

Once again on 6 Mar we were out in force, this time to strike another Aero Engine Works in BERLIN. This was Mission 9 Sortie 4. Here was the eagerly awaited magic word "Berlin!!!" When the target was announced the excited comments left no doubt of the electrifying effect the mere mention of the word had on the crews. The twenty seven plane formation led by Lt. Col. ISBELL as command pilot of the lead section

followed by Major O'NEILL as command pilot of the High Section took off for "BIG B". One thousand and ninety two M47 IB's were dropped in Target area, GENSHAGEN, and two hundred and eight M 47's dropped on a target of opportunity at POTSDAM. Although the fighter opposition was weak, the formation encountered terrific accurate flak, causing battle damage to seven aircraft. We suffered the greatest single loss of aircraft and personnel, losing five aircraft with fifty members missing. (See diary for names etc) Their loss was due to combined E/A and Flak.

Our effort this day gave us the distinction of being one of the groups who helped achieve the first large scale daylight attack against the German capital. Results were generally poor due to the unfavourable weather encountered. However, as some of the crew members stated "at least we hit "Big B", and now that we know the way, we hope to be regular visitors.

C
KECK

TOGIAN-ISBELL

A | 341

38 WILSON

I | 306

WHEAT

G | 729

FOUSAL

H | 303

C
BUSH

D | 812

LEAD-MASON

B | 751

C
HETZLER-JAY

S | 667

GREGG

P | 302

C | 273

D
HODGSON

I | 486

C
FOOTE-JAY

H | 515

SCHAAF

M | 718

WETLI

I | 709

WHEAT

561

307

431

64

812

303

286

273

506

515

729

432

709

755

718

721

333

331

333

331

MILTON

A | 299

D
BALDWIN

G | 450

C
KINGSLEY

B | 366

GERALD-Y'FEIL

B | 455

WHITTON-WOLLEN

A | 311

D
PETERS

L | 282

BENIOS

M | 678

WATSON

I | 441

G | 719

FITCH

J | 365

C
COLLIER

I | 682

STIGGAT

J | 359

WHEAT

455

286

311

450

365

719

353

359

678

303

299

276

682

705

697

342

441

SECTION III HIGH WIGHT

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
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	BALLARD	4	1			42-52450	G	Z5	3	UNKNOWN 032	FTR	
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	BOGUSCH	4	1			41-29286	R	J4	3	UNKNOWN 011	FTR	
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	BRUDOS	4	2			41-28678	M	J3	3	UNKNOWN 002		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	BUSH	4	1			42-109812	D	7V	1	UNKNOWN 016		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	CRAGUN	4	1			41-29302	P	7V	2	NOKKISH		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	DeNEFFE	4	2			41-29300	M	J4	3	LORELEI		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	DUNLEVIE	4	2			41-29359	J	J3	1	TAIL WIND		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	GLENN	4	2	O'NEILL	L2	42-100433	B	J3	2	BIG DICK HARD TO HIT		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	GOLDSMITH	4	1			41-28682	I	Z5	4	UNKNOWN 003		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	HETZLER	4	3			41-28667	F	7V	4	JAYHAWKER		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	HOPKINS, T	4	3			41-29299	M	Z5	2	ROLL CALL	FTR	
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	KECK	4	3			41-28729	G	J4	1	UNKNOWN 046		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	KINGSLEY	4	1			42-100365	B	7V	3	WOLFGANG (maybe)		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	KOVICH	4	2			41-29276	T	J4	1	ROTTEN SOCK or SACK/URGIN VIRGIN		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	LAMB	4	2	MASON	D1	42-100431	B	J4	1	BOMB-AH-DEAR		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	LOGIE	4	2			42-52432	P	J3	3	BACHELOR'S PARADISE		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	MANGERICH	4	2			42-52335	R	Z5	4	ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	MARTIN, J	4	2			41-28709	I	7V	3	LUCKY STRIKE		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	MATTSON	4	2			42-52441	I	J3	3	LAST CARD LOUIE		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	McMAINS	4	2			42-52306	I	J4	4	UNKNOWN 030	FTR	
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	MELTON	4	3			41-28719	Q	J3	3	PADDLEFOOT		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	PETERS	4	3			41-29288	L	J3	3	BIG-TIME OPERATOR		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	PIERCE	4	3			42-52353	J	Z5	4	McNAMARA'S BAND		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	ROBESON	4	3			41-28705	H	J4	4	YE OLDE HELLGATE		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	ROGERS	4	1			42-52515	H	Z5	1	FORD'S FOLLY	FTR	
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	ROUBAL	4	3			41-29303	H	Z5	3	LIBERTY LIB		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	SCHAAF	4	2			41-28718	M	7V	4	BO		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	SHAW, C	4	1			41-28721	L	J4	1	DOWNWIND LEG		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	SPAVEN	4	--			41-28735	S	J4	--	UNKNOWN 005		ABORT - NO SORTIE CREDIT
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	STILSON	4	ABT			41-29331	F	J3	--	BLONDIE'S FOLLY		ABORT
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	TOOMAN	4	2	ISBELL	L1	42-100341	A	J4	3	SATAN'S MATE		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	UMPHREY	4	3			41-29273	Q	J4	3	FLAK MAGNET		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	VOGEL	4	NTO			41-29342	S	J3	--	ROUGH RIDERS		NO TAKE OFF
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	WATSON	4	2			41-28697	P	Z5	2	DIXIE BELL II		
6-Mar-1944	BERLIN/ERKNER	WHITLOW	4	3	OLLUM	D2	42-100311	A	7V	3	YOKUM BOY		