

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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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

- a. The assigned primary targets for this visual mission were Blainville and Chalons sur Marne.
- b. 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.
- c. 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 SCRAPPED	199	24	22	25	26	11	24	23	23
B C E S	RT NO. A/C	189	24	20	23	24	10	24	21	22
	LR NO. & TYPE	12x1000GP 2192x500GP	288x500GP	216x500GP 12x1000GP	276x500GP	286x500GP	120x500GP	285x500GP	252x500GP	220x500GP
	WT TONS	554.3	72.0	60.0	69.0	71.5	30.0	71.3	63.0	55.0
	CO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	PT NO. OF A/C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	BR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	RS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	ST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	T	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B A T T L E	TOTAL A/C TAKEN OFF	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 S/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO FLAK - S/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R E S U L T	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED, MISSING, DIED IN ACTION, MISSING, I.	13-0-8-1	-	-	-	4-0-0-1	8-8-8-0	1-0-0-0	-	-
	CLAIMS - S/A DISPATCHED, RECD., 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	-	-
	A/C A-C-2-3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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FORM V-11

27 April

1944

		UNIT	467
A T T R I B U T E	NO. A/C DISPATCHED		24
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED		21
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED		21
	NO. A/C NOT DISPATCHED		3
	NO. A/C SCRAPPED		21
B C O M B U S	NO. A/C		21
	NO. & TYPE	250x500GP	
	TONNAGE		62.5
	HEIGHT		-
	NO. OF A/C		-
B A T T L E	NO. & TYPE		-
	TONNAGE		-
	TOTAL TONNAGE		62.5
	A/C LOST TO FLAK		-
	A/C LOST TO E/A		-
R E S U L T S	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A		-
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT		-
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN		-
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED, SERIOUSLY, LIGHTLY, MIA		-
	CLAIMS - E/A DETERMINED, PROB., DUB., NO CLAIM		-
A/C BATTLE DAMAGE			-
C-47 A-C-2-3			-

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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

ROBSON  
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

ENGELHARDT  
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	