

HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

605

TARGET

BLAINVILLE AND
CHAIONS SUR LAQUE H/Y

DATE

27 APRIL 1944

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2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 52009, 27 Sep 58

COPIE NO. 3

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AAF 147 APO 558: : : : : : : : : :
: S E C R E T :
: By Auth of CG :
: 2d Bomb Div :
: Initials *WJG* :
: Date: *22 May 1944* :
: : : : : : : : :

22 May 1944

SUBJECT : Tactical Report of Mission, 27 April 1944.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, AAF 101, APO 634.

1. Data.

- a. Date of Mission - 27 April 1944.
- b. Primary Target - Blainville and Chalons sur Marne - Marshalling Yards.
- c. Secondary and Last Resort Target - Any airdrome in occupied country not adjacent to a built-up area.
- d. Units Participating - 20th CBW (448th, 446th, 453rd BG),
96th CBW (467th, 466th, 458th BG),
14th CBW (392nd, 44th, 445th BG).

2. Narrative.

a. Nine Groups dispatched 199 aircraft from three Combat Wings to attack the marshalling yards at Blainville and Chalons sur Marne. Excellent fighter support was given by two Groups of P-47s, two Groups of P-51s and two Groups of P-38s.

b. Assemblies were accomplished without incident and units departed the English coast on course and on time. Routes to and from the target were flown as briefed. Both targets were bombed with fair to good results.

c. Flak was light enroute and in the target area, but on the route out became moderate and accurate. Fighter support was excellent and there were no losses or claims.

For the Commanding General:

(Charles B. Westover)
CHARLES B. WESTOVER
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

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Tactical Report of Mission, 27 April 1944.

2. Bombing.

| GROUP | DIRECT OF RUN | LENGTH OF RUN | ALTITUDE | TIME OF RELEASE | PIEW/LETO PILOT BLAINVILLE | PIEW LETO L | RANGE & DIRECTION RANGE | NUMBER A/C BOMBED |
|-------|------------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 448 | 40 | 1 min. | 18,000 ft | 1858 | X | | 2 2 | 24 |
| 446 | 20 | 2 min. | 17,500 ft | 1901 | X | | 1 1 | 10 |
| 453 | 35 | 1½ min. | 19,000 ft | 1900 | X | | 2 2 | 20 |
| 467 | 01 | 1 min. | 17,000 ft | 1914 | | X | 2 2 | 20 |
| 458 | 28 | 1 min. | 17,000 ft | 1910 | | X | 2 2 | 21 + 4 of 466th |
| 466 | 30 | 20 secs. | 18,000 ft | 1918 | X | | 1 1 | 18 |
| | | | | | CHALONS SUR MARNE | | | |
| 392 | 358 | 1½ min. | 18,000 ft | 1842 | | X | 2 2 | 24 |
| 44 | 354 | 1½ min. | 16,500 ft | 1843 | X | | 2 2 | 23 + 1 of 467th |
| 445 | 343 | 2½ min. | 18,500 ft | 1846 | X | | 2 2 | 24 |

- The assigned primary targets for this visual mission were Blainville and Chalons sur Marne.
- Blainville was attacked by six Groups while 3 Groups attacked Chalons sur Marne. A B-17 formation broke up one Squadron and caused them to hit the target eight minutes late.
- One lead A/C salvaged its bombs due to the intervalometer being out. A lead A/C had its bombsight mount come loose and the bombardier was unable to get completely synchronized. One A/C failed to bomb due to a rack malfunction.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 27 April 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. No AA fire was encountered at either target.
- b. Gunfire was encountered on route at Romilly, Florennes, Mailly, Charleroi, Neufchatel, Ostend, Troyes and Nivelles. Crews estimated that there were 8 guns at Troyes.
- c. Several rockets were seen coming up from an airfield just south of Ostend. These rockets left a flame trail which was plainly discernible and on bursting at approximately 17,000 ft, they emitted 10 to 15 particles, each of which burst again.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 27 April 1944.

5. Communications.

- a. W/T reception on Division operational channel (7035 Kcs) again deteriorated after 1800 hours, due to excessive interference associated with an increase in skip distance effects. Further development of equipment and antenna system for alternate channel is progressing. Radio navigational aids were satisfactory. RCI "Window" was discharged for period of 20 minutes in target area.

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FORM V-11

27 April 1944

| SHIP | | 28D | 445 | 453 | 44 | 392 | 446 | 448 | 458 | 466 |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| A I R C R A F T | NO. A/C TAKEN OFF | 212 | 26 | 24 | 26 | 26 | 12 | 25 | 25 | 24 |
| | NO. A/C DISPATCHED | 199 | 24 | 22 | 25 | 26 | 11 | 24 | 23 | 23 |
| | NO. A/C RETURNED | 189 | 24 | 20 | 23 | 24 | 10 | 24 | 21 | 22 |
| | NO. A/C NOT RETURNED | 23 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| | NO. A/C SIGHTED | 199 | 24 | 22 | 25 | 26 | 11 | 24 | 23 | 23 |
| B C O S | NO. A/C | 189 | 24 | 20 | 23 | 24 | 10 | 24 | 21 | 22 |
| | NO. & TYPE | 12x1000GP 2192x500GP | 288x500GP | 216x500GP 12x1000GP | 276x500GP | 286x500GP | 120x500GP | 285x500GP | 252x500GP | 220x500GP |
| | TOTAL | 554.3 | 72.0 | 60.0 | 69.0 | 71.5 | 30.0 | 71.3 | 63.0 | 55.0 |
| | PERCENT | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | NO. OF A/C | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | NO. & TYPE | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | TOTAL | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | TOTAL PERCENT | 554.3 | 72.0 | 60.0 | 69.0 | 71.5 | 30.0 | 71.3 | 63.0 | 55.0 |
| | A/C LOST TO FLAK | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | A/C LOST TO E/A | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| A/C LOST UNKNOWN | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED, MISSING, MISSING, I. | 13-0-8-1 | - | - | - | 4-0-0-1 | 8-8-8-0 | 1-0-0-0 | - | - | |
| CLAIMS - E/A DISTRICT, PAGE., DASH., NO CLAIM | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| A/C BATTLE DAMAGE | 14-7-1-3 | 1-0-0-0 | - | 5-3-0-1 | 6-1-0-1 | 1-3-0-1 | 1-0-1-0 | - | - | |

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FORM V-11

27 April

1944

| UNIT | | 467 |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|
| A I L I N G C O U N T | NO. A/C IN FLYING | 24 |
| | NO. A/C DISPATCHED | 21 |
| | NO. A/C AT BASE | 21 |
| | NO. A/C NOT AT BASE | 3 |
| | NO. A/C SCRAPPED | 21 |
| B C S | NO. A/C | 21 |
| | NO. & TYPE | 250x500GP |
| | NO. & TYPE | 62.5 |
| | NO. & TYPE | - |
| | NO. OF A/C | - |
| | NO. & TYPE | - |
| | NO. & TYPE | - |
| | NO. & TYPE | - |
| | NO. & TYPE | - |
| | NO. & TYPE | - |
| B A T T L E | TOTAL A/C LOST | 62.5 |
| | A/C LOST TO FLAK | - |
| | A/C LOST TO E/A | - |
| | A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A | - |
| | A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT | - |
| | A/C LOST UNKNOWN | - |
| | A/C LOST TO OTHER | - |
| R E S U L T S | CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED | - |
| | SERIOUSLY ILL, MISSING, MIA | - |
| | CLAIMS - E/A DEGRADED | - |
| | PROB. DOWNS, NO CLAIM | - |
| | A/C BATTLE DAMAGE | - |
| CAT A-C-R-R | - | |

NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF RECORDS
 211 MILL ST. S.W. O. S. BLDG.
 FORT MONROE, VA 22061
 REFERENCE NO: 24-50-11-11-11

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SECRET:
AUTH: CO 4586P
INITIALS: JSW
DATE: 28 Apr.

HEADQUARTERS
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Group Operations Officer
AAF 123 APO 558

29 April 1944

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 27 April 1944.
Plainville, France.

TO : Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H)
AAF 123, APO 558

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| A. Group | 458 |
| B. Division F.O. | 277 |
| C. Date of Operation | 27 April 1944 |
| D. Ordered Primary Target. | Blainville Marshalling Yds. |
| E. A/C Taking Off. | 25 |
| F. A/C Dispatched. | 25 |
| G. Sorties | 23 |
| H. A/C Attacking | 21 |
| I. A/C Not Attacking | 4 |
| J. A/C Attacking - Primary Target. | 21 - 12 X 500 GP |
| K. A/C Attacking - Secondary Target. | Nil |
| L. A/C Attacking - Last Resort Target. | Nil |
| M. A/C Attacking - Opportunity Target. | Nil |
| N. A/C Lost - Flak | Nil |
| O. A/C Lost - Flak and E/A | Nil |
| P. A/C Lost - Accident | Nil |
| Q. A/C Lost - E/A. | Nil |
| R. A/C Lost - Cause Unknown. | Nil |

Joseph S. Williams
JOSEPH S. WILLIAMS
1st Lt, Air Corps
Group Statistical Officer

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Mission # 44

FORMATION PLAN
1ST SQDN.

27 April 1944

WEDER-
365-B

CRAIG
352 K

CLAGETT
311 A

NYMAN
457 R

ROBERTSON
706 F ABORT

ANDREW
733 P

SCHAFF
303 H NTO

GULICK
455 O

DAVIDSON
320 J

MORRIS
718 M

SHAW
721 L

GAINES
735 S

MANKER
812 D ABORT

2ND SQDN.

WELSHARD
172 D

WATSON
682 I

BARTON
018 J

BRATIS
288 L ABORT

GLENN
433 B

GOLDSMITH
738 O

WELLS
441 I

CURTIS
516 K

MELTON
305 N

ENGLEHARDT
005 H

CINEY
359 J

DAVIS
279 T

BRUDOS
342 S

458th Pilots and Aircraft as listed on Formation Plans

| Date | Target | Pilot | 458th Msn | Pilot Msn | Cmd Pilot | Ld | Serial | Last 3 | RCL | Sqdn | A/C Msn | A/C Name | Comments |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----|-----------|--------|-----|------|---------|----------------------------|--|
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | ANDREW | 30 | 8 | | | 41-28733 | 733 | P | J4 | 22 | RHAPSODY IN JUNK | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | BARTON | 30 | 8 | | | 42-95018 | 018 | J | Z5 | 2 | OLD DOC'S YACHT | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | BRUDOS | 30 | 17 | | | 41-29342 | 342 | S | J3 | 13 | ROUGH RIDERS | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | BURTIS | 30 | ABT | | | 41-29288 | 288 | L | J3 | -- | BIG-TIME OPERATOR | ABORT - #4 PROP GOV STUCK |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | CLAGGETT | 30 | 11 | | | 42-100311 | 311 | A | 7V | 17 | YOKUM BOY | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | CRAGUN | 30 | 15 | | | 41-29352 | 352 | K | 7V | 16 | WOLVE'S LAIR | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | CURTIS | 30 | 1 | | | 42-7516 | 516 | K | J3 | 1 | GATOR | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | DAVIDSON | 30 | 11 | | | 42-50320 | 320 | J | J4 | 1 | UNKNOWN 018 | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | DAVIS | 30 | 16 | | | 42-50279 | 279 | T | Z5 | 3 | ENVY OF 'EM ALL | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | ENGLEHARDT | 30 | 2 | | | 42-95005 | 005 | H | Z5 | 2 | UNKNOWN 034 | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | GAINES | 30 | 13 | | | 41-28735 | 735 | S | J4 | 16 | UNKNOWN 005 | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | GLENN | 30 | 13 | | | 42-100433 | 433 | B | J3 | 14 | BIG DICK HARD TO HIT | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | GOLDSMITH | 30 | 13 | | | 41-28738 | 738 | O | Z5 | 14 | MEAT AROUND THE CORNER | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | GULICK | 30 | 13 | | | 42-52455 | 455 | O | 7V | 20 | PLUTOCRAT | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | MANKER | 30 | ABT | | | 42-109812 | 812 | D | 7V | -- | UNKNOWN 016 | ABORT - #3 ENG INTERNAL FAIL |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | MELTON | 30 | 17 | | | 41-29305 | 305 | N | Z5 | 15 | I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | MORRIS, D | 30 | 1 | | | 41-28718 | 718 | M | 7V | 25 | BO | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | NYMAN | 30 | 11 | | | 42-52457 | 457 | Q | 7V | 18 | FINAL APPROACH | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | OLNEY | 30 | 9 | | | 41-29359 | 359 | J | J3 | 21 | TAIL WIND | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | ROBESON | 30 | ABT | | | 41-28706 | 706 | F | J4 | -- | DREAM BOAT/SPARE PARTS | ABORT - #1 SUPER CHGR ERRATIC |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | SCHAAF | 30 | NTO | | | 41-29303 | 303 | H | Z5 | -- | LIBERTY LIB | NO TAKE OFF - #1 SUPER CHGR FAIL PRE FLT |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | SHAW, C | 30 | 14 | | | 41-28721 | 721 | L | J4 | 19 | DOWNWIND LEG | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | WATSON | 30 | 14 | | | 41-28682 | 682 | I | Z5 | 23 | UNKNOWN 003 | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | WEBER | 30 | 14 | | L | 42-100365 | 365 | B | 7V | 18 | WOLFGANG (maybe) | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | WELLS | 30 | 16 | | | 42-52441 | 441 | I | J3 | 22 | LAST CARD LOUIE | |
| 27-Apr-44 | BLAINVILLE-SUR-L'EAU M/Y | WOODWARD | 30 | 13 | | | 42-110172 | 172 | D | Z5 | 2 | UNKNOWN 017 | |