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*****  
* HISTORY OF *  
* THE 397TH *  
* FIGHTER *  
* SQUADRON *  
*****  
  
* INSTALLMENT *  
* TWELVE *  
* Covering the month of *  
* January 1945 *  
*****  
  
* HISTORICAL *  
* OFFICER *  
* First Lieutenant *  
* RICHARD H. BLICKENSBERGER *  
*****
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DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

1. ORGANIZATION (e.g., changes effected by the transfer of the unit or by new T/O's)

N E G A T I V E

2. STRENGTH ON THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH:

Unit strength as of the 31 January 1945

OFFICERS ASSIGNED ----- Fifty-nine (59)
EM ASSIGNED ----- Two hundred forty-one (241)
OFFICERS ATTACHED ----- None (0)
EM ATTACHED ----- Three (3)

3. ARRIVAL AT AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED IN THE ETO:

Squadron departed from ALG number 68 (Juvincourt, France); arrived at ALG number Y34 (Metz, France), o/a 5 January 1945. Move of A/C, equipment, advance and rear echelons accomplished in approximately 5 days.

4. Lost in Action:

1st Lt WILLIAM G. OLDEN ----- 13 January 1945
Maj RICHARD E. LEARY ----- 14 January 1945
2nd Lt CHARLE S J. HUCKE ----- 14 January 1945
2nd Lt MILTON S. BENDER ----- 14 January 1945
2nd Lt CYRIL J. MCESNY ----- 14 January 1945
2nd Lt JAMES M. POLEN ----- 14 January 1945
2nd Lt ROLAND C. POTTER ----- 14 January 1945
2nd Lt JAMES E. HUTCHERSON ----- 16 January 1945
1st Lt ROBERT D. CASSADY ----- 22 January 1945

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS TO MEMBERS OF THIS UNIT:

2nd Lt Arledge ----- AM	2nd Lt Horowitz ----- AM
1st Lt Arps ----- 14th Br OLC to AM	2nd Lt Kalen ----- 2nd Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Baker ----- 7th Br OLC to AM	1st Lt Kerr ----- DFC, 8th Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Barker ----- 7th 8th Br OLC to AM	2nd Lt Kostrack ----- AM
2nd Lt Bauer ----- 7th Br OLC to AM	Capt Krause ----- 3rd 4th Br OLC to AM
Major Carbine ----- 3rd 4th Br OLC to AM	2nd Lt Leavoy ----- AM
1st Lt Clary ----- AM	1st Lt Lewis ----- AM
1st Lt Fauley ----- 6th Br OLC to AM	1st Lt Patrick ----- 2nd 3rd Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Fein ----- 4th Br OLC to AM	1st Lt Sharp ----- 2nd Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Frisbie ----- 4th Br OLC to AM	1st Lt Soo ----- 11th, 12th, 13th, Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Hamilton ----- 16th Br OLC to AM	2nd Lt Uterhart ----- AM
1st Lt Hogan ----- 1st Silv OLC to AM	2nd Lt Weinstein ----- 1st Silv OLC to AM
----- 6th Br OLC to AM	1st Lt Yandel ----- AM
1st Lt Horlacher ----- 3rd Silv OLC to AM	

The 368th Group received word on January 28th that it had received the Presidential Unit Citation for its work in destroying enemy transportation on 3 September 1944.

SECRET

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

 * SECTION "B" *
 * NARRATIVE *
 *
 * Covering the month of *
 * January 1945 *
 *

SECRET

ALG -- Juvincourt, France -- JAN 1 -- The New Year opened with a day of intense activity with clear skies and cold sparkling weather. "A" party left early this morning for Metz, leaving skeleton staffs in all departments here at Juvincourt to handle the renewed rush of operational activity which good weather always brings to a Fighter Squadron.

The first mission destroyed about twelve railroad cars and tore up a stretch of track southwest of Mayen. Lt Weinstein did a particularly accurate job. On the mission were: Carbine, Hunt, Hamilton, Arledge, Barker, Thornton, Weinstein, Kalen, Kerr, and Polen.

The second mission completely clobbered a Nazi bivouac area just north of Trier. Fifty vehicles were destroyed or damaged by a good concentration of bombs. Rockets and strafing accounted for one tank, eight M/T, and two trailers destroyed, and four M/T damaged by Capt Dame; One tank, two M/T destroyed, five M/T and one trailer damaged by Lt Wright; one tank and seven M/T destroyed by Lt Patrick; one tank, three M/T destroyed and five M/T damaged by Lt Clary; Mission pilots were: Olden, Kostrach, Lewis, D Sharp, Horlacher, Hucke, Fauley, Konesny, Dame, Wright, Clary, and Patrick.

Group Special Orders No.1 of this date announces the promotion of Corporal Anthony J. Walczak to the grade of Sergeant.

JAN 2 -- Good weather held today and the squadron got off on a mission this morning. A marshalling yard southeast of St Vith was bombed destroying about half of the forty of fifty cars present and tearing up the tracks. Twenty-six vehicles including some tanks were destroyed by rockets and strafing in this same area. Pilots participating were: Carbine, Hutcherson, Lewis, Uterhart, Bender, Hucke, Baker, and Patrick.

***** Fog and ground haze prevented any operational activity
 * 397TH GETS A MEDIC AT * today.
 * LAST *
 ** * Group Special Orders No. 2 of this date assigns Captain
 * Benjamin W. Jenkins to this squadron as squadron medic. Capt
 * JAN 3RD * Jenkins has been associated with the 368th Group for some
 * * time. He operated a small recuperation hospital near our for-
 ***** mer station at Chievrea. The squadron extends a hearty welcome
 to Capt Jenkins who replaces Captain Baker. Captain Baker was taken ill with diph-
 theria in October and was transferred to the US.

JAN 4 -- Bad weather halted operational activity today. "B" party made ready to join "A" party as soon as the weather would allow the planes to get off the ground.

***** Y-34 -- Metz, France -- Our planes got off on a mission
 * SQUADRON MOVES * this morning and will land at Metz. They bombed and destroyed
 * TO METZ * a train of forty cars near Welschbillig. The mission pilots
 * * were: Leary, Polen, Weinstein, Fein, Potter, Wright, Baker,
 * JAN 5 * R D Sharp, Kerr, Hunt, G L Bauer, and Horowitz.
 * * "B" Party moved to Metz, France over slippery, ice cover-
 ***** ed roads.

JAN 6 -- Bad weather, no flying attempted.

Report Number 37 of the Victory Credits Board, IX TAC, of this date, confirms the destruction of 2 FW 190's and 2 ME 109's by Lt Kerr on 17 December 1944 and places his claim to 1 ME 109 probably destroyed in the unconfirmed category. It also confirms the claim made by Lt Evans in behalf of Lt Stoll to one FW 190 damaged on the same date. Major Leary's claim of 1 ME 109 destroyed on 18 December 1944 is also confirmed as is Lt Potters claim to 2 ME 109's destroyed on the same date.

SECRET

JAN 7 -- Continued bad weather prohibited flying. Group Special Orders No. 3 of this date announce the assignment of Major John J. Tufts to this squadron.

JAN 8 -- No operations due to poor weather.

IX TAC General Orders No 1 of 8 January 1945 contains a large list of awards made to pilots of the 397th. The Air Medal is awarded to Clary, Lewis, Yandel, Arledge, Horowitz, Kostrach, Leavoy, Uterhart, and Wright, and to Jack W. White (MIA). The second Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster goes to Kalen, Patrick, R D Sharp, and Evans (MIA). The third Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded to Carbine, Krause, and Patrick. The fourth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to Carbine, Leary, Krause, Frisbie, Biagini, and Fein. The first Silver Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded to Leary, Hogan, and Weinstein. The sixth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster goes to Fauley and Hogan. The seventh Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded to Barker, Baker, Bauer, and Bender. The ninth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster goes to Barker, Kerr, Bender, and Cassady. Soo received his eleventh Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster. Potter, Soo, and Stoll (MIA) got their twelfth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster. Soo also received his thirteenth as did Stoll. The fourteenth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster goes to Arps, Dame, Olden, Sharp, and Stoll (MIA). Horlacher got his Third Silver Oak Leaf Cluster. Hamilton received his sixteenth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.

JAN 9 -- Bad weather limited operational activity to an uneventful patrol mission along the Moselle River and as far east as Luxembourg. Major Carbine and Capt Dame took part.

Ninth Air Force Special Orders of this date confirm the fact that Lt David M. Sharp had been sent to the IX Tactical Air Command for air support work as reported in the December History.

JAN 10 -- Low mist held our planes on the ground until this afternoon. The mission finally took off, however, and was highly successful. A group of storehouses near Reimbach was pretty well blitzed by the bombs, and in the strafing which followed, over fifty railroad cars, twenty-three motor vehicles, a barracks and an observation tower were destroyed or damaged. All members of the squadron shared in these totals. They were: Carbine, Kostrach, Hamilton, Wright, Barker, Polen, Krause, Thornton, Kalen, and Arledge.

JAN 11 -- Poor weather prevented operations today.

JAN 12 -- Squadron Orders No. 1 of this date confirm the assignment of Capt Benjamin W. Jenkins as Squadron Medical Officer replacing Capt Francis F. Baker.

JAN 13 -- Today was one of considerable operational activity with two successful missions. The first of these concentrated on railroad facilities in the Neunkirchen area. The marshalling yard was bombed cutting tracks in four places and destroying ten cars. Two other points on the rail system were bombed cutting the tracks and destroying fifteen more cars. All of the pilots did accurate jobs. They were: Olden, Polen, Lewis, R D Sharp, Horlacher, Konesny, Fein, Uterhart, Dame, Hutcherson, Frisbie, and Patrick.

Lt Olden failed to return from this mission. His plane was hit badly by light flak in the Homburg area. Other pilots on the mission saw him belly in and run away from his plane. Then he returned to it possibly for the purpose of destruction. There was some dispute about the location of his landing, but it was thought to be about four miles southwest of Zweillrucken.

The second mission concentrated on a stores depot at Rodalben about half of this large installation was destroyed. Carbine, Kalen, Soo, Baker, Kerr, Bauer, Cassidy, Wright, Fauley, and Horowitz were the pilots on this mission.

 * OUR PLANES GET BOUNCED *
 * MOST SEVERE LOSSES OF ANY *
 * DAY SO FAR *
 * SAUER *** SCORES *
 * 14 JANUARY *

SECRET

Today was the darkest in the history of the 397th. Briefly, out of twelve planes dispatched, only six returned to base. Our planes were bombing the marshalling yards at Neustadt when they were bounced by about forty ME 109's and twenty Fw 190's. A later check revealed that the controller had sent out a warning but it was not received by our squadron. Particulars on the action are lacking. Other pilots on the mission heard over the R/T that Lt Potter was on fire and was going to belly in. Lt Polen was heard to say that he would have to bail out. But nothing whatsoever is known about the fate of the other four missing pilots, Major Leary, Lt Ducke, Lt Bender, and Lt Koneany. The squadron has suffered a severe blow in the loss of these six pilots. Major Leary was our operations officer as well as one of our most aggressive pilots and was one of the best liked officers in the squadron. He is from Annapolis, Md.

Lt Potter was one of the older group of pilots having joined the squadron while it was stationed in England. His home was Arnold, Nebraska.

Lt Bender had been with the squadron since it moved to the continent. His home was Saugus, California. The others missing on this mission were comparatively recent additions to the squadron. Lt Ducker was from Benille, Texas; Lt Koneany from Harrisburg, Pa; and Lt Polen from Clinton, Ill.

The second mission of the day managed to scrape together eight planes and take off on a "scramble" mission in support of the Third Corps. They bombed a troop concentration with many vehicles near Clerf wreaking great destruction. Capt Krause and Lt Thornton did most of the strafing and accounted for two tanks and four trucks. On the mission were: Krause, Thornton, Soo, Kalen, Barker, Hutcherson, Weinstein, and Arledge.

There were also two uneventful patrol sorties flown. Kerr, Hutcherson, Baker, and Arledge, flew the first of these, and Frisbie and Horowitz teamed up with two pilots of the 395th on the second.

JAN 15 — Today was another of great activity with two ten ship missions taking place. The first of these consisted of an accurate but uneventful bombing of the marshalling yard at Neustadt. Mission pilots were: Carbine, Hutcherson, Lewis, Leavoy, Horlacher, Kostrack, Hamilton, Hogan, Dame, and Wright

Weather closed in on the second mission and our planes had to bring their bombs back to base because of inability to find targets through the heavy overcast. Pilots were: Krause, Arledge, Barker, Uterhart, Sharp, Cassidy, Kerr, Thornton, Bauer, and Horowitz.

 * ANOTHER DOGFIGHT HUTCH *
 * ERSON LOST ***** *
 * 16 JANUARY *

Four missions kept all personnel busy today. The first was an uneventful patrol by Dame and Bauer. On the second mission three marshalling yards in the Neustadt area were very accurately hit. Two warehouses and several other buildings were destroyed and much rolling stock as well as considerable damage to the rail lines. Krause, Thornton, Frisbie, Kalen, Cassidy, Kostrack, Baker, Sharp, Kerr, Horowitz, Hogan, and Clary took part.

The third mission returned to the marshalling yard at Neustadt tearing up more of the track and destroying at least fifty cars. Suddenly without warning from the controller our planes were bounced by forty Fw 190's and twenty ME 109's.

SECRET

from up sun. The circumstances were very similar to those of the disastrous mission of Jan 14th. In the dogfight which ensued Lt Hutcherson was shot down, but only after he had destroyed one of the ME 109's. His plane crashed and it is not thought that he was able to bail out. Lt Hutcherson was a popular newcomer to the squadron. He had been with us about two months. His home was Akron, Ohio. Pilots on this mission were: Carbine, Leavoy, Weinstein, Patrick, Barker, Hutcherson, Soo, Lewis, Horlacher, Arledge, Fein, and Fauley.

Lts Frisbie and Morowitz flew an uneventful patrol mission in the afternoon. Squadron Orders No. 2 of this date appoint 2nd Lt John H. Keil Tech Supply and Ass't Engineering Officer in addition to his other duties. Capt Krause is appointed Squadron Operations Officer. Lt Barker is relieved as Operations Officer and made Flight Commander of "A" Flight. He is also made Awards and Decorations Officer. Lt Frisbie is appointed as his assistant together with Lt Uterhart. Lt Cassidy is appointed "D" Flight Commander, and Lt Bauer "E" Flight Commander. Capt Howard, Lt Blickensderfer, Lt Ludwig, M/Sgt Gray, M/Sgt Jones, and T/Sgt Barnes are appointed Venereal Disease Control Advisors.

JAN 17 -- Bad weather kept all planes grounded today. **SECRET**
Group Special Orders No 5 of this date send Lt Clary to Paris for seven days bombing tactics training.

JAN 18 -- No operations due to inclement weather.

JAN 19 -- The weather finally lifted enough for our planes to get off this afternoon, but conditions over the tgt area were so poor that all bombs had to be brought back. Those flying were: Carbine, Thornton, Soo, Hogan, Cassidy, Hunt, Patrick, Sharp, Horlacher, Fein, Frisbie, and Weinstein.

Group Special Orders No. 6 of this date assign two new pilots to this squadron. They are 2nd Lt Newell B. Woodworth and 2nd Lt Eugene F. Buck. Lt Olmstead is appointed to the Officers Club Council.

* Poor weather over the target area prevented our planes
* from taking off today.
* ENLISTED MENS * Enlisted men of this organization have at last been given
* space for a club of their own. It is a large room up under the
* CLUB TO OPEN * rafters on the fourth floor of their barracks building. The
* squadron carpenters under the direction of Sgt Roman, toget-
* her with the voluntary help of all interested personnel, are
* ***** * decorating and furnishing it. The club, which so far has not
* been given a name, will have a bar serving beer and liquer in the evening hours. There
* will also be an ample number of tables for cards and letter writing and easy chairs for
* relaxation. There has been a great need for such a club especially since we have been
* stationed in Metz with its curfew at 2000 hours, and it is sure to be a big success.

JAN 21 -- Continued bad weather kept our planes grounded today.
Enlisted men of the organization have completed a collection for the purchase of two one hundred dollar War Bonds. They are to be presented to the nearest of Kin of Sgt Merrill O. Holmes and Cpt Michel T. Gaydos. Sgt Holmes was killed in a truck accident on November twenty-first. Cpl Gaydos lost his life due to the misfiring of a rocket on the line December fifteenth.

SECRET

 * BIGGEST TOLL OF ** * A return of good weather brought a day of intense
 * NAZI VEHICLES SINCE ** activity. We continued in our support of the Fourth Infan-
 * FALAISE * try Division with two missions. On the first of these, Serum
 * Squadron called in a huge jam of Nazi vehicles trying to
 * withdraw from the Ardennes salient. Medium bombers had
 * *****
 * knocked out bridges on the main roads of the German retreat
 across the Our River, and all groups of IXX TAC took part in the orgy of destruction of
 the stalled Nazi motored columns. Our squadron accounted for 76 destroyed and 64 damag-
 ed. The 368th Group was the high scorer of IXX TAC. Group destroyed over 600 vehicles
 during the day and the total for IXX TAC was over 2,700. Our individual claims were:
 Krause and Morowitz : 5 MT destroyed, 20 damaged. Hamilton: 25 destroyed. Patrick: 8
 destroyed, 15 damaged. Lewis: 9 destroyed, Sharp: 5 destroyed. Thornton: 5 destroyed, 3
 damaged. Barker and Uterhart: 8 destroyed including two tanks, 20 damaged. Lt Cassady
 2 destroyed, 6 damaged.

Lt Cassady's plane was badly hit by the intense light flak guarding the vehicles.
 He was forced to belly in at a point midway between the front line and our bomb line.
 The situation was fluid at this point and it is not known whether he fell into enemy
 hands. Lt Cassady was one of the oldest and most popular pilots in the squadron. His
 home is Hamlet, Ind.

Pilots on the first mission were: Krause, Morowitz, Hamilton, Patrick, Barker,
 Uterhart, Fauley, Arledge, Cassady, Thornton, Lewis, and K D Sharp.

Weather closed in over the target this afternoon preventing the second mission from
 finishing off the remainder of the vehicles. However, one group of bombs was seen to
 have destroyed from 20 to 30 vehicles. Maj Carbine destroyed four by strafing, Lt Kerr
 one and two gun positions and Lts Wright and Weinstein four more.

Mission pilots were: Carbine, Kostrack, Weinstein, Wright, Bauer, Leavoy, Kerr, Hunt,
 Frisbie, and Fein.

Horlacher, Arps, and Koenig flew an uneventful patrol mission.

JAN 23 -- Today we continued our support of the Fourth Infantry Division by
 bombing two small towns near the rapidly diminishing Ardennes salient. At least twenty
 vehicles were destroyed in the first of these towns and several in the other. Major
 Carbine destroyed 12 MT by strafing, Lt Leavoy one MT and two flak positions, Lt Lewis
 six tanks, five trailers, and eight horse drawn vehicles. Mission pilots were: Carbine,
 Hord, Lewis, Thornton, Bauer, Leavoy, Hogan, and Kalen.

 * S/SGT WITHERSPOON * Snow and haze halted all operational activity today.
 * GETS A BREAK * A verbal order from the Commanding General of the IXX
 * JANUARY 24 * TAC gave S/Sgt Melvin J. Witherspoon an unexpected ten day
 * furlough in the United States today. The news came as a com-
 * plete surprise to S/Sgt Witherspoon and caught him pretty
 * *****
 * short. Through the generosity of the enlisted men and admin-
 istrative officers of the squadron, a fund of over one hundred forty dollars was raised
 to send S/Sgt Witherspoon on his way. A small reception was also given for him at the
 club.

JAN 25 -- Continued snow kept all planes grounded today.

Jan 26 -- The heavy overcast finally broke sufficiently to allow our planes to get
 off this afternoon. But conditions over the target area were so poor that our planes had
 to bomb an unidentified target through the clouds with the aid of the ground controller.
 On this mission were: Krause, Le Grand, Soo, Morowitz, Barker, Galpin, Fandel, and
 Arledge.

SECRET

JAN 27 -- Heavy snow grounded all planes today.

JAN 28 -- Continued snow. No operations.

JAN 29 -- Two missions today continued to cripple the Nazi transportation facilities. The first of these concentrated on a marshalling yard near Kaiserlautern where several cuts on the tracks were scored with ten to twenty cars destroyed and twenty to thirty others damaged. Mission pilots were: Carbine, Soo, Morowitz, Kerr, Hunt, Friable, and Uterhart.

The second mission bombed a group of about eighteen vehicles in the St Vith area destroying or damaging all. It was carried out in conjunction with planes of the 395th and 396th. Our pilots on the mission were: Krause, Halpin, Horlacher, Kostrach, Weinstein, and Wright.

JAN 30 -- Another snow storm halted all operations today.

JAN 31 -- Rain and low hanging clouds today brought this month's operations to a close with a day of inactivity. It has been a month of great successes and severe losses. The great winter Russian offensive, which continues to steam-roller all German opposition in the east, gives us all renewed hope that the end of this portion of the great conflict is not far off.

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

D-B-4

REPORT)

HEADQUARTERS
IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 595, U S Army

NUMBER) 57

CONFIRMATION OF VICTORY CREDITS BOARD * AIR

6 January 1945

The " Confirmation of Victory Credits Board ", as appointed by par 3, SO
231, this headquarters, dated 31 December 1944, awards victory credits
claims to the following officers this command:

NAME	GROUP	SQDN	DATE	CLAIM				VICTORY CONFIRMED				E/A	PLACE	REMARKS
				1944	D	P	DM	D	P	DM	D			
* * * * *														
1st Lt William M. Kerr	368	397	17-12	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	FW 190 Prum Area	None
1st Lt William M. Kerr	368	397	17-12	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	ME 109 Prum Area	None
2nd Lt Frederick G. Stoll, Jr	368	397	17-12	M.I.A.	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	FW 190 Prum Area	Claim submitted by Lt Evans.
Major Richard E. Leary	368	397	18-12	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	ME 109 Duren Area	None
1st Lt Roland C. Potter	368	397	18-12	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	ME 109 Duren Area	None

*** MEMBERS: APPROVED: ***
(ELIAS H. WARREN, Lt Col, AC _____
(JAMES A. HEDGPETH, MAJOR, AC _____
(HARRY R. JAMES, CAPT, AC _____

By command of Major General QUESADA:

PHILLIPS MELVILLE
Colonel, Air Corps
Pres of Board

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

" A TRUE COPY "

RICHARD H. BLICKENSBERGER
1st Lt, Air Corps
397th Ass't S-2 Officer.

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

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

D-3-4

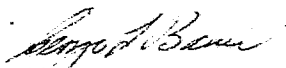
COMBAT REPORT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT GEORGE L. BAUER *****ASN O-704660

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 14 January 1945
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron -- 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1010
E. Place of Attack : Area of Neustadt
F. Weather : Target area clear, visibility good -- 15 to 20 miles
south of target area, overcast from 3,000' to 4,000'
G. Type of Target : 50 plus ME 109's, FW 190's, and "longnose" FW 190's.
H. Claims : Two "longnose" FW 190's destroyed
I. Account of Combat :

I, 1st Lt George L. Bauer, ASN O-704660, was flying Tropic Yellow three on an armed reconnaissance mission on the morning of 14 January 1945. At 1010 hours a few miles east of Neustadt, Blue Leader called in many bandits coming in from sun-up. They were identified as fifty plus ME 109's and FW 190's. We were flying at 12,000' and started to climb. Immediately, two FW 190's came in on our tail. I called a break left in order to evade them. When we were clear, we pressed attacks on several groups of from three to six E/A, but each time we were forced to break away because of more E/A coming in. Then three FW 190's attacked from head on. I fired at one of them until he passed underme. I turned to get on their tail, and saw that the one at which I had fired had rolled over and burst into flames. He fell to the earth like a ball of fire completely enveloped in flames. The pilot did not bail out before the plane crashed.

Later in the fight I got on the tail of another FW 190. I fired a short burst at him and saw numerous hits on the E/A's wingroots and fuselage, and smoke trailed out. The E/A slowed up and I closed in firing constantly. Pieces flew from his wing and tail. He fell into a spiral and spun down to the ground. I watched the plane all the way down till it hit the ground and exploded. The pilot did not bail out.

I claim two FW 190's destroyed. Both were of the "longnose" type.


GEORGE L. BAUER
1st Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to HQ XIX TAC on 15 January 1945.

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

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

STATEMENT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM G. HORLACHER, O-802299, IN REGARD
TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ONE ME 109 BY SECOND LIEUTENANT JAMES E. HUTCHERSON,
O-829997 (MIA 16 JAN 1945)

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 16 Jan 45
C. Unit : 397th FS, 368 FG
D. Time of Attack : 1455
E. Place of Attack : Neustadt area
F. Weather : 1/10 cover, patches of alto stratus. Vis fair to good.
G. Type of Target : 40 FW190's and 20 ME109's
H. Claims : 397th Fighter Squadron claims one ME109 destroyed in
behalf of 2nd Lt James E. Hutcherson, O-829997, MIA
16 Jan 45.

I. Account of Combat:

I, 1st Lt William G. Horlacher, O-802299, was leading Tropic Blue flight on a Dive Bombing and Reconnaissance Mission on 16 Jan 45. I followed Tropic Red and Yellow flights into their dive bombing run on the marshalling yards at Neustadt, Germany. While pulling up after the run, we were attacked by several two ship elements of ME109's. The fight had been going on for about two minutes, when I saw a fifth F47 at our level, about 8000', engaging an ME109 that was coming in at about 70 degrees. I could see hits being made on the F47 near the right wing root. As the two aircraft passed, the right wing of the F47 came off and the ship spun to the ground about ten miles southeast of Neustadt. The ME109 turned over on its back in a snap roll, and, smoking very badly, went into a spin to the right. It crashed and exploded about five miles south of the F47.

At the time the F47 was hit and lost a wing, 2nd Lt James E. Hutcherson, O-829997, called over the R/T that he was hit and going down. Since there were no other claims of enemy aircraft destroyed, and no friendly aircraft other than Tropic squadron took part in the fight, I believe that Lt Hutcherson was responsible for the destruction of one ME109.

J. Ammunition expended : Unknown.

William G. Horlacher
WILLIAM G. HORLACHER
1st Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, 397th Fighter Squadron

1. For 2nd Lt James E. Hutcherson, O-829997, MIA 16 Jan 45
2. Combat film does not exist.

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

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

D-3-4

STATEMENT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT BOB V. BARKER, ASN O-763463 IN REGARD
TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ONE ME 109 BY SECOND LIEUTENANT JAMES E. HUTCHERSON, ASN O-829997 (M.I.A. 16 JANUARY 1945)

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 16 January 1945
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1455
E. Place of Attack : Neustadt area
F. Weather : 1/10 cover, patches of alto stratus. Visibility fair to good
G. Type of Target : 40 FW 190's and 20 ME 109's
H. Claims : 397th Fighter Squadron claims one ME 109 destroyed in behalf of 2nd Lt James E. Hutcherson, ASN O-829997, MIA 16 January 1945

I. Account of Combat :

I, 1st Lt Bob V. Barker, ASN O-763463, 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group, was leading Tropic Yellow flight on a Dive Bombing and Reconnaissance Mission on 16 January 1945. After proceeding north from Landau to Neustadt, Germany, it was decided to bomb the marshalling yards at Neustadt. Following Tropic Red flight, Yellow flight approached from the northeast, then bombed to the northeast and pulled back up to the northwest. Blue flight went in to bomb to the southwest, and while in the bomb run, Blue flight four called-in attacking enemy aircraft. Yellow flight continued to climb from about 8,000' to the south, observing several two ship elements of enemy aircraft in that general direction and probably 5,000' above. Blue flight was calling for help, and I turned toward a group of aircraft, which I believed included elements of Blue flight, just south of Neustadt. As I closed on the group, an ME 109 in front of me and slightly to the right was attacking a P 47 from an angle of about 70 degrees from the front. I observed strikes on the right wing root of the P 47, and less than a second later, as the flight paths of the two aircraft seemed to intersect, a large section of wing came off one of the aircraft, and the ME 109 rolled to the right and spun downward smoking. At the same time, I heard someone say on the R/T that a P 47 was going-down. Thoughtout, I had been accompanied by another aircraft which I believed to be my wingman, 2nd Lt James E. Hutcherson, ASN O-829997. Later however, I called to him and learned that it was Tropic Yellow three, 1st Lt Manuel K. Soo, ASN O-815407.

After the enemy was first called in, I had no radio contact with my wingman, Lt Hutcherson, nor did he return from the mission. There were no other claims of a destroyed enemy aircraft in the squadron. There were no other friendly aircraft in the encounter. Therefore I believe that Lt Hutcherson was responsible for the destruction of an ME 109.

J. Ammunition expended : Unknown

Bob V. Barker
BOB V. BARKER
1st Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

1. For 2nd Lt James E. Hutcherson, ASN O-829997, MIA 16 January 1945.
2. Combat film does not exist.

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

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

397th FS S-2 Report of Dive Bombing and Armed Recce Mission Sqdn Miss. 329

- A- Ops Ord No _____ Miss No W-51-3 1 Jan 44 Miss for Day 1
Dive Bombing and Armed recce mission in area of Adenau, Siazig, Andernach,
Burgan, and Cochem.
- B -368 FG, 397 FS 10 a/c disp no aborts
- C- Up 1053, Cross B/L on way in 1130, TOT 1210, Cross B/L on way out 1230, Down 1314.
- D- Nil /8 rockets ret to base
- E- 8x2x500 GPs 1/10 nose 1/40 tail 2x4x5 in AR MkI rockets. 16 bombs in tgt
The sqdn contacted RIFSAW3 who had no tgts for them. They sighted two rakes of
cars at L3679 about 15 mi SW of Mayen. There were about 15 cars in one group
and 10 in the other. All 16 bombs were dropped on these cars. Lt Weinstein
scored a direct hit on one of takes and there were six near misses. It is
believed that at least half of the cars were dest or damaged. The track was
cut in two or three places. The armed recce was then completed without incident
except for the calling in of several groups of bogies none of whom were identified as
being a/a.
- F- Evy mod inacc flak at Bittburg L1353
- G- A train of 20 cars headed for Koblenz was sighted SE of Koblenz at L8792. It
was not attacked because the cars were empty and there were bogies present.
There was no road traffic observed on the recce.
- H- Undercast 4/10 stratus base 3500' top 4000' vis excellent
- I- Sqdn code not used
- J- Ground control not used

Bombs: Carbins Hunt Hamilton Arledge
Barker Thornton Weinstein Kalsn
Rockets: Kerr Polen.

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

1924

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

397th FS S-2 Rpt on Armed Recon and D/E Mission Sqdn Miss No 530

- A - Ops rd No Y Miss No W51-5 1 Jan 44 Miss for Day 2
Armed Recon and D/E Mission in area of Adenau Sinsig Andernach Bergen Cochem.
- B - 368 FG 397 FS 12 a/o disp no aborts
- C - Up 1420 Cr B/L on way in 1455 TOT 1520 Cr B/L out 1610 Down 1706
- D - Nil
- E - 8x2x500 GP 1/10 nose 1/40 tail 4x4x5 in AR mkI rockets. 16 bombs and 16 rockets in tgt area.
Sqdn contacted RIFSAW 3 who directed them to a bivouac area at L245360 about 3 mi N of Trier. 16 bombs were dropped in this area. 14 bombs were well concentrated in a group of 80 motor trucks all of which were destroyed or damaged. The two flights also strafed this area. Lt Sharp, RD, dest by strafing 1 M/T and 1 staff car. Lt Lewis dest 1 truck. 16 rockets were fired on a concentration of trucks and tanks at L4046. Capt Dame and Lts Wright Clary and Patrick each dest 1 tank with their rockets. Their strafing claims were: Capt Dame 8 M/T and 2 trailers dest, 4 M/T dam. Lt Wright 2 M/T dest 5 M/T and 1 trailer dam. Lt Patrick 7 M/T dest. Lt Clary 3 M/T dest 5 M/T dam.
- F - Lt int imac flak at Trier M/Y
Lt wk fairly acc flak at L2337
Hvy int acc flak at P8267
- G - Arty positions were seen at L2035 with trench work in front of them.
- H - 7/10 strato cumulus base 3000 top 4000 vis good
- I - Sqdn code not used
- J - Ground control good

Bombs: Olden, Kostrach, Lewis, RD Sharp
Horlacher, Hucke, Fauley, Konesny
Rockets: Dame, Wright, Clary, Patrick.

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

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

397th S-2 Rpt of Armed Recce and D/B Mission Sqdn Miss No 331

- A - Ops Ord No _____ Miss No W51-4 First Mission for Day *2 Jan, 1945*
Armed Recce and D/B in area of Wittlich Elanckenhein and Cochem.
- B - 368 FG 397FS 12 a/c disp no aborts
- C - Up 1115, Cr B/L in 1200, TOP 1215, Cr B/L out 1355, Down 1421.
- D - 4 a/c dam by flak out "AC"
- E - Ex2x500 GP 1/10 nose 1/40 tail 4x4x5 in AR MKI Rockets. 15 bombs in tgt area, one ret to base, 7 rockets in tgt area, 9 rockets ret to base. Sqdn contacted RIFSAW 3 who directed them to a M/Y at F7378, about 6 mi SE of St Vith. 15 bombs were dropped in the M/Y. 40 to 50 cars were present of which half were damaged or destroyed. A powerhouse at the SW corner was damaged. On a road 1 to 4 mi W of this tgt 7 rockets were fired which dest 1 tank and 1 command car and damaged 1 M/T. Capt Krause and Lt Soo fired the rockets. In strafing on the same road Red flight dam or dest 10 tanks and vehicles. Lt Benders flight dest 1 recon car and 5 M/Ts. Lt Kalen dest 1 staff car and 1 M/T. Lt Soo dam 5 small vehicles.
- F - Hvy mod flak of unknown acc at St Vith.
Lt int acc flak at F7380.
Lt int acc flak at P6481.
Lt mod flak at P8674.
- G - Nil
- H - 10/10 overcast over tgt area stratus base 3500 top 5500 vis 8 to 10 mi.
Mod rime icing in clouds.
- I - Code not used.
- J - RIFSAW 3 was definite but inaccurate by 12 to 15 mi.
- Bombs; Carbine, Hutcherson, ^{Lewis} ~~Hellison~~, Uterhart
Bender, Hocke, Baker, Patrick.
- Rockets; Krause, Arledge, Soo, Kalen.

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

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

397th Fighter Sqdn S-2 Apt on a Armed recce and dive bombing mission - Sqdn mission 332
5 Jan 1945

- A. Opns O No _____, Mission No W51-5 -- Mission No For day ONL -- 5 Jan 45.
Armed Recce in the area of Bittburg, Pelm, Kohem, and Trier. Dive bomb of a train
at L213395, slightly east of Welschbillig.
- B. 368th Ftr Gp -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/C -- Disp -- No Aborts.
- C. GP: 1050 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1105 -- TOT: 1120 -- Crossed b/line on way
out at 1145 -- DOWN: 1226.
- D. Nil.
- E. 8 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs inst nose 1/40 tail -- 4 x 4 x 5" Mark I rockets 15/1000
second fixed base fuse. 16 bombs in tgt area -- 16 rockets returned to base --
Our planes bombed a train of forty freight cars at L213395 slightly east of
Welschbillig. No engine was seen. 16 bombs were dropped on the train, and the results
were excellent. All our pilots did very well in the bombing.
Strafing: Major Leary destroyed 1 mi at L 163355, slightly southeast of Manlendorf.
- F. Light very weak very inacc flak at L 1339.
- G. Two jeeps were seen in the tgt area they were not attacked because a better tgt was
seen.
- H. 9/10 cloud coverage stratus clouds base 1000' top unknown -- visibility unlimited.
- I. Sqdn code not used.
- J. Ground control was very ~~eg~~ f good.

BOMBS: LEARY FOLEN WEINSTEIN FLIN
 POLLEN WRIGHT BAKER R D SHARP
ROCKETS: KEAR HUNL Lt BAKER RICHMIL

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

CONFIDENTIAL

D-8-4

597th Ftr Sqdn 3-2 Aft on a weather mission -- 1st Mission No. 355 -- 9 Jan 45 -

- A. Ops J No. _____, Mission No. _____, Mission 3 for day _____ -- 9 Jan 45 --
Our planes were vectored on a weather mission by Alphas three. They flew in an arc north of the country of Luxembourg, then they flew to Wittlich (03240), Diskirch (03642), then south to the city of Luxembourg (03515) (03515), and then almost to Merzig (02095). At 01 (00598) they turned back to the Moselle river. They flew down the river to Thionville (03688), then they flew to Metz.
- B. 598th Ftr Gp -- 597th Ftr Sqdn -- 2 A/O disp -- no aborts --
- C. UP: 1245 -- Down: 1340 --
- D. Nil
- E. See A above.
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. 10/10 cloud coverage -- low stratus cirrus -- with ragged base -- base generally at 1,800' above sea level -- top unknown. -- visibility was four to five miles away from snow showers and points at which clouds and hills met, there were many points at which the clouds were directly on the hill tops. At Metz some blue sky was seen. At some points the clouds were lighter than at others. naturally the overcast was thickest in those places, there were breaks at Metz only. Snow showers were encountered.
- I. Sqdn code not used.
- J. Ground Control by Alphas three was good.

Pilots: _____

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1928

397th Ftr sqdn 3-2 apt on a armed recon, dive bombing and rocket firing mission --
sqdn mission no. 334 -- 10 Jan 44

- A. Opns No. _____, Mission no. 331-3 -- Mission no. for day no. -- 10 Jan 44 --
armed recon no 3 in the area of Saarbrücken, Lebach, Gerzig, Fried, Wolfelden,
and Ottweiler. -- Dive bombing and rocket firing.
- B. 358th Fighter sq -- 397th Ftr sqdn -- 10 4/0 Miss -- 10 aborts --
- C. DE: 1547 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1430 -- TO: (for bombs) 1,200, (for rockets)
1600 -- Crossed b/line on way out at 1615 -- DOWN: 1642.
- D. All
- E. 6 x 2 x 500lb of bombs inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 4 x 4 x 5" M. Mark rockets 1,000
second fixed base fuses -- 10 bombs in tgt area --
Our planes were directed by Failfull (20th Corps) to bomb what Failfull said was
a dump and storerooms (14 buildings) at E 277200 near Mt Keimbach. 10 bombs
were dropped here and six buildings were damaged. Two bombs were dropped in the
town of Keimbach and a building was hit. Major Carbine and Lts Kostraeh, Wright,
and Barker especially distinguished themselves in the bombing.
Major Carbine's flight strafed 70 to 75 railroad cars in the area of 4410. These
cars were in six groups. No engines were seen. 50 cars were damaged. Capt Krause's
flight and Lt's Hamilton and Wright strafed 20 M in the area of 428200. 10
were destroyed. Capt Krause's flight strafed and scored good hits on a barracks at
44517. Two M, one which was burning and the other of which had been strafed were
the object of one pass by Lts Kalen, and Arledge, these M were located at 4410.
Capt Krause strafed and scored good hits on an observation tower at 418200.
Lts Barker and Tolen strafed and damaged one vehicle at 4305159. Capt Krause
and Lts Thornton, Kalen, and Arledge fired all their rockets in the area of 4218.
They fired at the cars strafed in that area. Two tracks were cut and one railroad
car was destroyed.
- F. A barage of very intense, inacc, 20 mm flak was observed at 43112.
Inten, inacc, light flak at 432151.
- G. What was thought to be a P 47 was seen on the ground at 43112. The plane was
comparatively in tact. Two rectangular objects separated by a narrow empty space
were seen at 43112. It was thought that the area was a bivouac. A long tank was
seen at 44022. A staff car was seen at 44020. All the roads in the tgt area were
well traveled. Mud was seen on some of the roads. Troops had evidently camped in the
field beside the roads and then brought mud back to the roads. Even the smallest
trails were marked by tracks. Two fires were seen to the left of the road at 428200.
Two 20 M were strafed. It was thought that they were two burning vehicles.
- H. To the east of the tgt area: 10/10 cloud coverage stratus clouds- base 5000 to 6000'-
top 5500 to 6500' -- visibility good -- snow showers were noted to the east of the
tgt area.
- I. Sqdn code not used.
- J. Ground control by Failfull was good.

BOMBS:	CARBER	KOSTRAEH	HAMILTON	WRIGHT
	BARKER	TOLAN		
ROCKETS:	KRAUSE	THORNTON	KALEN	ARLEDGE

297th S-2 Mission rpt for 2/10/54 mission. Mission was for 2/10/54 mission. Mission was for 2/10/54 mission. Mission was for 2/10/54 mission.

1. Area 1 - Homburg, Ardennes, Germany, Weiserlautern. - 2. Area 2 - st-area depot at Homburg, 2/10/54 - was not located.

3. 325th Str Sq -- 297th Str Sq -- 10/10/54 -- 10/10/54

4. 297th Str Sq -- 297th Str Sq -- 10/10/54 -- 10/10/54
 5. at Elden was hit by light, intense, at Homburg, 2/10/54. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq.

6. 10 x 2 x 3000 ft of clouds that were very dense at Homburg, 2/10/54. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq.

7. Our plane located the Weiserlautern area at Homburg, 2/10/54. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq.

8. It was thought that the Weiserlautern area at Homburg, 2/10/54. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq.

9. There were no direct hits on the Weiserlautern area at Homburg, 2/10/54. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq.

10. Weiserlautern area: 2/10/54 cloud coverage cumulus clouds base 300' top 1200' -- visibility upon 2/10/54 mission, clear sun 2 to 3 miles.

11. 297th Str Sq not used

12. Ground control by 297th Str Sq was good area at Elden belived in. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq. Pilot stated that he belived in at 297th Str Sq.

13. 297th Str Sq could not fix the location at Elden as intended.

14. 297th Str Sq could not fix the location at Elden as intended.

15. 297th Str Sq could not fix the location at Elden as intended.

16. 297th Str Sq could not fix the location at Elden as intended.

CONFIDENTIAL

2-7th S-2 Det of 4th and 7th Division 15 Jan 44 Lead Miss No 3/5

- 1 - Ops area Miss No 4/4 15 Jan 44 Miss No 2/2
area Woburn, Brandon, 2000, Weiserlautern. W/S of alt tgt
at Weiserlautern 145/20. (stores depot)
 - 2 - 2000 to 2070 15 Jan 44 no alerts
 - 3 - Op 1/3/4 of 4/4 in 1000, 1440, or 6/4 out 1300, down 1342.
 - 4 - All
 - 5 - Low stratus met none 1/40 tall. 20 bombs in tgt area.
Our plane bombed the alt tgt given in W. 3 bombs were dropped on the
eastern corner and on the center of the tgt. Several buildings were dent or
severely damaged, but those in the area not hit remained intact. No fires
were seen. 4 bombs were dropped in a field near the tgt. 8 bombs were dropped on
buildings of the tgt. They were well hit, and there was good dispersion.
No strafing.
 - 6 - It was made at tgt
 - 7 - No barges were seen on the river. The river was open and there was no ice.
No traffic was seen on roads. In the W/S area our pilots saw snow covered
roads which had apparently been stationary for some time. Many tank cars were
seen on a line near the tgt. In each of 4 fields near Weiserlautern
area the following pattern was seen: 4 black splashes about circular in shape
and arranged in a horizontal line, each of which had an inverted V of lighter
color leading out of it. The inverted V became lighter toward the apex. No
road traffic was seen. The whole assigned W/S was carried out but the bombs were
covered in a sequence opposite to that assigned. Some roads were muddy and seemed to
to have been used. On the whole the W/S area was characterized by inactivity
and an air of restfulness.
 - 8 - An undercut with breaks - low stratus base 3000' to 3500' to 4000' was good
 - 9 - W/S not used.
 - 10 - Ground control by radio and visual was poor.
- All bombs: Carbone, Nelson, 200, Baker
Kerr, Bauer.
Messidy, Wright, Paulry, Brownita.
- Major Carbone and 200, Nelson, 200, Baker, Kerr, and Bauer did particularly
good work in the bombing.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

19701 1st Sqdn C-2 apt on an alert patrol mission -- 14 Jan 4, -- mission no. 257

a.- ops c no. _____, mission no. 191-4' -- 14 Jan 4 -- was in the air for days. One -- alert patrol in area of base and another part on the same river.

b.- 20000 ft sq -- 20000 ft sq -- 1/2 sq -- no reports --

c.- cr: 0000 -- count: 1100 --

d.- nil

e.- Only friendly fighters were seen. After the air fight in which our two planes became involved over Germany, another reported by reports at 1-1170. Our alert planes did not go to this point for three reasons: 1. their two hour tour was up; 2. they could not gain sufficient altitude; 3. to have done so this point would have taken them out of the alert area, an area restricted to 10000 ft. No straggling.

f.- nil

g.- nil

h.- The weather was overcast. North of the line between sets and point slightly. Part of the straggled south of that line there was a blanket of stratus clouds with base of 1500' and top of 2000'. The visibility was good above the clouds and poor below the clouds.

i.- sqdn code not used.

j.- Ground control was fair. Busman did the controlling. The flight leader was under the impression that it was Wipeaw or a subordinate of Wipeaw who should have done the controlling. Wipeaw five controlled the alert flight that relieved our flight.

Wipeaw: _____

CONFIDENTIAL

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

D-8-4

997th Str Sqdn s-2 rpt on a close ground support mission -- 14 Jan 45 -- Mission No 339 --

- A.- Opns Co., Mission No. 'A, 1-10' -- Mission No. for 1st Lt. [redacted] -- 14 Jan 45 -- support for Pinkpig (3rd Corps), at 0622Z -- Dive Bombing --
- B.- 968th Str Sq -- 397th Str Sq. -- 3 A/C. 2 aborts -- (the engine of one plane cut out and the pilot had to abort, his element leader accompanied via home). --
- C.- Off: 1302 -- crossed b/line on way in at 1320 -- Off: 1328 -- crossed b/line on way out at 1413 -- Down: 1451 --
- D.- One A/C damaged by AA -- Out "Go" --
- E.- 2 x 2 x 500lb GP Bombs - Inst nose - 1/40 tail -- 12 bombs in tgt area -- 4 bombs returned to base by abortives. --
Our planes contacted Pinkpig. Pinkpig assigned no definite tgt, so directed our planes to Clerf, F7865 and instructed them to observe activity to the east of the town. Nothing was noted. Our planes then bombed a concentration of troops and about ten vehicles (trucks and smaller vehicles) in a woods at 177866. 12 bombs were dropped here. One big fire was started in the woods. In a second place in the woods there was a column of smoke that was not bomb smoke, the bombs were well scattered. There were good hits on a cluster of vehicles. A P-47 which did not belong to our squadron participated in the bombing and dropped two bombs. This P-47 had a black nose and black stripes on the horizontal tail plane. It was carrying a belly tank. strafing: Capt Krause and Lt Inornton made two strafing passes on a road in the woods bombed by our planes. They destroyed one truck at 177866. They destroyed another truck at 177869. Capt Krause damaged two tanks at 180050. Capt Krause destroyed a camouflaged vehicle about the size of a weapons carrier at 177844. Lt Inornton destroyed a gas truck in the vicinity. Capt Krause destroyed a car nearby. Capt Krause and Lt Inornton destroyed a truck at F 820629. The black nosed P 47 mentioned above participated in the first two strafing passes - results unknown. --
- F.- div add acc AA in the area of 18065 -- light inten acc AA in the area of 18063. --
div mod acc AA at Clerf, F 7865, light mod acc AA in the area of 18257.
- G.- The vehicles in the tgt area were moving north of east.
- H.- OAT
- I.- sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control good. One controller was so ineffectual that he could not be identified.

ALL Details: [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

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

CONFIDENTIAL

1-4

20710 RTR could not be used on a Alert patrol mission -- 14 Jan 50 -- with mission no. 340 --

- a. - Same crew, mission no. 101-1. Mission no. for days 1000 -- Jan 14, 50
Alert patrol mission in area of New Field.
- b. - 20710 RTR -- 20710 RTR -- 20710 RTR -- no results --
- c. - 1916 -- 1914 --
- d. - nil --
- e. - The plane together with two other planes departed the area according to north,
south and east of New Field. The plane in question was the
ground controller. He called in the plane south of New Field. The
plane was sent to investigate.
- f. - nil --
- g. - nil --
- h. - weather: no clouds -- slight haze -- visibility 10 miles --
- i. - 20710 RTR not used --
- j. - ground control was good.

Remarks: 20710 RTR not used.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

100-4

507th str sqd s-2 rpt on a armed force unit in Berlin. Mission -- 1, Jan 49 --

- 1.- area of op. _____, mission no. "101-3" -- Mission no. for day: 101 -- 1, Jan 49 --
area of op. area no. 2- Neukrug, Kaiserlautern, Neustadt, Neustadtengen, (4089),
Landed. Dive bombing of marshalling yard at contact, 21:00 --
- 2.- 507th str sqd -- 507th str sqd -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --
- 3.- 11:25 -- crossed 1/line on way in at 11:45 -- crossed 2/line on way out at 12:30 --
11:1502--
- 4.- one A/C damaged by flak. lost "101" --
- 5.- 10 x 2 x 200lb A/C bombs -- inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 10 A/C Miss --
car pines bombed marshalling yard at contact, 21:00. 10 A/C Miss --
trains were seen and two engines. Four columns of smoke caused by the bombs and
indicating fires were seen. About two hundred cars were seen on the yard.
No strafing. All our pilots did well in the bombing.
- 6.- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --
10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --
10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --
- 7.- All roads in the area were not heavily traveled. There were a few cars seen
at most marshalling yards. No heavy traffic. No heavy traffic was seen.
No large cars seen on the main roads. The fighter planes were seen south of Neus-
tadt.
- 8.- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --
10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --
10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --
10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --
- 9.- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --
10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --
10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --
- 10.- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --
10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --
10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss -- 10 A/C Miss --

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

1-14

CONFIDENTIAL

597th Atr sqdn rpt on a mixed success and live bombing mission -- 1/4 can 4) --
sqdn mission no. 542

1. - sqdn no. _____, mission no. 542-1 mission no. for 1st 1/4 can 4) -- 1/4 can 4) --
mixed success and live bombing mission -- area no. 2 -- Saarburg, Kaiserlautern,
Neustadt, Schwetzingen, Mandau, and Neuhurg. Alternate tgt. in depot near Schwetzingen,
(.603823). weather prevented accomplishment of this mission.
2. - 597th Atr sqdn -- 10 4/0 map -- no aborts --
3. - 1431 -- crossed h/line on way in at 1450 -- crossed h/line on way out 1540 --
down: 1517.---
4. - Nil. --
5. - 10 x 2 x 500lb w/ bombs -- inst nose, 1/4 tail -- 20 bombs returned to base --
After the sqdn had been airborne for about five minutes they called Nipsaw five.
Nipsaw five told them not to go over twenty minutes from the field because they
expected the weather to close in. No tgt was given at first, but later, the sqdn
was directed to a tgt at 3080. However it was almost immediately cancelled.
Then our planes flew to a point about five miles west of Kaiserlautern then turned
north and flew to approximately 15070 about fifteen miles south of Koblenz. An
almost solid overcast prevented our planes from finding any tgts for these bombs
or for making any observations on the ground. They flew south to Saarbrücken and
back to the base without incident.
6. - Ivy mod inacc west Kaiserlautern.
7. - Nil.---
8. - 10/10 overcast stratus clouds base unknown top 10000' -- visibility good above
clouds. -- base of overcast 5000' at inst, much lower over tgt area.
9. - sqdn code not used.---
10. - ground control very good.---

ALL DATA: SAARBURG SAARBURG SAARBURG SAARBURG SAARBURG
SAARBURG SAARBURG SAARBURG SAARBURG SAARBURG
SAARBURG SAARBURG SAARBURG SAARBURG SAARBURG

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

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

D-24

297th Ftr Sqdn S-2 Apt on a Alert Patrol mission -- 16 Jan 45 -- Sqdn Mission no 345

- A.-- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "491-5" -- Mission No; for day/night -- 16 Jan 45
Alert patrol in Metz area.
- B.-- 368th Ftr Gp--- 297th Ftr Sqdn -- two A/C Disp -- No shorts
- C.-- UP: 0921 -- DASH: 1132
- D.-- Nil
- E.-- Our planes circled the field. At no time were they farther than 15 miles from the field. On one occasion they were fifteen miles generally south of the field. They were controlled by Kipsaw one. At no time did he direct them anywhere or give them any instructions. On one occasion Bushman called them and told them that there were planes north of the field going south. That there was there situation at the time and as there were no other planes to be seen in the area, they concluded that Bushman was referring to them.
- F.-- Nil
- G.-- Nil
- H.-- On taking off: 10/10 cloud coverage with thin spots, light fluffy clouds, base 2,000 top 2300 to 2400', visibility below clouds five miles, visibility above clouds unlimited.
At time of landing: clouds had moved, there was an open band over Metz extending generally east and west, north and south of Metz there were bands of clouds extending generally east and west. These clouds were identical with those mentioned above in respect of type, base, and top. Visibility down-sun was almost unlimited.
- I.-- Sqdn code not used.
- J.-- Ground control by Kipsaw one and Bushman was good.

PILOTS: DAE BAER, G L

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

CONFIDENTIAL

D-34

397th Ftr Sqdn Rpt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recon Mission -- 16 Jan 45 --
Sqdn Mission No. 344

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "251-4" Mission No. for day: TWO -- 16 Jan 45
Armed Recon area No. three - Homburg, Landau, Neustadt, Kaiserlautern, and
Thalischweiler -- Dive bombing of marshalling yards.
- B.- 368th Ftr Gp -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/G Disp -- No Aborts.
- C.- UP: 1016 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1055 -- TOT: 1050 to 1125 -- Crossed b/line
on way out at 1140 -- DOWN: 1155.
- D.- R11
- E.- 12 x 2 x 500lb JP Bombs- Inst nose 1/40 tail -- 24 bombs in tgt areas --
One flight dropped eight bombs on the assigned alternate tgt, the marshalling
yard at Neustadt (R-503855 to R-503857). Six bombs were dropped in a little triangle
form by tracks in the marshalling yard. One bomb was dropped on a warehouse on
the northeast corner of the triangle. One bomb was dropped on a warehouse on
the southeast corner of the triangle. Both warehouses burned. There were four
tracks near the warehouse on the northeast corner of the triangle, two tracks
were cut. There were a hundred cars on these four tracks. No engines were seen.
The flight dropped eight bombs on a small marshalling yard at R-1599. 20 to
25 cars were seen here, they were not snow covered. This fact led the flight
leader to believe that they were being used, and it was partly for this reason
that he attack them. No engines were seen. There were three or four tracks and
on two of them there were cars. At least two tracks were cut, each in two places.
Five cars were blown off tracks. The third flight dropped eight bombs on a
marshalling yard at R-266835. 50 cars and no engines were seen. Three bombs hit
cars. Three bombs were dropped on a field to the right of the cars. There was
nothing on this field. Two bombs were dropped on buildings along side the track.
Several buildings exploded. ^{R 126972}
- F.- Hvy mod inacc flak at ~~126752~~ ^{R 126972} Light inten inacc flak at the same place.
Hvy mod fairly acc flak in the area of Neustadt. Light inten inacc flak in the
area of Neustadt.
- G.- No activity was seen in the tgt area. No road or railroad activity was seen.
There was no sign of anything on the airfield southeast of Neustadt at R-3482,
the Lachen-Speyerdorf Airfield.
- H.- The weather was clear in the tgt area. North ^{of} a line from Homburg to R-1599
there was 10/10 cloud coverage. Cirrus clouds - base 8,000', top 9,000'. The
visibility above the clouds was unlimited - visibility below the clouds could not
be determined because our planes never got below them. South of this line the
weather conditions were OAVU.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control by Aipsaw one was good. On three or four occasions he gave them
positions with great precision.

ALL BOMBS:	KLAUSE	THORNTON	FRISBIE	KALON
	CASSADY	KOSTRACH	BAKER	R D SHARP
	KEAR	HOGAN	ROGAN	CLARY

CAPT KLAUSE and Lts Thornton, Frisbie, Kalon, Cassady, Kostrach, Baker,
R D Sharp, Rogan, and Clary particularly distinguished themselves in the bombing.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

397th Ftr Sqdn 3-2 Apt on an Armed Recon and Dive Bombing Mission -- 16 January --
Sqdn Mission No. 345

- A -- Opns. O-No. _____, Mission No. "451-4" Mission No for day: 1444 -- 16 Jan 44
Armed Recon areas three - Homburg, Landau, Neustadt, Kaiserlautern, and
Thaleischweiler - Live bombing of marshalling yard at Neustadt.
- B -- 368th Ftr Sq -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/O Disp -- no aborts
- C -- DT: 1402 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1423 -- TOT: 1455 -- crossed b/line
on way out at 1510 -- DART: 1546 --
- D -- Two planes damaged by E/A -- Cat "40" One plane destroyed by E/A. It crashed at
R5482. The pilot Lt Hutcherson crashed with the plane. 1.16100 was dest
by Lt Hutcherson. The E/A crashed at R5276.
- E -- 12x2x3000s inst nose 14. tail. 24 bombs in tgt area.
Our planes bombed two Neustadt A/O results were excellent. 2 fires were seen.
1 fire was in the building area on the W side of the air. 4 or 5 tracks
and 100 cars were seen. No engines were seen. 20 to 30 cars were dest.
Most of them were at the W end of the air.
- F -- All our pilots did well on the bombing. No straggling.
- G -- Immediately after 1455, as our planes pulled up after the bombing run, they
were attacked by 50 E/A. There were 40 to 1,000's at 20,000' and 20 to 100's
at 10,000'. 1 of our flights was at 10 to 20,000' a second flight was at
10,000' approx. The third flight was at about 10,000'. The flight at 10,000'
had for a minute been at 20,000' with the first flight. Then it came down to 10,
000'. All planes were attacked out of the sun without warning from the con-
troller. Results were given under G above.
- H -- Int acc it file at Neustadt.
- I -- Int acc nvy file at
Int inacc nvy file at the Sachsen-Weysendorf AB at R5482
Int inacc it file at the same AB.
- J -- The 1.16100's encountered were gray on top and had blue bellies. There were
2 white smoke flares fired by Fw190's at 20,000'.
- K -- Above 20000': (patches of alto-stratus vis good except in the patches. vis fair
into the sun.
Below 20,000': cloud patches with 1/10 coverage vis 5 to 4 mi
- L -- Code not used
- M -- Ground control by W12345 1 was very poor. He gave our planes no warning
concerning the E/A which attacked them.

Garbino, Leavoy, Weinstein, Patrick.
Barker, Hutcherson, Goo, Lewis. 3 All Bombs
Hurlacher, Arledge, Rein, Faulay.

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

Confidential

227 -2 not on alert control. I don't know if they were in control.

- 1 - ops rd no. _____ . see no 1-1-6 miss for day 4 10 oct 49
Alert control.
- 2 - ops rd 227 . a plane was no alerts
- 3 - ops rd 227 . ops rd 171
- 4 - all
- 5 - all planes circles back. they were controlled by ops rd. At no time did
we have directions to give them or information to other units.
- 6 - all
- 7 - ops rd
- 8 - ops rd
I was not used.
- 9 - there was very little ground control by ops rd. Insofar as there was any, it
was good.

Travis, Smith.

Confidential

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377th B-2 Hpt or A/C and W/E Miss Sqdn Miss No. 247.

- A - ops ord no _____ Miss no 247-1 17 Jan 43 for ops, no. 1
A/C and W/E area of Wurberg, (23655) at 11th (18333) adena (18222)
Lehtersach (20636). Support for OMAA (4th Inf Div).
- B - 358 F, 397 F, 12 a/c disp. no aborts.
- C - Jp 1439, Gross b/l in and 10. 1504, or b/l on out 1620, 20th 1631.
- D - All
- E - 12x2x300 GP bombs inst nose 1/40 tail. 24 bombs ret to base.
Sqdn contacted JMOA (4th Inf Div). JMOA gave them road traffic in the
vicinity of 29049. The sqdn found no vehicles at this point. They were
then directed to an ammo dump at Vianden at 29049. They did not bomb this tgt
because of the very overcast in this area and because of the fact that there
were 2 other sqdns of B-24's already working there. They went on their A/C
sweeping around trier to the W and S and ret to base.
- F - Lt mod inacc flak at 29049
- G - Tracks seen in snow near tgt area (29049) indicating A/C activity.
3 B-24's made a pass at our sqdn in the vicinity of this tgt and if they
had persisted would have forced our planes to jettison their bombs. These
A/C were not identified.
- H - 13/10 undercast with breaks from 5000' to 6000' patches of alto-stratus
via above undercast good.
- I - Code not used
- J - Contact with controller loud and clear, but choice of tgt was not good for
the number of planes employed.

All bombs: Carbine, Thornton, Wood, Hogan
Cassidy, Hunt, Patrick, Moore
Morison, Rein, Kribbie, Robinson

Confidential

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

D-5-4

397th Ftr Sqdn B-2 rpt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recon Mission -- 22 Jan 45 --
Sqdn Mission No. 348

- A.- OpnsO No. _____, Mission No. "VIC-1" -- Mission for day: O.E. -- 22 Jan 45 --
-- Support for Organ (4th Inf Div) at P-9245 -- Armed recon and Dive Bombing in
area of Vianden, Wittlich, and Trier --
- B.- 368th Ftr Gp -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/C Disp -- no shorts --
- C.- UP: 1204 -- crossed b/line on way in and TOT: 1250 -- crossed b/line on way out
at 1325 -- DOWN: 1402 --
- D.- One of our A/C missing due to enemy flak -- Lt Cassidy called over the RT that he
was hit and was going to belly in. Kipsaw got a fix from this call and gave his
position as P 8556 about one mile on our side of the b/line -- Three of our A/C
damaged by enemy flak Cat "A" -- One of our A/C damaged by enemy flak Cat "A3" --
- E.- 12 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs - inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 24 bombs in tgt area--
Shortly after becoming airborne Serum sqdn called in a concentration of A/T in
the area of P 8657. Our sqdn contacted Organ but Flabby told them to go to this
tgt which Serum had reported. Red flight bombed at the town of Meinirshied (P 821-
674). Red flight bombed at P 812665. Yellow flight bombed along a road from P 840626
to P 810652. All tgts were A/T concentrations. Totals were bombs: 2 tanks destroyed,
24 A/T destroyed, 9 A/T damaged -- Strafing: 52 A/T destroyed, 22 A/T damaged --
Individual claims are as follows: Capt Krause and Lt Horowitz - five A/T destroyed,
20 damaged -- Lt Hamilton 36 A/T destroyed, -- Lt Patrick 3 destroyed, 15 damaged --
Lt Lewis 3 destroyed by bombs 6 by strafing -- Lt Sharp 3 destroyed -- Lt Thornton
5 destroyed, 3 damaged -- Lt Barker and Uterhart * 6 destroyed, 20 damaged **, 2
tanks -- Lt Cassidy 2 A/T destroyed, 6 Damaged --
- F.- Flak road from P 8462 to P 8165 light inten acc also hvy mod acc. Large area around
P 8372 hvy mod acc also light inten fairly acc.
- G.- Very hvy A/T traffic consisting of both tanks and A/T throughout whole area of
bulge, particularly along road from P 7363 to P 8765. cirrus
- H.- 3/10 Stratus base 1500 to 2000' visibility good -- scattered high cirrus east of tgt
area at 15000' --
- I.- Sqdn code not used. --
- J.- ground control good--

ALL BOMBS:	KRAUSE	HOROWITZ	HAMILTON	PATRICK
	BARKER	UTERHART	FAULY	AULDS
	CASSIDY	THORNTON	SHARP	SHARP, A D

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

CONFIDENTIAL

377 FS S-2 Rpt on W/B and A/. Mission 22 Jan 43 Sqn Mission No 3281

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No VII-1 Miss for Day 5 22 Jan 43
Support for Organ (4th Inf Div) at P-3245 A/. and W/B in area Vianden,
Wittlich, and Trier.
- B - 568 FS 397 FS 10 a/c disp no aborts.
- C - Up 1516, Cr S/L in 1539, 1st 1550, Cr S/L out 1640, Down 1706.
- D - 3 a/c damaged by enemy flak. 1 cat "A", 2 cat "AU".
- E - 10x2500 Gp's inst nose 1/40 tail. 16 bombs in tgt area. 2 jett safe
through pilot error at P-3834. 2 ret to base.
Sqn contacted Organ and was directed N where a sqdn of ppl's directed them
to W/T concentrations. 2 bombs dropped at P-3673, 2 dropped at P-3171, 8
dropped at P-3562, 4 dropped at P-3253. Bombing results were good, except at
P-3562 where an estimated 20 to 30 vehicles were dest.
Strafing claims were: Maj Carbine 4 W/T, Lt Kerr 1 W/T dest, 2 gun positions
knocked out, Lts Weinstein and Wright 4 W/T dest, 1 gun position dest.
- F - P-3771 lt, int, very acc
P-3834 lt, very int, very acc
P-3172 lt, int, acc.
P-3577 hvy, mod, unknown acc
P-3567 lt, int, acc
- G - A P-38 was seen to crash at about P-3536. A P-47 was seen to crash at about
P-3461. Heavy convoys were seen headed N at P-3192.
- H - weather: 8/10 stratus, base 0 top 1500' vis poor below, good above.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Ground control good.

All bombs: Carbine, Kostrach, Weinstein, Wright
Bauer, Leavoy, Kerr, Hunt
Friebe, Wein.

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1-2-4

597th Ftr Sqda 3-2 apt on a ground recon and dive bombing mission -- 25 January 1945 --
-- sqdn mission no. 351 --

- a.- Opns - vo. _____, mission no. "351-1" -- mission no. for days 24 -- 25 Jan 45 --
Support for organ(4th Inf Div) at P-2245 -- Armed recon in theatre of Vlandan,
(P-9150), Wittlich, and Arier -- Dive Bombing --
- b.- 363rd Ftr Sq -- 597th Ftr Sqda -- 3.70 disp -- no aborts --
- c.- U21 0927 -- crossed b/line on way in at 0945 -- 101 0930 -- crossed b/line on way
out at 1040 -- DOWN: 110 --
- d.- Four A/U damaged by flak -- two out "10" and two out "11" --
- e.- 2 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs -- last nose, 1/40 tail -- 10 bombs in tgt areas --
Aipsaw three dir ctod our planes to bomb the town of Mannheim at P-2250. The
town was packed with vehicles. 50 to 100 vehicles were seen. 14 bombs were drop-
ped on the town and at least twenty vehicles were destroyed. In other the bombs
hung-up at this tgt and they were dropped at Arrhausen, P-2110, on a road through
the town. There were vehicles scattered through the town and possibly one or two
were damaged by the bombing. --
Lt. Bauer and Logan particularly distinguished themselves in the bombing. --
Strafing: Major Leffler lost 12 vehicles of various types in the area of
P-25715. Lt Leavy destroyed two flak positions and either a six by six truck or
a building in the same area. Lt Lewis strafed in the same area. He destroyed six
camouflaged tanks, five of which were on roads outside of a woods. In addition
he destroyed ten and five truck trailers plus eight horse drawn vehicles. No
horses were seen, and the vehicles may have been abandoned. --
- f.- Very antea very acc light flak at the first bombing tgt at Mannheim (P-2250). --
Mod not very, acc light flak at the second bombing tgt at Arrhausen (P-2110). --
Vry mod acc to vry acc flak in the strafing area, area of P-25715. -- (this flak
was concentrated in two or three places) --
About five bursts of acc vry flak at P-25715. --
- g.- There was less vehicular movement than there was yesterday, and the vehicles area
more scattered. Any vehicles are burned out. The bridge at P-247020 is now open
and vehicles are moving east across the river. --
- h.- There were a few small patches of low clouds, visibility at this level was good.
There was a layer of alto-stratus clouds at 14,000' or 15,000' or above. The
coverage of these clouds was about nine tenths. --
- i.- Sqdn code not used. --
- j.- Ground control by Aipsaw three was very good. --

ADJ: _____
C: _____
S: _____
O: _____
M: _____
L: _____
N: _____
P: _____
Q: _____
R: _____
S: _____
T: _____
U: _____
V: _____
W: _____
X: _____
Y: _____
Z: _____

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L-5-4

397th Ftr Sqdn 3-2 Lt on a Ground Control Dive Bombing -- 25 Jan 45 -- Sq Miss No. 522

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. 104-1 -- Mission No. for days 25 -- Jan 25, 1945 -- Ground Controlled Dive Bombing of a tgt in what was roughly estimated to be the area of L-6422.
- B.- 368th Ftr Sq -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 3 1/2 Miss -- No aborts --
- C.- DT: 1555 -- crossed b/line in 1555 -- TOT: 1610 -- crossed b/line out at unknown time -- DWN: 1640 --
- D.- Nil
- E.- 4 x 2 x 500lb of bombs - Inst nose, 1/40 tail --- 4 x 4 x 7" M. Para 1 rockets - 15/1000 second fixed base fuse. 8 bombs in tgt area. 13 rockets returned to base. Our planes set course and flew on course for six minutes then Wipsaw three gave them the fighter recall. His reason was not known but our pilots presume that it was bad weather. They returned to base, asked for landing instructions, and circled the field about seven or eight minutes. then Wushman directed them to fly to the other side of the b/line in order to drop there bombs on enemy territory. then Wipsaw three gave them a heading of sixty degrees, which they flew for ten minutes. then he directed them to fly on a heading of 20 degrees for 7 minutes. then they were instructed to fly on a heading of zero degrees for 2 minutes. then they were directed to fly about a half a mile on a heading of 90 degrees, then they were ordered to drop their bombs on what Wipsaw three said was a big tgt. because of a overcast over the tgt the nature of the tgt remained unknown, and results of the bombing were not observed. A rough estimate places the tgt in the area of L-6422. No strafing. No rockets.
- F.- Nil
- G.- The overcast prevented recon observations, when our planes set out for the b/line the second time they noticed that they were being followed by a 307th plane bearing the designation of L. Our sqdn leader was sure that this pilot was following them under the false impression that they were returning to base. therefore, when our planes had almost reached the b/line, our sqdn leader called Wushman and asked him to direct this 368 plane home. Immediately after this this plane left our sqdn.
- H.- A solid overcast except north and west of the field. Even in these places, the weather was closing in as our planes landed.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- ground control good.

BOMBS:	BRUCE	W. GRANT	BOG	H. ROWEN
ROCKET:	BRUCE	WALPEL	YANDEL	ANDREB

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

D-3-4

397th Ftr Sqdn 2-2 rpt on a Dive Bombing and Armed Recon Mission -- 29 Jan 45 --
 Sqdn Mission No. 595

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "551-5" -- Mission No. for day: O&A -- 29 Jan 45 --
 Armed Recon in area of Mayen, Limburg, Giessen, Friedberg, Kochheim, and Bad Schwalbach (4-2471). Dive Bombing of A/I on west edge of Kaiserlautern at 4-995930.
- B.- 368th Ftr Gp -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 7 A/O Miss -- No Aborts --
- C.- UP: 0951 -- crossed b/line on way in at 1010 -- TOT: 1100 -- crossed b/line on way out at 1112 -- SO&N: 1147 --
- D.- NIL.
- E.- 7 x 2 x 500lb OF bombs - inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 12 bombs in tgt area -- 2 bombs dropped armed very close to tgt area.--
 The bombing tgt, which was assigned by K&psaw five, was the A/I on the west edge of Kaiserlautern at 4-995930. Two hundred fifty to three hundred cars or more were seen in the marshalling yard. No engines were seen. If there were any engines they did not have steam up. 12 bombs were dropped in the marshalling yard. A rail leading into the yard was cut. Four or five rails in the yard were cut. 10 to 20 cars were destroyed. 20 to 30 cars were damaged. One warehouse was hit. Evidently it started to burn, for smoke was seen. One road was hit.
 Strafing: Lt Horowitz hit two cars in the marshalling yard which was bombed.
- F.- Mod inten hvy flak at tgt. Mod inten light flak at tgt.
- G.- Cloud cover prevented recon observations.
- H.- Tgt area: 10/10 cloud coverage with breaks - stratus clouds - base 4000' to 4500', top 6000' - visibility above clouds good, below not so good.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground control very good.

ALL SQUADS:	UNSAFE	ONE	ADVISOR	
	SAFE	TWO	INFORM	CLEAR/ST

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

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

D-3-4

397th Ftr sqdn 2-2 Dpt on a Armed Recon and Dive Bombing Mission -- 29 Jan 43 --
Squad Mission No. 374

- A.- Opns O No. _____, Mission No. "451-5" -- Mission No. for days: TWO -- 29 Jan 43 --
Armed Recon in St With area -- Dive Bombing.--
- B.- 368th Ftr Sq -- 397th Ftr sqdn -- 6 A/C Disp -- No Aborts --
- C.- UP: 1327 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1558 -- TOT: 1510 -- Crossed b/line on way
way out at 1520 -- DOWN: 1535 --
- D.- two A/C damaged by flak -- Cat "A" --
- E.- 6 x 2 x 500lb Gp Bombs -- Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 12 Bombs in tgt area -- L 052905
Our planes set course from base and flew on course for five minutes, when they reached
and overcast. One of the Ripsaw controllers vectored them over the overcast and sent
them to the St With area, where he said there were many tgts in woods and on roads.
This turned out to be the case. Our planes acted as top cover while Flapper and Scrum
Squads strafed and bombed. Then our planes bombed a tgt of their own selection. The
tgt was a good concentration of vehicles on a road in a woods at ~~L-12582~~. There were
15 to 16 assorted vehicles, most of which were M/T. The results of the bombing were
good. There was one hit on a cross roads. Four trucks were on this cross roads. Ten
of the vehicles at the place bombed were destroyed, and the rest were damaged. After
the bombing, our planes set course for home as there was no time for strafing. The
vehicles bombed were stationary.
- F.- Mod very acc hvy flak in the area of L-150780. A barrage of fair inten light flak
in the same area. It was impossible to determine the act of this barrage. Mod
acc hvy flak in the area of L-160900. Mod fairly acc light flak in the same area.
- G.- Many beaten up vehicles were seen in the tgt area. It was thought that they had been
attacked by another sqdn of the dpt on this mission. No traffic movement was seen.
Most of the vehicles seen were stationary. The road which was bombed seemed to have
been much traveled. In the area of L-090360 one pilot saw two places one quarter of a
mile apart which looked as if they might be gun positions. He saw what seemed to be
walks leading to guns. There was no fire from these positions.
- H.- East of tgt area: 10/10 cloud coverage - low stratus clouds - base unknown - top 3000'
to 4000' - visibility above clouds good - below clouds unknown --
Tgt area: 3/10 cloud coverage type low stratus base 1500' or 2000' or lower top
2000' to 2500' (this layer of clouds was thin) - visibility good.
- I.- Sqdn code not used.--
- J.- Ground control very good.

ALL BOMBS: KLAUSE MALPIN
KOLLACHER ROSTRACH SEARTELL WRIGHT

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