed the ~~OF~~. All that remains is a big hole.
Two bombs were dropped on a convoy of ten to fifteen MI at Leissen at L 1059. There
was a direct hit on the road and several MI were damaged.
Lt Sharp did especially good work in the bombing.
The tank mentioned above was strafed.
- F.- Hvy flak at L 076585
- G.- N+1
- H.- Tgt area; Haze layer at 7000' or 8000' some scud -- visibility into the sun poor -
visibility down sun satisfactory.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control satisfactory
- ALL BOMBS: GARBINE SWICE A B SHARP LEAVOY

0073

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

597th Ftr Sqdn 5-2 Rpt on a Close Support and Armed Recce Mission -- 24 Feb 45 -- Sqdn
Mission No. 415

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No "YAW-1" -- Mission No. for day: NINE -- 24 Feb 45 -- Support for VIII Corps (Organ) at F 7570 - Armed Recce, Dive Bombing, and strafing
- B.- 568th Ftr Gr -- 597th Ftr sqdn -- 4 A/C Disp -- No Aborts
- C.- OF: 1636 -- Gr E/L in 1700 -- TOTL 1715 -- Gr B/L out 1730 -- DOWN: 1800
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb ~~MARK~~ BOMBS -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 8 bombs in tgt area
Our planes contacted Organ, who sent them to the area of L 1580 and told them to contact Sailship there. Sailship gave them a tgt which was to far northeast for them. Our planes told Sailship that they could not attack this tgt because they did not have the appropriate maps and had to return. Then they attempted to contact Organ but could not. Col Garbine, who was not in this flight, but on another mission in the same area, called Liver for them and Liver told them to bomb troops crossing a river at Oberweiler, L 075613. They saw these troops at L 106585 just south of Liessen. They dropped 8 bombs on a convy of ten to fifteen MT moving southeast toward Ring Bitburg. The results were very good. Four MT were destroyed and six were damaged.
Strafing: Lt Glary damaged three MT at the bombing tgt.
- F.- weak (one gun position) very acc light flak at L 076585
- G.- Nil
- H.- Tgt area: haze layer at 7000' or 8000' -- some scud - visibility poor into the sun -- good down sun --
- I.- Sqdn code not used --
- J.- Ground control was satisfactory except for the fact but on one occasion our planes could not contact Organ.

LL BOMBS: GLARY BUCK FAULST JENHART

0074

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227 To 1-2 part of five bombing and armed recon Miss. 23 Feb 45 sadn Miss No. 414

- A - One rd no. Miss No 329-1 23 Feb 45 Miss for way. *1
Five bombing ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ of Salzkrohn bridge at 4901476. Alt tgt Supply
Dump at 1403558. Armed Recon in area of Wittlich, Daun, Idernbach, Koblenz, and
Trier.
- B - 368 TO 377 FB. 16 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 3732, W 3/2 in 3740, 101 3733, or 3/2 out 1100. Down 1141.
- D - 1 a/c damaged by flak. Lt Barker, who was flying this plane, landed at
A-77 at 1109.
- E - 152x300 tank bombs. 1/10 nose 1/40 tail. 23 bombs in tgt area. 4 bombs
dropped on highway and neighboring towns in area of L2319, slightly S of
Wentern. There were two near misses on the highway (two pilots who bombed here
were Lt Faulley and Shea. Lt Shea's engine cut out before arrival at the
bridge and he and Lt Faulley came back early.)
Our planes flew directly to the bridge. 23 bombs were dropped on the bridge.
all were short on. There were no hits on the bridge. There were two or three
cuts on the RR track at the place where it lies on a grade. There was a very
strong wind (40 mph) in the bridge area blowing up the track in a northerly
direction. The smoke resulting from bomb hits blew up the track in this
direction.
- Strafing: (by Lt Barker and Arledge) one locomotive derailed at 4992783 near
Cond. ~~2~~ ~~at 4992783~~ 20 cars (00) damaged at ~~4992783~~ **L465548.**
- Intense fair. No engine was seen.
- Strafing by Lt Kerr's flight - A supply depot in a woods at 49373 was strafed.
There were 8 to 10 big warehouses there and at least eight were damaged. 10
to 12 RT's were parked in the shadows of the buildings and 8 to 10 were derailed.
2 passes were made on the buildings and two were made on the RR. No fires were
caused. There was a string of about 100 box cars broken up into several groups
separated by small intervals in WY at 49242. All the cars were made up and
were on one track. They were strafed and fifty were damaged. No fires were
started. Except for these cars the RR was clear. A road bridge in the area
had been clobbered.
- Lt Leavoy damaged 1 flak gun in the RT area.
- F - Intense fairly accurate, light flak in the WY at 49242.
Very intense (far more intense than the group E-2 map indicates) fairly accurate
light flak at the bridge which was bombed.
- ~~Intense~~ accurate light flak at ~~49242~~ **L471565 (2 guns)**
- Intense fairly accurate light flak in the Salzkrohn area.
- G - One unidentified plane (definitely not a 738) was seen flying E at 15000 to 20000'
while our planes were at 7000'. ~~REPLAN 3~~ asked our planes to check the RR track
from L2020 to L 9090. From 45761 down to Trier there was an almost solid string
of box cars with a few oil cars interspersed. The heavy bombers had evidently
clobbered Koblenz and Bendorf (4986023) for there was a great deal of smoke in
those areas. There was very little road activity in the area covered by our
planes.
- H - There was a general haze layer 4000 to 5000'. The visibility was five mi in
the western part of the tgt area. It was much better in the eastern part.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Ground control good.
- All bombs: Krause, Koenig, Tuitt, Jords, Barker, Shea, Faulley, Arledge.
Lewis, Price, Patricia, Hunt, Kerr, Woodworth, Rogan, Leavoy.

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

397 FS 3-2 Rpt of Dive bombing Mission 25 Feb 45 Saco Miss No 419:

- A - Ops Ord No. Miss No. J294 Miss for Day: 2 25 Feb 45
Dive bombing of Salzwitz RR bridge at L 561476. 40 plus tanks and trucks
KIA at L2549.
- B - 368 FS, 397 FS. 16 a/c disp. No shorts.
- C - Up 1510, or b/1 in 1520, tot 1540 to 1550, or AZ out 1405, down 1429.
- D - 1 a/c dwn by flak cat "A"
- E - 16x2x1000 GP's 1/10 nose 1/40 tail. 52 bombs in tgt area.
Lt Frisbie was compelled to land at A-97 because his prop was out. Immediately
thereafter he returned to base. Our planes flew directly to the bridge. 52
bombs were dropped in the area. Only one hit on the bridge was seen. There is
a hole in the middle of the bridge but it is still standing.
No strafing.
- F - Int Inacc 20 mm flak at the bridge bombed.
Wk Inacc Hvy flak at Trier.
- G - There were trains on the track on the N side of the bridge. The Trier R/I is
full of box cars, most of which are destroyed.
- H - Tgt area 4/10 cumulus at 5000' vis satisfactory. A second layer of clouds at
14, 000 or 15000 ft.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Ground control good.

Douglas, Shea, Frisbie, Wright, Clery, Buck, AB Sharp, Oternart.
Harischer, Ward, Tuite, Leavoy, Garbine, Shepard, Briscoil, Arledge.

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

357th FB G-2 Apt of Dive Bombing and Armed Recon Mission Sqn Miss No 416:

- A - Ops Ord No _____ Miss No J29-1 25 Feb 45 Miss for Day: 3
 AAA Armed Recon in area of Wittlich, Daun, Andernach, Koblenz, and Trier.
 suggested tgts were 40 plus tanks and trucks at L2645, and concentrations
 of vehicles at L1645, and L2560. The tgts actually bombed and strafed
 were not those suggested.
- B - 36000, 597 Ps. 14 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1500, or b/l in 1600, 101 1625, or b/l out 1700, down 1800.
- D - 3 a/c dam by flak - 2 Cat "A" and 1 Cat "B".
- E - 14 x 2 x 500 ABA bombs. 1/10 nose 1/40 tail. 28 bombs in tgt areas.
 NIFSA 3 told our planes to go to the area in which serum sqdn was working,
 the Bitburg area. Our planes went there and found that serum was working
 on roads N of Bitburg. 24 bombs were dropped on 50 assorted vehicles and troops
 at Fliessen, L145590. 20 vehicles were destroyed, six vehicles were damaged,
 and nine buildings were destroyed. This tgt was selected by our pilots.
 serum sqdn called and said that the ground controller with whom it was working
 wanted the town of Wiersdorf, L080771, bombed. 4 bombs were dropped here on
 one tank and one MT. There were no results. Yellow, Blue, and Green flights
 did excellent work in the bombing.
- Strafing: (by sqdn in area of L156615, slightly NE of Wickendorf)
 4 gas trucks dest, 1 horse drawn vehicle dest, 1 half track dest, 9 tanks dest.
 6 tanks dam, 1 CR dest, 62 MT's dest, 2 houses dest.
- Strafing: (by sqdn in area of L150640, slightly NE of Seffern)
 35 MT's dest, 1 tank dam.
 2 of the 62 MT's dest were ammo trucks. One of them was seen to blow up.
- F - Int, acc, 1 flak in an area whose corners are L1762, L1792, L2162, L2192.
 Int, acc, 1 flak in the area from Fliessen, L145590, to Bitburg.
- G - The town of Nattenheim, L129586, is a hospital town. There are many
 vehicles there, some of them ambulances.
- H - Very poor weather in the tgt area. As our planes were leaving, clouds
 were forming at 4000'.
- I - sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground control was good.

All bombs: Krause, Horowitz,
 Lewis, Rice, Pauley, Hunt,
 Kerr, Wright, Hogan, Hale,
 Clary, Leonard, Patrick, Thornton.

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 Ftr Sqdn S-2 Apt on a Close Support and Dive Bombing Mission -- 28 Feb 49 --
 Sqdn Mission No. 417

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "LGF-1" -- Mission No. for day: 088 -- 28 Feb 1949 --
 Support for 12th Corps (Lamphood) at P 9152 - Dive Bombing
- B.- 368th Ftr Sq -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 4 A/C Bisp -- No Aborts --
- C.- OF: 1501 -- Gr B/L in 1530 -- TOT: 1555 -- Gr B/L out 1542 -- BOM: 1602 --
- D.- One A/C damaged by flak category "AC" -- The pilot, Lt Arledge, bailed in at
 L 050412. Col Carbine called Glenchard and asked him to send someone out to that
 point to investigate. Then Col Carbine heard Beagle say that he would send someone
 out. After that Col Carbine heard Byegone say that he would land there himself
 despite Beagle's action. Capt Carlson went down and saw Lt Arledge out of the cock-
 pit surrounded by several men.
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb BDX Bombs -- Inst nose -- 1/40 tail -- 6 bombs in tgt area --
 Our planes contacted Lamphood. Lamphood turned them over to Glenchard, whom our
 planes could not contact because his receiver was out. Then Lamphood turned our
 planes over to Razorblade. Razorblade instructed them to bomb the town of Erdorf
 at L 165565, where he said there was a gun position. Four bombs were dropped on the
 town and houses were destroyed. Razorblade then told our planes to bomb Badem, L
 195567, where he said there was a concentration of troops and vehicles. Four bombs
 hit the town in a building area.
 No strafing.
- F.- Fairly inten acc 200as flak at Badem, L 195567.
- G.- Nil
- H.- The tgt area was overcast with breaks.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- ground control satisfactory.

ALL BOMBS: CARBINE HALPIN CARLSON ARLEDGE

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397th Ftr sqdn 8-2 Apt on a Close Support and Dive Bombing Mission -- 28 Feb 45 --
 Sqdn Mission No. 418

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. 15P-1 -- Mission No. for day TWO -- 28 Feb 45 --
 support for 12 Corps (Lamphood) at P 9152 - Dive Bombing --
- B.- 368th Ftr Grp-- 397th Ftr sqdn -- 4 A/C Disp -- No Abortis --
- C.- OF: 1571, Or b/l in 1615, TOT 1635, Or b/l out 1650, Lwn 1809.
- D - 1 a/c damaged by flak out "AC".
- E 4x2x500 ABX bombs inst 1/40. 8 bombs in tgt area.
 Our planes contacted LAMPHOOD, who turned them over to CLEGG. CLEGG
 told them to bomb Butzweiler at L2056. 7 bombs were dropped here, and four or
 five buildings were destroyed. 1 bomb was dropped on a road in the area of
 L4617. The pilot thought that there may have been some vehicles on the road.
 The road was damaged. All our pilots did excellent work in the bombing.
 Strafing: CLEGG told our pilots to strafe Mohn, L17582. In error, they
 made one pass on Blk, L149561. HAD. Then the whole flight strafed Mohn.
 There were five camouflaged vehicles in the street, and other vehicles around
 buildings. Five vehicles were damaged. Then the whole flight strafed seven
 vehicles and two tanks in woods just S of Mohn at L2058. All the vehicles and
 tanks were damaged. Then the whole flight destroyed six out of seven flak
 positions in a field about 1/2 mi E of Mohn at L187580. These flak guns ceased
 firing upon the attack of our planes.
- F - 7 accurate light flak guns at L187580.
 weak inaccurate heavy flak at area of L20526.
- G - BLOOM called our planes and said that Lt Arledge was on the ground and in good
 shape. Trenches were seen slightly W of Mohn. A battle was observed in the
 area SE of Saarburg.
- H - Tgt area: 9/10 coverage cumulus base 5000' top 6000' vis 3 mi in light haze.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground control very good.

All bombs: Lewis, Shepard, Frisbie, Wright.

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397th S-2 Apt of close support and dive bombing mission 28 Feb 45
Sgdn Miss No 419:

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. L3F-1 Miss for Day: 5 28 Feb 45
Support for XIII Corps (LAMPHOOD) at F9152 - Divebombing.
- B - 308 FG 597 FS. 4 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 1557, or SL in 1635, TOT 1640, or SL out 1705, Down 1745.
- D - 1 a/c dam cat "A" by flak.
- E - 4x2x500 RDX bombs inst 1/40. 8 bombs in tgt areas.
Our planes contacted HARTHOFF, who told them to contact SAUERBLAU.
SAUERBLAU could not be contacted on B channel and the had to reach him
on A channel. Razorblade told them to bomb Erdorf at L1757. They saw
nothing at Erdorf and SIGHE confirmed the fact that there was nothing there.
Then SAUERBLAU told them to bomb artillery positions at Wilssecker at L17592.
Six bombs were dropped there and much smoke was seen. Orange smoke was seen
on the SE side of the town, following two bomb hits. 2 bombs were dropped
on 3 or 4 buildings on a road just W of the town. One or two buildings were
destroyed. Lts Barker and Nord did excellent work in the bombing.
No strafing.
- F - Weak (1 position-28 bursts) accurate light flak at Wilssecker, L180981.
(the bombing stopped this fire.)
Weak (2 or 3 guns) inaccurate light flak at Weist, L82462.
(this flak was fired at our planes although they were only circling the town.)
Our pilots thought that there might have been weak inaccurate light flak at
Speicher, L215495.
- G - Panels indicating 1 tank at Ballen L180470. Panels indicating several tanks
at Matsen, L146555. Panels indicating several tanks at Fliessen, L145590, and
just N of Fliessen. 1 vehicle, apparently German because of its location,
seen at L200455. CLENGHAND sent our planes to check activity at Speicher.
No activity was seen.
- H - An almost solid overcast (about 9/10, with some holes around Speicher.
Base 5500' top 6000' via fair. haze in the tgt area.
- I - Sgdn code not used.
- J - Our planes attempted unsuccessfully to contact POLLY. SAUERBLAU was reached
on A channel and could not be contacted on B channel.
- All bombs: Barker, Nord, Pauley, Aastrach.

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REPORT)
:
NUMBER) 42HEADQUARTERS
IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 595, U S Army

15 February 1945.

CONFIRMATION OF VICTORY CREDITS BOARD - AIR

The "Confirmation of Victory Credits Board", as appointed by par. 6, SO 36, this Headquarters, dated 7 Feb 45, awards victory credit claims to the following officers this command:

NAME	GROUP	SQDN	DATE	VICTORY CLAIMS						E/A	FLAGE	REMARKS	
				CONFIRMED	UNCONFIRMED	1944		1945					1946
				B	F	DM	D	F	DM	D	F	DM	
1st Lt Henry S. Hamilton	368	397	8-12	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	FW 190 west of Cologne One ME 109 des troyed and one ME 109 damaged awarded on Rpt # 36.

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

MEMBERS: ***
(SIDNEY F. BRODY, Lt Col, AC _____
(JAMES A. HEDGECOCK, AC, MAJOR _____
(HARRY R. JAMES, CAPT, AC _____

APPROVED:

By command of Major General QUESSADA:

A. G. KINCAID,
Brig Gen, USA,
Deputy C.G. - Adm

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

Morton H. Magnus
MORTON H. MAGNUS
1st Lt, Air Corps
397th Ftr Sqdn 8-2 Officer.

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REPORT)
NUMBER) 43HEADQUARTERS
IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 595, U S Army

CONFIRMATION OF VICTORY CREDITS BOARD - AIR

19 February 45

The "Confirmation of Victory Credits Board" as appointed by per. 6, SO 36, this Headquarters dated 7 February 1945, awards victory credit claims to the following officers this command:

NAME	GROUP	SQDN	DATE	VICTORY CONFIRMED						UNCONFIRMED			PLACE	REMARKS		
				CLAIM	VICTORY		VICTORY		VICTORY		B/A					
			1944	B	F	D	B	F	D	B	F	D				
2nd Lt George L. Bauer	368	397	17-12	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	ONE	109	Frum Area	None
1st Lt Dallas J. Glary	368	397	18-12	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	ONE	109	Duren Area	None
2nd Lt Milton A. Weinstein	368	397	18-12	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	ONE	109	Duren Area	None

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

MEMBERS:
(SIDNEY P. BRODY, LT COL, AC _____
(JAMES A. HEDGECOCK, MAJOR, AC _____
(HARRY R. JAMES, CAPT, AC _____

APPROVED:

SI command of Major General QUESADA:

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

A TRUE COPY

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

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REPORT NO. 57

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HEADQUARTERS
XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 141, U S ARMY

CONFIRMATION OF VICTORY CREDITS BOARD - AIR

The "Confirmation of Victory Credits Board" as appointed by Ser 11, SO 11 this Headquarters dated 4 Oct 1944, confirms Victory Credit claims to the following officers this command.

NAME	GROUP	SQDN	DATE	VICTORY CLAIM			UNCONFIRMED VICTORY			TYPE	L/A	PLACE	REMARKS	
				D	F	DM	D	F	DM					

1st Lt George L. Bauer	368	397	1/14	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	FW 190s Neustadt	Nil

APPROVED:

By command of Major General WEILAND:

FRANCIS M. WHITELOCK, JR.
Major, ASD
Adjutant General

LEO H. JOHNSON
Lt Col., Air Corps,
President of Board.

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REPORT)
NUMBER) 41HEADQUARTERS
IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 595, U S Army

19 February 1945.

CONFIRMATION OF VICTORY CREDITS BOARD - AD.

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

NAME	GROUP	SQDN	DATE	VICTORY CLAIM 1944			VICTORY CONFIRMED			UNCONFIRMED VICTORY			E/A	PLACE	REMARKS
				D	F	SM.	D	F	SM.	D	F	SM.			
Major Richard E. Leary	368	397	8-12	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	ME 109 N of Buren	None
1st Lt Edward W. Benz	368	397	8-12	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	FW 190 W of Cologne	One ME 109 destroyed awarded on Rpt # 36.
1st Lt William J. Lewis	368	397	8-12	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	ME 109 N/E of Buren	None
2nd Lt Robert B. Sharp	368	397	8-12	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	ME 109 W of Cologne	None

MEMBERS:

ELIAS H. WARREN,
Lt Col, Air Corps,
Pres of Board.(SIDNEY F. BRODY, Lt Col, AC _____
(JAMES A. REDGIRTH, AG, MAJOR _____
(HARRY R. JAMES, CAPT. AC _____

APPROVED:

By command of Major General QUEBADA:

A. C. KIRKLAND,
Brig Gen, USA,
Deputy C.C. - Adm.

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HEADQUARTERS
XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 141, US Army

CONFIRMATION OF VICTORY CREDITS BOARD - AIR

The "confirmation of Victory Credits Board", as appointed by par. 11, SO 111, this headquarters, dated 4 Oct 44, confirms Victory Credit claims to the following officers this command

NAME	GROUP	SQDN	DATE	VICTORY CLAIM			UNCONFIRMED VICTORY			TYPE A/C	FLASE	REMARK
				B	F	DM	B	F	DM			
2nd Lt James E. Hutcherson	368	397	Jan 16	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	ME 109 Neustedt Lt Hutcherson MIA
***												***

APPROVED: & Ref: Ninth Air Force Memo 55-9,
dtd 20 Jan 1944.

By command of Major General WELAND:

FRANCIS M. WHITLOCK, JR.,
Major, ASD,
Adjutant General.

LEO M. JOHNSON
Lt Col., Air Corps,
Pres. of Board.

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