

HEADQUARTERS  
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION  
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

<u>FIELD ORDER NO.</u>	<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
665	REIMS A/D REIMS M/Y ROSIERES A/D MONTDIDIER A/D	20 MAY 1944

DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 51009, 27 Sep 58

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2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION  
Office of Assistant Chief of Staff A-2  
AAF 147 APO 558

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: SECRET :  
: By auth, of C. G. :  
: 2d Bomb Division :  
: Initials *SWP* :  
: Date *14 June 1944* :  
: : : : : : : : :  
: 8 June 1944 :

SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, 20 May 1944

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

1. Data..

a. Date of Mission - 20 May 1944.

b. Primary Targets:

Reims A/D - 96th and 20th Combat Wings  
Reims M/Y - 2nd Combat Wing

c. Secondary Targets:

Rosieres A/D - 96th and 20th Combat Wings  
Montdidier A/D - 2nd Combat Wings

d. Last Resort Target - Any airdrome in occupied territory not adjacent to built-up area.

e. Units Participating - 96th CBW (466th, 467th, 458th BG)  
20th CBW (446th, 448th, 93rd BG)  
2nd CBW (445th, 389th, 453d BG)

2. Narrative.

a. 177 aircraft from three Combat Wings, each Wing led by two PFF ships, were dispatched to visually attack the marshalling yards and airdrome at Reims. Three Groups of P-51's and one Group of P-38's provided fighter support.

b. Assemblies were accomplished with difficulty due to contrails and cloud layers. The 448th Group was unable to take off because of fog in the base area. The 93rd and 467th Bomb Groups, after becoming separated from their Wing formation, were forced to abandon the mission and return to their bases; remaining units departed the English coast on time. The route was flown generally as briefed.

c. All Groups visually attacked the assigned primary targets. Three Groups bombed the marshalling yards at Reims with excellent to fair results. Three Groups attacked the airdrome at Reims with excellent to good results.

d. Meager accurate Gunfire was encountered over the target area. Meager Gunfire was seen over Brussels and at the enemy coast. No enemy aircraft were seen and fighter support was excellent throughout the entire mission. Losses and claims were nil.

For the Commanding General:

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

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## TACTICAL BOMBING MISSION REPORT - 20 May 1944

GROUP	DIR. OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLEW AUTO-PILOT	FLEW MANUAL	RANGE & DEFIC. RANGE	NUMBER A/C BOMBED
<u>RHEIMS A/D</u>								
466	220°		18,000'	1122		X	Dropped on Lead PFF	15 / 2 PFF
458	230°	4 min.	19,000'	1123 $\frac{1}{2}$	X		1 1	15
458	240°	3 min.	19,800'	1124 $\frac{1}{2}$	X		1 1	9
446				1125		X	Dropped on Lead PFF	12 / 2 PFF
446	240°	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ min.	21,000'	1125 $\frac{1}{2}$	X		1 2	10
<u>RHEIMS M/Y</u>								
453	233°	3 min.	18,000'	1140		X	Dropped on Lead PFF	9 / 2 PFF / 1 A/C of 467th
453	238°	3 min.	17,700'	1140	X		1 1	10
445	235°	3 min.	18,600'	1141	X		1 1	13
389	240°	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ min.	20,000'	1140	X		1 2	14
389	242°	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ min.	21,000'	1142	X		1 1	11

1. The assigned primary targets for this mission were the A/D at Rheims and the M/Y at Rheims.
2. The Rheims A/D was attacked by three Groups bombing by squadrons and the Rheims M/Y was attacked by three groups bombing by squadrons. The lead group of each wing was led by two PFF A/C. Three groups abandoned the mission to the Rheims A/D due to bad weather conditions. One aircraft of a group which abandoned the mission continued with the mission and bombed with an attacking group on the M/Y at Rheims.
3. One aircraft failed to bomb due to personnel error and two other aircraft failed to bomb due to rack malfunctions.
4. The bombing results of this mission were very good on both targets.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 20 May 1944

3. Anti-aircraft Fire.

a. Reims A/F and M/Y

- (1) The 466th and 458th Groups encountered meager to moderate and fairly accurate predictor control fire during their attack on the A/F, but the 446th Group which was following closely behind encountered only meager and inaccurate fire.
- (2) The 453rd Group led the attack on the Marshalling Yards which took place 15 minutes later, and encountered a fairly accurate predicted concentration. The 389th and 445th Groups encountered meager but fairly accurate predictor control fire.
- (3) Crews estimated that there were approximately 8 guns in the target area.
- (4) Several rockets were seen in the target area, and these were believed to have been fired from a small wood just north of the airfield.
- (5) Meager gunfire was encountered at a few places on route which could not be pinpointed on account of the weather conditions.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 20 May 1944

5. Communications.

a. W/T and R/T channels were satisfactory with the exception of poor reception on base HF/DF channels of two groups. All frequencies in the 3000-5000 Kc band are becoming progressively more crowded. "Window" was discharged by the lead Combat Wing and the lead groups of following Combat Wings. PFF (APS-15) aircraft were dispatched but bombing was visual. Two sets had malfunctions apparently due to poor pressurization and automatic frequency control trouble. One indicated a dead spot on the scope at 280° to the lubber line.

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		20 May 1944								
FORM V-11		2BD	389	389PFF	445	453	93	446	458	466
A I R C R A F T	UNIT									
	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	177	27	6	15	19	15	26	28	25
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	177	27	6	15	19	15	26	28	25
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	126	25	6	13	19	-	22	24	16
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	51	2	-	2	-	15	4	4	9
B O M B S	NO. A/C SORTIES	132	26	6	13	19	-	23	27	17
	NO. A/C	126	25	6	13	19	-	22	24	16
	NO. & TYPE	52x100IB 345x1000GP 636x500GP	150x1000GP	4x1000GP 16x500GP	78x1000GP	113x1000GP	-	220x500GP	240x500GP	160x500GP
	TONNAGE	334.1	75	6	39	56.5	-	55	60	40
	TARGET	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NO. OF A/C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NO. & TYPE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TONNAGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	334.1	75	6	39	56.5	-	55	60	40
	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 SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, MIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PRCB, Dam., NO CLAIMS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	2-3-0-0	1-1-0-0	0-2-0-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0-0-0

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STATISTICAL SECTION  
OPERATIONS

PREPARED BY:  
STATISTICAL CONTROL  
24 BOMB DIVISION

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20 May

1944

FORM V-11

UNIT		467
AIRCRAFT	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	16
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	16
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	1
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	15
	NO. A/C SORTIES	1
RT	NO. A/C	1
BOBS	NO. & TYPE	52x100IB
	TONNAGE	2.6
	TARGET	-
	NO. OF A/C	-
	NO. & TYPE	-
	TONNAGE	-
	TOT. TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	2.6
BATTLE	A/C LOST TO FLAK	-
	A/C LOST TO E/A	-
	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A	-
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-
RESULTS	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, ETC.	-
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DUB., NO CLAIM	-
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	-
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STAFF HEADQUARTERS  
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