

At last on 2 March we were to taste the fruits of our training and labor. This day we completed our first sortie on FRANKFURT. This was Mission #5, but our first accredited sortie. In high spirits, nineteen of our aircraft led by Lt. Col. ISBELL, dropped 286x 100 M47 bombs on BERNBACK and STAUDT, GERMANY. Fighter opposition was weak with but 4 FW 190's attacking our formation. The fighters were driven off, and upon interrogating the crews, it was noted with some pride the nonchalant manner the crews described the fighter attacks. One would think they were veterans of hundreds of missions rather than airmen meeting the vaunted LUFTWAFFE for the first time. Their high feelings boded no good for the German fighters who would challenge them on their next mission. It was interesting to note their reaction to FLAK. It was the concensus of opinion "We just don't like the damn stuff". All aircraft returned to the base with but five planes showing minor battle damage.

The only incident marring the success of the mission was the crash on take-off of Plane No. 669, 752nd Sq. piloted by 2nd Lt. KENNETH MARKS GORRELL. Immediately upon take-off, the plane was seen to crash a short distance from the base around 0900 hours. The accident was thought to be due to insufficient flying speed, with the possibility of ice on wings. The aircraft was a total wreck, the crash causing slight damage to one residence, slight injuries to three residents and serious injury to another. Three of the crew members succeeded in escaping from the burning plane but the seven others perished. (See diary for names etc)

2 MAR 1944

Low

Ist Section
Middle

High

Wright Isbell
42-100362

PETERS
41-29331
F B-24H

Whitlow
41-25780
N B-24H

Combs-Hagg
42-100366
B B-24d

Ritter
42-22353
L B-24H

Grand
41-28552
I B-24H

STROUP
42-32423
R B-24H

Bitter
42-29295
O B-24d

Grant
42-52252
J B-24H

Schleser
42-52395
R B-24H

Melton
42-28709
P B-24H

Burtis
42-50441
I B-24H

Low

II Section
Middle

High

Clappitt-Lafcoe
42-100311

Schwann
41-28771
K B-24H

Webber
42-100365
B B-24H

Clark-Bogusch
42-100405
D B-24d

Payler
41-28716
M B-24H

Mangorich
41-29359
G B-24H

Alvstad
41-28706
H B-24H

Koch
42-100291
A B-24d

Hitzler
41-28667
F B-24H

DAVIDSON
42-28306
I B-24H

Umphrey
41-29223
Q B-24H

Robeson
41-28705
N B-24H

458th Pilots and Aircraft as listed on Formation Plans

DATE	TARGET	PILOT	458th Msn #	Pilot Msn#	Cmd Pilot	LD	Serial	RCL	Sqdn	A/C Msn #	A/C Name	MIA	Notes
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	ALVESTAD	1	1			41-28706	H	J4	1	DREAM BOAT/SPARE PARTS		41-28706
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	BITTLER	1	1			41-29298	G	J3	1	OLE SATAN		42-29298
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	BRAUER	1	1			41-28682	I	Z5	1	UNKNOWN 003		
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	BURTIS	1	1			42-52441	I	J3	1	LAST CARD LOUIE		42-52441
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	CLAGGETT	1	1	LaROCHE	L2	42-100311	A	7V	1	YOKUM BOY		42-100311
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	CLARK	1	1	BOGUSCH	D2	42-100408	D	J4	1	BEASTFACE		42-100408
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	COMBS	1	1	HOGG	D1	42-100366	B	Z5	1	MIZPAH		42-100366
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	DAVIDSON	1	1			42-52306	I	J4	1	UNKNOWN 030		42-52306
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	GORRELL	--	1			41-28669	--	7V	1	GINNY	KCRT	CRASH ON TAKEOFF
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	GRANT	1	1			42-52382	J	7V	1	WURF'LESS		42-52382
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	HETZLER	1	1			41-28667	F	7V	1	JAYHAWKER		41-28667
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	KECK	1	1			42-100341	A	J4	1	SATAN'S MATE		42-100341
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	MANGERICH	1	1			41-29329	L	7V	1	FRITZI		41-29329
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	MELTON	1	1			41-28719	Q	J3	1	PADDLEFOOT		42-28719
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	PETERS	1	1			41-29331	F	J3	1	BLONDIE'S FOLLY		41-29331
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	RAITER	1	1			42-52353	J	Z5	1	McNAMARA'S BAND		42-52353
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	ROBESON	1	1			41-28705	H	J4	1	YE OLDE HELLGATE		41-28705
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	SCHULZE	1	1			42-52335	R	Z5	1	ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER		42-52335
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	SCHUMAN	1	1			41-28671	K	J4	1	UNKNOWN 001		41-29671
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	STROUP	1	1			42-52423	R	J3	1	UNKNOWN 031		42-52423
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	TAYLOR	1	1			41-28718	M	7V	1	BO		41-28718
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	UMPHREY	1	1			41-29273	Q	J4	1	FLAK MAGNET		41-29273
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	WEBER	1	1			42-100365	B	7V	1	WOLFGANG (maybe)		42-100365
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	WHITLOW	1	1			41-28720	N	J3	1	UNKNOWN 004		41-28720
2-Mar-1944	FRANKFURT	WRIGHT	1	1	ISBELL	L1	42-100362	A	Z5	1	SWEET LORRAINE/BOOMERANG		42-100362 LEAD