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HEADQUARTERS
28 BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 550

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

635

TARGET

OSWADUCK
HUNSTER

DATE

7 MAY 1944.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

28 BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

- ANNEX 1 - ROUTES
- ANNEX 2 - SCHEDULING
- ANNEX 3 - ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE
- ANNEX 4 - ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS (NONE)
- ANNEX 5 - COMMUNICATIONS
- ANNEX 6 - STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

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HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AAF 147 APO 558: : : : : : : : : :
: S E C R E T :
: By Auth of CG :
: 2d Bomb Div :
: Initials *RS* :
: Date *30 May 1944* :
: : : : : : : : : :

28 May 1944

SUBJECT : Tactical Report of Mission, 7 May 1944.

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

1. Data.

- a. Date of Mission - 7 May 1944.
- b. Primary Targets - Osnabruck - 96th CBW, 2nd CBW "A", 14th CBW.
Munster - 2nd CBW "B", 20th CBW.
- c. Secondary Target - None.
- d. East Resort Target - None.
- e. Units Participating -

96th Combat Wing	- 6 Squadrons	- 12 A/C each	
2nd Combat Wing "A"	- 6 "	- " " "	
14th Combat Wing	- 5 "	- " " "	
	- 1 "	- " " "	from 96th CBW
2nd Combat Wing "B"	- 2 "	- " " "	
	- 2 "	- " " "	from 20th CBW
	- 1 "	- " " "	from 96th CBW
20th Combat Wing	- 6 "	- " " "	"

2. Narrative.

a. 325 aircraft from four Combat Wings were dispatched to attack visually, or through the use of PFF, the cities of Osnabruck and Munster. Four Groups of P-47s provided fighter support.

b. Group and Wing assemblies were accomplished without incident. Some difficulty was experienced at the Division assembly line with the 2nd Combat Wing "B" taking the lead on departure from the English coast. The route was flown generally as briefed.

c. All units bombed in Wang formation on PFF with unobserved results. Due to mistaken identity on the part of the Mickey operators, the 14th Combat Wing bombed Munster instead of Osnabruck and the 2nd Combat Wing "B" attacked Osnabruck instead of Munster.

d. Moderate to intense accurate flak was encountered over Munster and Osnabruck. Some crews reported seeing smoke bombs, which imitated our PFF flares, but they were not as bright and did not leave as large a smoke trail. Heavy gunfire was reported over the northern Ruhr and from barges off the Dutch coast. No enemy aircraft were seen and fighter support was good. Losses were one to flak and none to enemy aircraft. Claims are nil.

For the Commanding General:

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

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Tactical Report of Mission, 7 May 1944.

2. Bombing.

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	PILOT	PLEW AUTO	PIEW MANUAL	RANGE DEFLECT	RANGE RANGE	NUMBER A/C BOMBED
<u>OSNABRUCK</u>										
466			22,000'	0957			X	Dropped on Lead PFF		19 + 1 PFF
467	226		22,000'	0959			X	Dropped on 466-468		25
458	135		22,000'	1000			X	Dropped on 466		26
389	146	9 min.	22,100'	1007		X		Dropped on Lead PFF		28 + 1 PFF + 6 A/C of 445th
453	140		22,000'	1008		X		Dropped on 389th		20
44	146		23,500'	1004			X	Dropped on Spike Bombs		27
<u>MUNSTER</u>										
392	240	7 min.	22,500'	1006			X	Dropped on Lead PFF		20 + 1 PFF + 3 A/C of 44th
445	175	10 min.	22,000'	1005		X		Dropped on Lead PFF		21 + 1 PFF + 6 A/C of 446th
93	150		22,500'	1005		X		Dropped on 445th		23
446	220	10 min.	22,300'	1016			X	Dropped on Lead PFF		29 + 1 PFF
448	200		23,500'	1016			X	Dropped on 445		32

- The assigned primary targets for this mission were Osnabruck and Munster, Germany.
- Osnabruck was attacked by six Groups and Munster was attacked by five Groups. Bombing was done by PFF through 10/10 undercast in Combat Wing formation.
- Four A/C failed to bomb due to the bombardier not seeing the PFF smoke markers. One A/C did not bomb due to the bomb bay doors failing to open. Six A/C did not bomb due to rack malfunctions.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 7 May 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. The 96th Wing encountered a fixed barrage at Osnabruck which appears to have been fairly accurately placed for the 466th and 467th Groups, but was inaccurate for the 458th Group. The 44th, 389th and 455th Groups all encountered inaccurate fixed barrages over the target.
- b. The 392nd Group, which led the attack on Munster, encountered intense and fairly accurate predictor control "unseen" fire over the target. The 445th Group, following closely behind, encountered inaccurate predictor control "unseen" fire which was too low. All Groups in the 20th Wing encountered moderate to intense inaccurate fire over the target which was mainly in the form of a fixed barrage although some predictor control fire was also reported.
- c. Heavy gunfire was encountered on route from the northern Ruhr, and from barges off the Dutch coast.
- d. Several rockets were seen at Osnabruck.
- e. At Munster, white objects resembling tennis balls were observed coming up from the ground leaving a slight smoke trail and bursting into a sort of flare.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 7 May 1944

5. Communications.

- a. VHF R/T communication was excellent, with contacts maintained to enemy coast, and interplane messages intercepted beyond that point. W/T communication failed for a short distance in the vicinity of Control Point three, apparently due to a noticeable skip effect, since communication was restored further along the route. Pathfinder equipment (H2K) was used in each Combat Wing lead aircraft with fair results. Some technical difficulty was experienced in 14th and 2nd Combat Wings; however, recognition of landmarks and target extended to a maximum of 100 miles in one aircraft. Two Groups reported "Window" discharge very effective in reducing accuracy of Flak.

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FORM V-11

7 May 1944

UNIT		2BD	389BG	389SH	445BG	452EG	44BG	392BG	93BG	446BG
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	334	29	5	29	30	30	28	25	30
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	325	28	5	27	29	30	28	24	30
	NO. A/C NOT DISPATCHED	312	28	5	27	28	30	28	23	29
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	22	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	1
	NO. A/C SORTIES	322	28	5	27	29	30	28	24	30
B O M B S	NO. A/C	312	28	5	27	28	30	28	23	29
	NO. & TYPE	6342x100IB 2158x500GP	335x500GP	20x500GP	572x100IB 192x500GP	1454x100IB	1248x100IB 72x500GP	333x500GP	520x100IB 144x500GP	520x100IB 218x500GP
	TONNAGE	856.6	83.7	5	76.6	72.7	80.4	83.3	62	80.5
	TARGET	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NO. OF A/C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NO. & TYPE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TONNAGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	856.6	83.7	5	76.6	72.7	80.4	83.3	62	80.5
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	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 SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, MIA	1-0-2-6	1-0-2-6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB. DOWN, NO CLAIM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	20-2-0-0	-	3-0-0-0	3-1-0-0	1-0-0-0	0-1-0-0	2-0-0-0	-	-	
CAT - C-2-2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

6. INITIAL SORTIES OF DIVISION

REMARKS:
INITIAL SORTIES
28 503 DIVISION

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Page #2

FORM V-11

7 Mar

1944

UNIT		448BG	458BG	466BG	467BG
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKEN OFF	34	29	31	34
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	32	28	30	34
	NO. A/C ATTENDING	32	26	25	31
	NO. A/C NOT ATTENDING	2	3	6	3
	NO. A/C SCRAPPED	32	28	30	31
R T	NO. A/C	22	26	25	31
B C S	NO. & TYPE	416x100IB 287x500GP	311x500GP	246x500GP	1612x100IB
	TORWGL	92.5	77.8	61.5	80.6
	TORGLT	-	-	-	-
	NO. OF A/C	-	-	-	-
	NO. & TYPE	-	-	-	-
	TORWGL	-	-	-	-
	TOTL TORWGL ALL TARGETS	92.5	77.8	61.5	80.6
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO E/A	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A	-	-	-	-
A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-	-	
D E S U L T S	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-	-	-	-
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, MIA	-	-	-	-
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DUB., NO CLAIM	-	-	-	-
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	-	-	5-0-0-0	6-0-0-0
	A/C NOT BATTLE DAMAGED	-	-	-	-

REPORT OF THE
 24th AIRBORNE DIVISION
 24th AIRBORNE DIVISION