

REPORT

PILOT'S ENCOUNTER REPORT - CAPTAIN RANDALL W. HERMICK, O-441804

- A - Combat
- B - 11 May 1944
- C - 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group
- D - 1410
- E - Abbeville-Druceat Airfield, slightly north of Abbeville, France
- F - Good - no clouds - good visib.
- G - One ME 109 on ground
- H - One ME 109 destroyed
- I - 526 rounds
- J -

At 1410, 11 May 1944, I was escorting some fighters out north of Abbeville, France, when I noticed an airplane sitting on the ground. I took the planes that I was escorting to the coast and returned to the airfield to look over the situation. All this time I was flying at 15,000 feet with the three other members of my flight. I circled the airfield once and there seemed to be a lot of activity there, with several trucks and jeeps running around on the runways. There were no other aircraft on the field outside of a lone ME 109, which was parked in such a manner as to imply an alert plane. They fired no flak at us, so I left my second element at 15,000 ft for top cover and my wingman and myself went down in a steep high speed dive. I started firing at about a 1,000 yards and fell about 50 feet short of the ME 109. I immediately pulled thru the plane, firing all the while. I fired a long burst into the plane, expending in all approximately 500 rounds of ammunition. I think the plane was destroyed, for I believe there were at least 50 ft. of hits all over it. The plane did not blow up or burn at this time. I immediately pulled up to 10,000 feet and returned to England. My wingman did not fire, for he was not in position.

Randall W. Hermick

RANDALL W. HERMICK,
Capt, Air Corps.

S E C R E T

397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON S-2 REPORT ON A DIVE BOMBING MISSION OF 1 MAY 1944 - MISSION NO. 29

A - 397th F Sq -- Opns O No. 201, 9th F Comd -- 1 May 44 -- Mission No. 1
B - 16 plus 2 spares -- 2 spares returned
C - Nil
D - 16 -- M/Y at St Ghislain -- 1026
E - 1. 32 1,000 lb GP 1/10 - 1/40 Loaded
2. 31 1,000 lb GP On Target
3. One -- in channel
4. None returned to base
5. Alt at start of dive -- 10,000 ft
6. Angle of Dive -- 55 degrees
7. Alt at Release -- 2 - 4,000 ft
F - Excellent -- 31 bombs effectively in area -- 20 freight trains side by side were directly hit, causing big explosions with much flame.
G - thru K - Nil
L - Over Channel: slight overcast, 4,000 ft. Good visib.
Over Continent: overcast, 4,000 ft. Poor visib.
M - Up: 0910. Down: 1139.
N - LFI at 1000 on course at 9,500 ft. LFO at 1056 S of Berck-sur-Mer at 9,500 ft.
O - Nil
P - Mike button left open, causing radio to be poor.
Q - Flight of E/A seen passing overhead at 5015 - N, 0220 - E, believed to be FW190's.
R & S - Nil
T - Mission considered very successful.

397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON S-2 REPORT ON A DIVE BOMBING MISSION OF 1 MAY 1944 - MISSION NO. 30

A - 397th F Sq -- Opns O No. 203, 9th F Comd -- 1 May 44 -- Mission No. 1
B - 16 plus 2 spares -- 2 spares returned
C - Nil
D - 16 -- M/Y at Arras
E - 32 1,000 lb GP 1/10 - 1/40 Loaded
27 1,000 lb GP Dropped on Target
5 1,000 lb GP Jettisoned (2 in Channel, 3 in Fields)
None Returned to Base
Alt at Start of Dive -- 10,000 ft
Angle of Dive -- 55 degrees
Alt at Release -- 1,800 to 2,000 ft
F - Excellent -- target was very smoky, but observed 4 hits on engine sheds and many other effective hits in target area.
G - thru K - Nil
L - Over Channel: 8/10 at 1/7, 4,000, poor visib. Over Continent: 3/10 at 4,000, good visib
M - Up: 1750. Down: 2000.
N - LFI: 1838, on course, 10,000 ft. LFO: 1910, on course, 10,000 ft.
O - Nil
P - Good
Q - Convoy of about 50 trucks observed at 5018 - N and 0235 - E.
R - Munak A/D, heavy, meager, inaccurate.
Land Fall, light, meager, inaccurate.
S & T - Nil

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397TH FTR SQDN S-2 REPORT ON A D/BOMB (TOP COVER) MISSION OF 2 MAY 1944 - SQDN MISSION NO 31

A - 397th Ftr Sqdn - Opns O NO. 205, IX Ftr Comd - 2 May 44 - Mission No. 1.
B - 16 plus 2 spares -- 2 spares returned.
C - Nil
D - 16 - W/T at ~~W/T~~ Aulnoye, France - 1258.
E - 397th was top cover.
F - Clouds obscured view of bombing results -- alt 13 to 15,000 ft with clouds below.
G thru K - Nil
L - Over Channel: scattered, 5,000 ft, good visib.
Over Continent: 8/10, 5,000 ft, poor visib below 5,000, good above 5,000 ft.
M - Up: 1152. Down: 1425.
N - LFI: 1235, on course, 16,000 ft. LFO: 1324, on course, 15,000 ft.
O - Nil
P - Good
Q thru T - Nil

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397TH FTR SQDN S-2 REPORT ON A DIVE BOMBING MISSION OF 2 MAY 1944 - SQDN MISSION NO. ~~31~~ ³²

- A - 397th Fighter Squadron -- Opns C No 207, 9th Ftr Comd -- 2 May 44 -- Mission No. ~~31~~ ³²
- B - 16 -- No spares.
- C - Nil
- D - 16 -- w/Y at Tourcoing, Fr. (specific tgt -- locomotive sheds) -- 1858
- E - ~~32~~ 500-lb GP's loaded
30 500-lb GP's on tgt
1 released accidentally about 20 mi E of base, on course, on way home -- unarmed
1 released accidentally 20 mi E of LFI, on course, enroute to tgt -- unarmed
Alt at start of dive: 12,000 ft
Angle of dive: 65 degrees
Alt at Release: 5,000 ft
- F - Hits on a factory bldg to the east of the locomotive shed. This factory bldg was seen to be in flames. Hits were observed in the area S of the main M/Y. This is the area in which the locomotive sheds are located. A few hits were noted in the main marshalling area. Hits on houses slightly SE of the area containing locomotive sheds. Four hits on the locomotive sheds were noted.
- G thru K - Nil
- L - No clouds and good visib over the channel and the continent.
- M - 1808 - 2009
- N - LFI: 1841 - as briefed - 12,000 ft.
LFO: 1915 - as briefed - 12,000 ft.
- O - Mission was a D/Bomb Mission.
- P - Good
- Q - A large number of freight cars were observed at Bethune. Such activity was noted here. A big trench shaped like a "V" was observed on the west side of a wooded area slightly east of Berck (the apex of the "V" pointed toward the west).
- R - Heavy, intense, accurate flak noted at Lille. White, black and yellow bursts observed. An intense barrage of 40 MM and 20 MM flak was observed at the tgt.
- S - Nil
- T - Planes took off at 1808 and made LFI at 1841 at briefed place at 12,000 ft. They were over tgt at 1858. The specifically designated tgt was not destroyed. Other damage and destruction were inflicted. LFO was made at 1915 at the briefed place at 12,000 ft. The planes landed at base at 2009. No E/A were seen.

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

397th Ftr Sqdn S-2 Report on a Practice Ground Support Mission of 4 May 1944, Mission I:

- A - 397th Ftr Sqdn -- Opns O No. 2, 368th Ftr Gp -- 4 May 44 -- Mission No. 1.
B - 15 -- no spares.
C - Nil
D - Patrolled beach head from 0745 to 0848.
E thru G - Nil
K ~~Nil~~ - Nil
L - Overcast at 12,000, with slight haze at 3 to 5,000 ft
M - Up: 0720.
Down: 0920.
N thru P - Nil
Q - Observed approx. 10 troop transports off western beach of Selsey Bill -- another group of transports off eastern beach of Selsey Bill -- many barges shuttling back and forth with much troop activity on beaches -- some balloons being put up from barges off shore all along beach head. Observed some Spits and Mustangs flying below.
R thru T - Nil

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397TH FTR SQDN S-2 REPORT ON A D/BOMB MISSION OF 5 MAY 1944 - MISSION NO. 33

- A - 397th Ftr Sqdn -- Opns O No. 215, 9th Ftr Comd -- 5 May 44 -- Mission No. 1.
B - 15 ~~15/15/15~~ plus 1 spare -- 1 spare returned
C - Nil
D - 15 - Bombs N/Y - 1000
E - 32 500 lb GP - 1/10 - 1/40 Loaded
31 500 lb GP on tgt
1 jet in fld through overcast
0 Ret to base
Alt at Start of Dive - 10,000 ft
Angle of Dive - 60 degrees
Alt at Release - 2 - 2,500 ft
F - Target in southern section of yards had been cleaned out -- flights aimed for bldgs and tracks between north and south sections -- several good hits on bldgs and many in area -- Concensus: Fair.
G thru K - Nil
L - Over Channel: 5/10, Cumulus, 3 - 10,000 ft, good visib.
Over Continent: 6/10, 2 - 5,000 ft, good visib.
M - Up: 0905 Down: 1120
N - LFI: 0940, Le Touquet, 10,000 ft. LFO: 1025, Berck-sur-Mer, 10,000 ft.
O - Nil
P - Good
Q - Concentration of troops and barges on canal SW of Douai at 5020 N - 0300 E.
R - Light, moderate, inaccurate flak at Harellet; Light, moderate, inaccurate at Le Touquet.
S & T - Nil

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397TH FTR SQDN S-2 REPORT ON A DIVE BOMBING MISSION OF 8 MAY 1944 - SQDN MISSION NO. 35

A - 397th Ftr Sqdn -- Opns O No. 226, IX Ftr Comd -- 8 May 44 -- Mission No. 1
B - 16 plus 2 spares -- 2 spares returned.
C - None
D - 16 -- Bridge at Sedan -- 1731
E - 32 / 1,000 lb GP's loaded
32 / 1,000 lb GP's on tgt
None Jet - None Ret to Base
Alt at Start of Dive - 9,000 ft
Angle of Dive - 50 - 55 degrees
Alt at Release - 1,800 ft
F - No hits on bridge - 6 hits at west approach - several hits on east approach - hit
train on tracks E of bridge.
G thru K - Nil
L - Over Channel: CAVU. Over Continent: 3/10 - Strato Cumulus - 6,000 ft. Good visib.
M - Up: 1605 -- Down: 1910
N - LFI: 1645 - on course - 11,500 ft. LFO: 1808 - Berek-sur-Mer - 11,000 ft.
- Nil
P - Good
Q - M/Y at Cambrai looked to be obliterated. Excavation and much digging going on about
half way between Le Touquet and Berek-sur-Mer.
R thru T - Nil.

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397TH F SQ 8-2 REPORT ON A DIVE BOMBING MISSION OF 9 MAY 1944 - SQ MISSION NO. 36

A - 397th F Sq -- Opns O No. 277, ix Ptr Comd -- 9 May 44 - Mission No. 1.
 B - 16 plus 2 spares -- 2 spares returned.
 C - Nil
 D - 16 -- Gun emplacements at Calais -- 1158
 E - 32 / 1,000 lb GP's Loaded
 30 / 1,000 lb GP's On Tgt
 2 / 1,000 lb GP's Jet in Channel
 None Ret to Base
 Alt at Start of Dive - 12,000 ft
 Angle of Dive - 70 degrees
 Alt at Release - 2 - 3,000 ft
 F - Excellent -- first two flights bracketed tgt -- 3rd & 4th flts bombed inner tgt
 with 3 hits in center -- saw much smoke.
 G thru K - Nil *H - 1 - slight - by flak - eat "a".*
 L - Over Channel: Clear - 12,000 ft - good visib.
 Over Continent: Clear - 12,000 ft - good visib.
 M - Up: 1005. Down: 1200.
 N - LFI: 1058 - just W of tgt - 11,500 ft
 LFO: 1102 - on course - 11,500 ft.
 O - Herne Bay - 1040 - 12,000 ft
 P - Good
 Q - None
 R - Light, intense, accurate flak over tgt area.
 S - Five pilots fired.
 T - Nil.

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397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON B-2 REPORT ON A DIVE BOMBING MISSION - 9 MAY 44 - SQ MISSION No. 37

A - 397th F Sq -- Opns O No. 234 -- 9 May 44 -- Mission No. 2.
 B - 16 plus 2 spares -- 2 spares returned
 C - None
 D - 16 - Noball Tgt NE of Abbeville - 1705
 E - 32 / 500 lb GP's 1/10 - 1/40 Loaded
 30 On Tgt
 1 Jet in Chan
 1 Ret to Base
 Alt at Start of Dive - 9,000 ft
 Angle of Dive - 70 deg
 Alt at Release - 800 to 2,000 ft
 F - 30 bombs in area, with several in center of activity -- much smoke
 G thru K - Nil
 L - CAVU
 M - 1606 - 1814
 - LFF IN: 1658 - on course - 12,000 ft
 - LFF OUT: 1709 - on course - 9,000 ft
 O - Nil
 P - Good
 Q & R - None
 S - Pictures taken by 2/Lt Langmaid
 T - Nil

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297th FS L-2 Attack of D.V.D.-BOULONNE MISSION 13 MAY 1944

- 1 - 297th FS. Op Order 235 1A FC 10 say L4 Mission One
- 2 - 16 plus two spares. 2 spares returned.
- 3 - Nil
- 4 - 16- railway bridge at Cambrai, Fr.-- 1627
- 5 - 36 x 1000 lb GP bombs loaded
 - 32 bombs dropped on target
 - 4 bombs jettisoned in channel
 - Alt at start of dive-- 9-10,000 ft
 - Angle of dive-- 75°
 - Alt of release-- 1500-2000 ft.
- 6 - Bombing results very good
 - much smoke seen over target. Target thought to be destroyed. At least
 - four hits on bridge & many hits on tracks as of target.
- 7 thru 9 - nil
- 10 - over channel: 5/10 density-- mixture cirrus and strato-cumulus-- 10-11,000 ft
visibility 7 miles.
- 11 - over continent: 5/10 density-- strato-cumulus -- 17,000 ft. -- Vis. 10 miles.
- 12 - 1527 - 17L2
- 13 - hrs: 1009-- Lehouquet -- 1000 ft.
- 14 - hrs: 1047-- Cercel-sur-Sere -- 10,000 ft.
- 15 - Dive-bombing mission
- 16 - good
- 17 - slightly S of Arras was observed a structure about 200 ft long. It looked as if
it might be a sort of cement basin, possibly a water reservoir.
- 18 - heavy meager inaccurate flak at Cambrai and at the Cambrai-spinoy C/D.
- 19 - Nil
- 20 - very successful mission.

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397TH F BQ 3-2 REPORT ON A D/BOMB (TOP COVER) MISSION OF 11 MAY 44 - 39 MISSION NO. 39

- A - 397th F Bq -- Opns O No. 242, 9th F Gmd -- 11 May 44 -- Mission No. 1.
- B - 16 & no spares.
- C - Nil
- D - 16 -- RR Yards at Lille, Fr (Asgd tgt was H/Y at Tournai, Belg.) -- 1340
- E - 397th F Bq served as top cover.
Alt at start of dive - 10 to 12,000 ft.
Angle of Dive - 50 to 60 deg.
- F - Results of bombing were good -- one corner of a bldg in the area seemed to be covered with smoke -- this bldg seemed to be a factory.
- G thru K - Nil
- L - No clouds over channel or continent. Visib over chan and cont poor up to 15,000 ft
- M - 1215 -- 1452.
- N - LFI: 1310 -- Le Touquet -- 15,000 ft.
LFO: 1400 -- Le Touquet -- 11,000 ft.
- O - D/Bomb Mission
- Good
- Q - Seven small boats seen on channel on way out -- these boats were about 15 mi N-NW of Le Touquet. They were moving in a northwesterly direction. They were called in to the controller, who said that they were friendly. Much canal traffic was noted west of Bethune. There was no flak at Abbeville. There were many RR cars in the RR yards attacked.
- R - Heavy, meager, inaccurate flak at Lille. Light, moderate, accurate flak at Lille-Vandeville Airfld.
- S - One ME109 destroyed on ground at Abbeville/Drucat Airfld by Capt Randall W. Handricks, O-441304.
- T - Tgt attacked did not seem to be the asgd tgt -- it seemed to be a RR Yard at Lille, Fr., rather than at Tournai, Belg. Results of bombing were good.

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397TH FTR SQDN S-2 REPORT ON A BOMBER ESCORT MISSION OF 11 MAY 44 - SQDN MISSION NO. 40

- A - 397th Ftr Sqdn -- Opns O No. 245, 9th Ftr Comd -- 11 May 44 -- Mission No. 2.
- B - 16 plus 2 spares -- 2 spares returned.
- C - Nil
- D - 16 -- fr LFI at Furnes to tgt at Mexieres to LFO at Furnes -- 1910 to 2040.
- E - Bomb/Escort Mission.
- F - Results of bombing by the B26's were very good -- fires were started in tgt area -- black smoke and flames seen.
- G thru J - Nil
- K - One B17 in distress picked up by 396th at Avesnes and 396th planes escorted it out. One B17 in distress seen by 397th at the initial point (slightly NW of Le Chesane). This B17 was kept in sight by the 397th all the way to mid-channel, where it was left in good shape.
- L - 5/10 cloud density over channel and continent -- cirrus clouds at 25 to 30,000 ft over chan and cont -- visib good over chan and cont -- low haze over cont.
- M - 1816 -- 2159
 - LFI: 1910 -- Furnes -- 12,000 ft.
 - LFO: 2040 -- Furnes -- 14,000 ft.
- O - One section of B26's in vicinity of Maidstone at 1900 -- our alt 10,000 ft. A second section of B26's at N Foreland at 1910 -- our alt 12,000 ft -- the B26's were left at N Foreland.
- P - Good
- Q - Nil
- R - Heavy, meager, inaccurate flak at airfld at Ohievres, Belg. Heavy and light, moderate, inaccurate flak near Ostend.
- S - Nil
- T - Mission was flown as briefed -- no E/A seen -- results of bombing by B26's good.

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397th Ftr Sqdn S-2 Rpt on a D/Bomb Mission of 12 May 44 -- Sqdn Mission No. 41:

- A - 397th Ftr Sqdn -- Opns No. 249, 9th Ftr Comd -- 12 May 44 -- Mission No. 2.
- B - 16 plus 2 spares -- 2 spares returned.
- C - Nil
- D - 16 -- 1st Bridge & 1/7 at Namur, Belg. -- 1225
- E - 25 / 1,000 lb 1/10--1/40 CP's & 4 / 1,000 lb M-014 Tail Loaded
 - 51 dropped on tgts of opper.
 - None Jet -- One fell off on take off.
 - Alt at start of dive: 9,000 ft
 - angle of Dive: 25 - 35 deg
 - Alt at Release: 75 to 2,000 ft
- F - 4/1 in SE section of Namur were bombed with very fair results -- 2 oil cars, sheds and box cars were blown up -- Capt Hendricks bombed a 1st Bridge - unlocated.
- G thru K - Nil
- L - Over Namur & Cont: Haze, 10,000 ft -- good visib.
- M - Up at 1030 - down at 1400
- N - LFI - 1140 -- on course -- 12,000 ft
 - LFO - 1150 -- Pointe Haut-Sarre -- 11,000 ft
- O - Nil (D/Bomb Mission)
- P - Good
- Q - None -- except reported that primary tgt bridge was previously destroyed.
- R - Div, mod, acc flak in W & S sections of Namur.
- S - lgt, mod, inacc flak at Charleroi.
- T & U - Nil.

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397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON 3-2 REPORT ON A DIVE BOMBING MISSION OF 19 MAY 1944

(SQUADRON MISSION NO. 42)

A - 397th Fighter Squadron -- Opns O No. 267, IX Ftr Comd -- 19 May 44 - Mission No. 1.
B - 16 plus 1 spare -- 0 spares returned.
C - One abort -- brought bombs back from tgt.
D - 17 - Epincy Airdrome, N.W. of Cambrai, France - 2025
E - 34/1000 lb - 1/10-1/40 GP's
30X1000 dropped on target
Two jettisoned South of Target
Two brought back to base
Altitude at start of dive--12000
Angle of Dive: 50-70 deg.
Altitude at Release: 2 to 3000 ft.
F - Fair. No direct hits observed on hangars, but thirty (30) Bombs were scattered throughout target area.
G - Nil
H - Nil
I - Nil
J - None
K - None
L - Over Channel: dense haze up to 10,000 feet. Visibility: bad
Over Continent: 10/10 -- 6 to 9,000 feet. Visibility: fair
M - Time up at 1917
Time down at 2156
N - LFI - 2004--Le Touquet -- 12,000
LFO - 2100--Le Touquet --12,500
O - Nil (D/Bomb Mission)
P - Good
Q - None - mainly due to weather
R - A.A. Location: over Target----Was Light, Intense, Accurate
S - Strafing Claims and Results: Several fired- but no claims
T - Nil

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397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON B-2 REPORT ON A BOMBER ESCORT MISSION OF 20 MAY 1944
(SQUADRON MISSION NO. 43)

- A - 397th Fighter Squadron -- Opns O No. 270, IX Ftr. Comd. -- 20 May 44-
Mission No. 1.
- B. 16 plus 1 spare -- 1 spare returned.
- C. None
- D. 16 -- Bomber Escort
- E. Nil
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. Nil
- I. Nil
- J. Nil
- K. Captain Gibson's flight escorted returning B-17, two thirds way across
channel.
- L. Over Channel: haze-dense up to 10,000 feet. Visibility: fair
Over Continent: scattered Cirrus -- 20,000 feet and haze-dense up to 10,-
000 feet. Visibility: fair (in both cases)
- M. Time Up: 0925
Time down: 1125
- N. LFI time: 0930. -- N. of C. de La Havre -- Altitude: 18,000
LFO time: 1040. -- N. of Fecamp -- Altitude: 21,000
- O. Lisieux -- 0930 -- 26,000
- P. Interference in France
- Q. None
- R. None
- S. None
- T. After rendezvousing with bombers followed course east along Seine river
almost to Paris.

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397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON 8-2 REPORT ON A DIVE BOMBING MISSION OF 20 MAY 1944

(SQUADRON MISSION NO. 46)

- A. 397th Fighter Squadron -- J.O. No. 274, IX Fitr. Comd. -- 20 May 1944--Mission 3
- B. 16 plus 2 spare -- 0 spares returned
- C. Two abort -- Lt. Carlson for propellor governor
Capt. Potter for oil leak in engine
- D. 16 -- 2017
- E. Top Cover
- F. Could only see smoke in target area
- G. Nil
- H. Ship E -- Category "A"
- I. None
- J. None
- K. None
- L. Over Channel: 5/10 at altitude of 9,000 feet. Visibility: fair
Over Continent: 3-4/10 -- Cumulus -- 6,000 -- fair
- M. Time Up: 1905
Time Down: 2145
- N. L.F. In Time: 1955 -- LeTouquet -- 15,000
L.F. Out Time: 2042 - " -- 14,000
- O. Nil
- P. Good
- Q. None -- due to weather
- R. A.A. Location: Boulogne-heavy, meager and accurate
Location: A/B at Lille-Light heavy, moderate and accurate
- S. None
- T. Nil

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397th FIGHTER SQUADRON S-2 REPORT ON A FIGHTER SWEEP MISSION OF 21 MAY 1944

(SQUADRON MISSION NO. 45)

- A. 397th Fighter Squadron -- O.O. No. 275, 1st Fitr. Comd. -- 21 May 1944--Mission #1
- B. 16 plus 0 spares
- C. One abort -- glass tubing on wing tank broke on take-off
- D. 15 plus 1 (395th) -- Area 4650-4840N at 1445 -- 0920-0100E at 1225
- E. None - train sweeping
- F. None
- G. Nil
- H. Nil
- I. Nil
- J. None
- K. None
- L. Over Channel: 4/10 Strato-Cumulus -- 5-6,000 -- Visibility: Fair
Over Continent: 1-9/10 Strato-Cumulus -- 1-22,000 -- Visibility: Poor
- M. Time Up: 1043
Time Down: 1345
- N. L.F. In Time: 1125 -- On Course -- Altitude: 12,000
L.F. Out Time: 1240 -- Deippe Area -- Altitude: 10,000
- O. Nil
- P. Good
- Q. None
- R. A.A. Location: Le Havre -- Heavy, meager and accurate
- S. No guns fired, due to weather
- T. None

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397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON S-2 REPORT ON A RAMROD (UMBRELLA COVER) MISSION OF 22 MAY 1944

(Squadron Mission No. 47)

- A - 397th Fighter Squadron -- Spns O No. 278, IX Ftr Comd -- 22 May 44 - Mission 1.
- B - 16 plus 2 spares -- no spares returned.
- C - One -- radio out.
- D - 17 -- gun emplacement about 6 mi SE of Stretat -- 1555.
- E - Mission was a Ramrod (Umbrella Cover) Mission.
- F - All the bombing was concentrated in one place.
- G thru K - Nil
- L - Over Channel: No clouds. Good visib.
Over Continent: 6/10 cloud density -- scattered clouds -- 5,000 ft -- fair visib.
- M - 1514 -- 1655
- N - LFI: 1551 -- slightly SW of Stretat -- 15,000 ft.
LFO: 1614 -- slightly SW of Stretat -- 14,000 ft.
- O - No R/V estab. Our planes swept the area.
- P - Good.
- Q thru S - Nil.
- T - Mission was executed in accordance with plan. It was a very uneventful mission.

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30TH FIGHTER SQUADRON - 2 MISSIONS ON A BOMBING MISSION OF 24 MAY 1944

(Squadron Mission No. 48)

- A. 37th Fighter Squadron -- O.C. # 207, Lt. Pte. Gaud -- 24 May 44 -- Mission 48.
- B. 16 plus 1 spare -- 1 spare returning
- C. Nil
- D. 15 -- Paris
- E. Bomber escort
- F. None obstructed
- G. Nil
- H. None
- I. One in flames - unidentified near St. Valery
- J. Over Channel: scattered - burnt gasoline - 1000 - Good
Over Continent: " " " " 500 to 2000 wood
- K. 0700 -- 1019
- L. LFI: 6800 - On Course - 15,000
RFI: 6700 - S. of St. Valery - 9500
- M. 20 miles in air course - 0515
- N. Good
- O. None
- P. Paris Area: Heavy, intense, ~~inaccurate~~ inaccurate
Track on road near LeTrepport: Heavy, Hazy, inaccurate
- Q. A flight composed of 1 Captain William E. Gibson, 1st Lt. Roy E. Carlson, 2nd Lt. Joe G. Howard, and 2nd Lt. Harry D. Rogal participated in damaging two locomotives. Capt. Gibson was the leader of this flight. 1st Lt. Robert C. Anderson and 2nd Lt. George L. Sutcliffe participated in the destruction of one locomotive. Captain Randall W. Hendricks destroyed two locomotives. Captain Joseph Marini destroyed one locomotive. 1st Lt. Alfred B. Fry destroyed one locomotive. A flight composed of Capt. Randall W. Hendricks, 1st Lt. John H. Lougee, 1st Lt. Alfred B. Fry and 2nd Lt. Norman J. Langsdorf damaged the whole train, whose locomotive was destroyed by Lt. Fry. Capt. Hendricks was the leader of this flight.
Results: Five locomotives destroyed; two locomotives damaged; one whole ^{train} damaged.

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397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON S-2 REPORT ON A ESCORT MISSION (SPITFIRE) OF 24 MAY 1944

(Squadron Mission No. 49)

- A. 397th Fighter Squadron -- O.O. #388, 1X Fitr. Comd. - 24 May 1944-Mission No.2
- B. 16 and no spares
- C. Nil
- D. 16 -- LFI at Cabourg to LFO at Fecamp - 1720 to 1738
- E. Mission was an Escort Mission
- F. thru K. Nil
- L. Over Channel: No clouds -- good visibility
Over Continent: 5/10 ~~1000~~ Density -- Cumulus clouds -- 6,000 feet-Good visibility, but slightly hazy
- M. 1652 -- 1822
- N. LFI: 1720 - Cabourg -- 10,000 feet
LFO: 1738 -- Fecamp -- 10,000 feet
- O. Over Base -- 1640 -- 5000 feet
- P. Good
- Q thru S. Nil
- T. A very uneventful mission

S E C R E T

397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON S-2 REPORT ON A SKIP-BOMBING MISSION OF 25 MAY 1944

(Squadron Mission No. 50)

- A -- 397th Fighter Squadron -- Opns O No. 294, IX Ptr Comd -- 25 May 44 --
Mission No. 1
- B -- 15 plus 2 spares, plus 1 radio relay -- 2 spares and 1 radio relay ret.
- C -- Nil
- D -- 15 -- RR Bridge at Hasselt, Belg. -- 1115
- E -- 14 / 1,000 lb GP bombs loaded (8-11 sec tail fuse -- no nose fuse)
X 14 bombs dropped on tgt.
Alt at Release -- Deck
Skip Bombing Mission
- F -- One hit on center of ~~the~~ bridge. One hit on southern end of bridge at junction of bridge and ground. One hit on side of bridge. Some bombs fell beneath bridge. Others skipped away from tgt. Extent of damage: Bridge will not be able to be used for at least 72 hours.
- G thru K -- Nil
- L -- Over Channel: No clouds, good visib.
Over Continent: (and over tgt) -- 5/10 cloud density -- Cumulus clouds -- 4,000 ft to 5,000 ft -- fair visib.
- M -- 0953 -- 1305
- N -- LFI: 1025 -- Ostend -- 12,000 ft.
LFO: 1200 -- Nieupert -- 11,000 ft.
- O -- Mission was a skip bombing mission.
- P -- / Good. pilots about
- Q -- At about 1150, two of our ~~pilots~~ flying at 10,000 ft noted slightly SW of Bruges a number of round structures equally spaced about 50 ft apart. They seemed to ~~constitute~~ constitute some sort of supply dump, perhaps an ammunition dump. They noted an excellently constructed concrete highway midway between Bruges and the supply dump. This highway runs from southeast to northwest and ends abruptly at a point north or slightly northeast of the supply dump. The appearance of the highway is such as to suggest that it may perhaps be a military road. Now, black hangars were observed at the Bekloo-Haldegem Airfld. They looked as if they might perhaps be constructed of some sort of prefabricated material. It was observed that airfields bombed in the past have been repaired and are now in good shape.
- R -- Heavy, intense, accurate flak at Ostend.
- S -- Nil
- T -- Mission was executed in accordance with plan. All phases of mission have been covered under headings above.

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S E C R E T

397TH FTR SQDN S-2 RPT ON A DIVE BOMBING MISSION OF 26 MAY 1944 -- SQDN MISSION NO. 51

A - 397th Ftr Sqdn -- Opns O No. 296, IX Ftr Comd -- 26 May 44 -- Mission No. 1
B - 16 plus 2 spares -- 0 spares returned
C - One aborted due to prep failure
D - 17 -- Fauville A/D -- 1630
E - 36 / 1,000 lb GP's Loaded
34 Dropped on Tgt.
2 Jet in Chan.
0 Ret to Base.
10,000 ft -- alt at start of dive
50 to 60 deg -- angle of dive
3,000 ft -- alt at release
F - Good -- 4 direct hits on hangar -- others dropped in area with black smoke thought to be from oil or ammunition dump
G - Nil
H - 1 -- Lt Fry by flak -- Category "A"
I - None
J - None
K - None
L - Over Channel: scattered -- 10/10 -- poor visib.
Over Continent: scattered -- 4/10 -- 1,500 to 3,000 -- good visib.
M - 1635 -- 1759
N - LFI: 1616 -- Le Havre -- 10,000 ft.
LFO: 1705 -- S of Course -- 8,500 ft.
O - Nil (D/Bomb Mission).
P - Good
Q - 15 dummy HE-111's due S of tgt, probably at St Andre A/D -- strafed by Capt Hendrick
R - Heavy, meager, inaccurate flak at Le Havre
Heavy, intense, accurate flak on river SE of Rouen
Light, moderate, accurate flak at Elbeu
Light, moderate, accurate flak at tgt.
S - Capt Petter, 2/Lt Felts - 1 engine & 1 mil truck.
1/Lts Lougee & Fry & 2/Lt Sharp - 1 engine & tanks on flat cars.
Maj Mosler, 2/Lt Howard - 1 engine
2/Lt Langmaid - tanks on flat cars 1 Elec Loco Destr by Capt Hendricks
TOTAL: 3 engines destroyed -- cars damaged -- oil refinery damaged -- tanks damaged
T - Nil. 1 Elec Loco Destr

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397TH FTR SQDN S-2 REPORT ON A TYPE #16 CONTROL SWEEP MISSION OF 27 MAY 1944 -- MISSION 52

A -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- Opns O No. 299, IX Ftr Ccmd -- 27 May 44 - Mission No. 1.
B -- 16 plus 2 spares -- 1 spare returned (Plus 1 radio relay -- landed with regulars)
C -- One aborted -- wg tank -- Lt Brown
D -- 18 -- Control Sweep -- 1087
E -- Control Sweep Mission/
F -- Nil
G -- Nil
H -- 2 -- by flak -- Category "A" *1 by flak - cat. "a.c."*
I thru K -- Nil
L -- Over Channel: scattered low overcast -- good visib.
Over Continent: Clear -- CAVU
M -- Up: 0940 -- Down: 1307
N -- LFL: 1030 -- on course -- 17,000 ft
LFO: 1225 -- N of Course -- 8,000 ft
O -- Nil
P -- Good
Q -- 15 to 30 ME-109's (?) in Chalons area -- alt 26,000 ft -- Jerrys were 3,000 ft
above us and out of range.
R -- None
S -- Capt Talbott -- 1 locomotive
~~2/Lt Potter~~ 2/Lt Potter, 1/Lt Louges -- 1 loco.
2/Lt Arps -- 1 loco
Capt Hendricks -- 7 loco.
TOTAL: 10 locomotives destroyed.
T -- Nil.

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SECRET

GLIDE

REPORT OF 587TH PS ON XXXX-BOMBING MISSION TO BAY LEA MISSION NO. 53

- A - 387th - Ops Order #301 - 27 May 4. Mission No 2
B - 16 plus 2 spares no spares returned
C - 1 (both bombs dropped outside tgt area)
D - 18 - Ammunition dump in wood 5 mi NE of Compiègne, France - 1010
E - 38 100 gal incendiary wing tanks loaded
 35 dropped on tgt
 2 dropped unarmed 5 mi W of tgt and 1 dropped less than 1 mi W of tgt
 None brought back to base
 Alt at start of dive - 9000 ft
 Angle of dive - 20°
 Alt at Release - 1000 ft
F - Many fires E and W of tgt area. A few fires in tgt area. No explosions.
G - Nil
H - 1 damaged partially by flak, but mostly by shells flying from other planes.
 Capt AC
I and J - Nil
K - 1 dingy observed about 10 mi NE of Dieppe. An object like a smoke bomb was seen in the water near the dingy. The observer heard a report over the radio that the pilot involved had been picked up.
L - No clouds over Channel the Continent or tgt. Good vis over Channel. Very good visibility over Continent and tgt.
M - 1754 - 2045
N - LFI 1846 - place as briefed - 10,000 ft
 LFC 1855 - " " " - 8000 ft
O - Glide bombing Mission
P - Good
Q - Canal running Compiègne to Royon was observed to be filled with barges which, because they were covered on top, looked like fuel barges. An A/D was observed at NW corner of Compiègne.
R - Light intense accurate flak at A/D near tgt
 " moderate inaccurate flak at Roi Meyencourt and Breteuil
 " and heavy intense fairly accurate flak slightly SW of Royon.
 " intense inaccurate flak at several A/D's near tgt
S - Lt Dame dest 1 lock in lockhouse on canal near tgt
 Lt Dams " 1 locomotive
 Capt Talbott, Lt Dame and Lt Poltz participated in dest of 1 locomotive at 5 of Montdidier and of another at Royencourt.
 Capt Potter shared in dest of locomotive and truck at S of Montdidier
 Lt Marko dest 1 truck near Oisemont.
 Capt Potter and Lt Marko ~~XXXX~~ seriously damaged 4 or 5 barges in the canal near the tgt
 Capt Talbott, Lt Murphy, Lt Dame and Lt Poltz seriously damaged 4 or 5 barges in the same canal
 Capt Hendricks dest 1 locomotive
 " " and Lt O'Connell damaged 1 locomotive
 Capt Marini Lt Preston Lt Brown and Lt Rogal seriously damaged a number of barges in the canal near the tgt
 Lt Howard and Lt Hamilton dest 1 locomotive
 " " " " and many others dest 1 trainload of trucks
T - Mission disclosed that incendiary wing tanks cannot be released or aimed as well as bombs. When well placed, they are capable of doing much damage.

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S E C R E T

REPORT OF 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON ON BOMBER ESCORT MISSION 28 MAY 1944 Mission 54

- A. 397th - O.O. #305 - 28 May 1944 Mission No. 1
- B. 16 plus 2 spare No spares returning
- C. Two -- 1 propolar out and 1 Radio
- D. Target attacked: RR Bridge at Liege, Bel. time: 1208 A/C over Target: 16
- E. Bomber Escort - B-26's
- F. Unobserved
- G. Nil
- H. Capt. Henricks: category "AG"
- I. Nil
- J. Nil
- K. Nil
- L. CAVU
- M. 1031 and 1355
- N. 1127 -- On Course-- 1400
1300 -- On Course -- 9500
- O. H. Foreland
- P. Good
- R. At Target : Heavy, intense and accurate
Flak Curs-Dixmud ; Light, moderate and accurate
- S. Five (5) Locomotives
 - Capt. Hendricks ; 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
 - Capt. Petter: 1
 - Lt. Hamilton 1
 - Lt. Folts 1

S E C R E T

REPORT OF 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON ON A BOMBER ESCORT MISSION 28 May 1944 Mission 55

- A. 397th - C.O. SOB -- 28 May 1944 -- Mission No. 2
- B. 15 -- No Spares -- 15 Acft. over Tgt.
- C. Nil
- D. 15 -- (Fighters did not rendezvous)
- E. (B 26's bombed Amiens, bombers were one hour ahead of fighters)
- F. thru K. Nil
- L. Over Channel: Low haze with fair visibility
Over Continent: 5/10 Clouds at 11000 feet -- visibility: fair
- M. Time up: 1850
Time down: 2216
- N. LFI: 2005 at LeTouquet. Altitude: 12,000 feet
LFO: 2017 at N. of Dunkerque. Altitude: 12,000 feet
- O. Orbited at B eachy Head -- 30 Minutes
- P. Good
- Q. Nil
- R. Boulogne Area -- light, meager and inaccurate
- S. Nil.

SECRET

387TH FTR SQDN 8-2 REPORT ON A BOMBER ESCORT MISSION OF 29 MAY 44 -- MISSION NO. 58

- A - 387th Fighter Squadron -- Opns C No. 310, 11 Ftr Sqdn -- 29 May 44 -- Mission 1.
- B - 16 plus 2 spares, plus one flight leader radio relay -- 2 spares returned -- ~~radio~~ radio relay returned
- C - Four (4) -- one plane had engine trouble; the other three planes in the same flight accompanied this plane home.
- D - 12 -- Egmond Aan Zee to about 24 mi NE of Hannover to Egmond Aan Zee -- 1125 - ~~1125~~ to 1345
- E - Mission was a bomber escort mission.
- F - Same as E
- G - ~~Nil~~ Nil
- H - One -- dent in wing caused by release of wing tank -- Category "A".
- I - thru H - Nil
- L - Over N Sea: light cirrus clouds at 28,000 to 28,100 ft, 2/10 density -- Cumulus clouds at 15,000 to 14,000 ft, 8/10 density -- visib 10 mi.
Over Continent: Light cirrus clouds at 30,000 to 30,100 ft, 2/10 density -- visib 15 to 20 mi.
- M - 1018 - 1442 (One plane landed at another field in order to refuel).
- N - LFI: 1125 - Egmond Aan Zee - 24,000 ft
LFO: 1345 - " " - 19,000 ft.
- O - R/V with bombers was not established.
- P - Good
- Q - Many little boats observed in Zuider Zee. P51's seen flying in a westerly direction over the Zuider Zee, followed by low smoke trails which seemed to be as low as the water. Many streaks observed in the North Sea.
- R - Light, moderate, inaccurate flak noted slightly South of Rheine or possibly at Osnabruck, more probably at the former place.
- S - Nil
- T - Our planes did not meet the bombers -- a 385th plane developed engine trouble over Germany and it was thought that the pilot bailed out north of Dummer Lake.

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397th FIGHTER SQUADRON S-2 REPORT ON A DIV. BOMBING MISSION FOR 29 MAY 44--Mission 57

- A. 397th Fighter Squadron -- Opns C.O. 311, IX Ftr. Comd.-- 29 May 44--Mission 2.
- B. 10 -- No ~~Spares~~ Spares
- C. 1 -- Radio out
- D. 14 -- Kerlin Bastard A/D -- Time: 1900
- E. 397th served as top cover
- F. Weather obstructed vision
- G thru K. Nil
- L. Over Channel: Haze -- Visibility: Poor
Over Continent: Haze and thin scattered clouds to West at 12,000 feet Vis: 5 miles
- M. Time Up: 1735
Time Down: 2025
- N. L.F.C. 1845 -- As briefed -- Altitude: 12,000 feet
L.F.C. 1925 -- As briefed -- Altitude: 10,000 feet
- O. Mission was a Dive Bombing Mission
- P. Good
- Q. Nil
- R. Lorient -- light, heavy, intense and accurate
- S. Nil
- T. Results of bombing could not be determined because weather obstructed vision

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S E C R E T

SEVEN 5-2 REPORT ON A BOMBER ESCORT MISSION OF 30 MAY 1944 - MISSION 58

- A - 397th Ftr Sqdn -- Opns O No. 515, IX Ftr Comd -- 30 May 44 - Mission 1.
- B - 16 plus 2 spares -- 2 spares returned.
- C - Nil
- D - 16 -- Airfld at Denain, Fr -- 1128
- E - Mission was a ~~heavy~~ bomber escort mission.
- F - The results of the bombing by the A20's were very good. The SE, SW and NW corners of the airfld were subjected to intense bombing and were probably severely damaged.
- G thru K - Nil
- L - Over Ghan: Cirrus clouds -- 2/10 coverage -- 20,000 to 21,000 ft -- visib ~~2/10~~ 3 mi. Heavy haze from the ground up to 1,000 ft.
Over Cent & Tgt: Cirrus clouds -- 2/10 coverage -- 20,000 to 21,000 ft. visib 5 mi. Scattered cumulus clouds NE of tgt -- 14,500 ft to 16,000 ft. Heavy haze from ground up to 1,000 ft.
- M - Up: 0947 -- Down: 1238
- N - LFI: 1050 -- slightly NW of Furnes -- 15,000 ft.
LFO: 1145 -- slightly NW of Furnes -- 13,000 ft.
- O - North Foreland -- 1055 -- Our planes at 14,000 ft; bombers alt undetermined.
- P - Good
- Q thru S - Nil
- T - Mission was executed according to plan -- the results of the bombing by the A20's were very good.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

REPORT OF 397TH FS ON GLIDE BOMBING MISSION 30 MAY 1944 Miss No. 59

A - 397th FS ops o. CIV 1000 30 May 44 Mission No. 59
B - 10 plus 1 spare plus 1 radio relay. 30 spares returned.
C - MII 1
D - 17 - Load bridge at Albrun, France - 1046
E - 54 1000 GP bombs loaded (MII nose fuze - No tail fuze - 8-11 sec delay)
32 bombs dropped on tgt. 2 bombs lost in channel.
Alt at start of dive - 2000 ft
Angle of dive - 30 deg
Alt at release - 50 ft
F - Results were excellent. Northern end of bridge is gone. Southern approach to bridge directly hit.
G - 1 MMR lost - Lt Fry
H - 2 - AC - flak
I thru S - Nil
L - over channel - base at 10,000 ft 1000 vis
over continent - local clouds at tgt - 3500 ft - 1000 vis
M - 1847 - 1820
N - 171 - 1639 - 12 mi off course - 10,000 ft
172 - 1720 - on course - 8000 ft
O - glide bombing mission
P - good
Q - Nil
R - Light and mod flak, both acc and inacc, at tgt
S - Lt Lounge dest 2 loco, 1 loco
Capt Marini dest 1 truck
T - according to plan. Results of bombing excellent.

S E C R E T

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REPORT OF 597th FS HARROD MISSION 31 MAY 1944 Mission No. 60

- A - 597th FS Ops C. 4819 HPS 31 MAY 44 Mission No. 1
- B - 18 plus no spares
- C - Nil
- D - 10 - Our planes established 7/1 with the B-24's at Dixmude and accompanied them as far as Ghieft. Here the bombers aborted and turned about for home. Our planes accompanied them to 1170 at Knocke. The bombers continued to fly to their base and our planes left them at Knocke and flew toward home. - Time: 1045 to 1105.
- E - Harrod
- F thru J - Nil
- K - It was reported that a 50th plane returned early because of engine trouble.
- L - There was a wall over the Dutch-Belgian coast extending out into the North Sea. The wall extended from a height scarcely above sea level to about 25,000 ft. It was reported that there may have been a gap in the wall extending from 12,000 to 10,000 ft. Visibility above 25,000 ft was very good. There were contrails at 25,000 ft.
- M - 0928 - 1220
- N - 1171 - 1055 - 11000 ft
1170 - 1105 - " - 25,000 ft.
- O - Dixmude - 1045 - Our planes at 25,000 ft, bombers at 18-20,000 ft
- P - Good
- Q - As our planes made 120 one of our flight leaders observed a lone P-51 which had been following a box of bombers approach the No. 4 plane in his flight from the rear. As the flight leader did not recognize this plane as a P-51, he made a pass at it and the P-51 flew away. It was not until this time that the plane was identified as a P-51.
- R and S - Nil
- T - As our planes turned about with the bombers at Ghieft they noticed that some bombers were still coming in from the coast. The last of the bombers was to have been a B-24 at Bertiers, France.

SECRET