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HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

<u>FIELD ORDER NO.</u>	<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
678	Orly Airfield Melun Airfield Creil Airfield	24 MAY 1944

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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

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 :By auth. of C. G. :
 :2d Bomb Division :
 :Initials *ChB* :
 :Date *20 June 1944* :
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 17 June 1944

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HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
 AAF 147 APO 558

SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, 24 May 1944

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

1. Data.

a. Date of Mission - 24 May 1944

b. Primary Targets:

Orly Airfield - 2nd and 20th Combat Wings
 Melun Airfield - 96th and 14th "A" and 14th "B" Combat Wings

c. Secondary Target:

Creil Airfield - All Combat Wings

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

e. Units Participating - 2nd CEW (445th, 453rd, 389th BG)
 20th CEW (93rd, 446th, 448th BG)
 96th CEW (466th, 467th, 458th BG)
 14th "A" CEW (392nd, 492nd BG)
 14th "B" CEW (44th, 492nd BG)

2. Narrative.

a. 386 aircraft from four Combat Wings were dispatched to visually attack the airdromes at Orly and Melun. Five Groups of P-47's provided fighter support.

b. Assemblies were accomplished without incident and the route was flown generally as briefed.

c. Three Groups attacked the A/D with excellent results and six Groups the A/D at Melun with good results. One Group was unable to pick out the assigned MPI due to haze and bombed the secondary target, the A/D at Creil, with good results. One Squadron did not release on the primary target due to danger of dropping on planes beneath and failed to attack the secondary because of a bomb-sight malfunction.

d. Moderate accurate flak was encountered at Orly A/D and at Melun A/D. Heavy gunfire was encountered at Nogent, Neufchatel, Ascheres le Marche, and Meaux; meager gunfire was encountered at Beauvais, Orleans-Ericy, Chateaudun, Abancourt area, southeast of Caen, southeast of Dieppe, Campigne and Fontainebleau. No enemy aircraft were seen and fighter support was good throughout the 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 REPORT OF BOMBING MISSION - 24 May 1944

GROUP	DIR. OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	PLEW AUTO-PILOT	PLEW MANUAL	RANGE & DEFENS.	RANGE	NUMBER A/C LOADED
				<u>ORLY A/D</u>					
445	10°	45 sec.	20,000'	0843	X		3	3	35
453	05°	2 min.	20,000'	0846	X		3	3	32
389	06°	2 min.	20,000'	0847	X		3	3	27 + 1 A/C of 445th
				<u>MELUN A/D</u>					
446	11°	2 min.	19,100'	0855		X	3	3	34
443	354°	5 min.	20,500'	0858	X		2	4	22
466	0°	1 min.	20,000'	0900	X		2	4	26 + 12 A/C of 467th
455	334°	1 min.	19,800'	0902	X		1	1	21 + 8 A/C of 467 + 2 A/C of 466
				<u>OREIL A/D</u>					
93	321°	4 min.	20,000'	0908		X	1	1	23

1. The assigned primary targets for this mission were the A/D at Orly and Melun, France.
2. Orly was attacked by 3 Groups bombing by Squadrons and Melun was attacked by 6 Groups bombing by Squadrons.
3. One Group did not bomb the primary due to haze and smoke but attacked the secondary. One Squadron did not bomb due to a bombsight malfunction. There were two cases of accidental releases before reaching the target. On one, the lead A/C accidentally released and 3 A/C dropped. On the other, one A/C accidentally released and 6 other A/C dropped on this release. One A/C failed to bomb due to a rack malfunction.
4. The results of bombing at Orly A/D were good and results at Melun were good.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 24 May 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. All Groups encountered moderate and fairly accurate predictor control fire during the bombing run on Orly A/F, which was almost certainly coming from Bretigny. Gunfire was meager in the target area and became more intense while the formations were turning away from bombing. It seems probable that there were no guns in the target area, but crews estimated that they were engaged by 12 to 16 guns from the South East side of Paris whilst they were leaving the target.
- b. No Gunfire was encountered at Melun A/F.
- c. The 93rd Group, which attacked Oreil A/F, approached the target from the South East and encountered no Gunfire. However, shortly after leaving the target area meager Heavy Gunfire was encountered which was believed to have come from the vicinity of Clermont.
- d. Moderate Heavy Gunfire was encountered on route at Nogent, Neufchatel, Ascheres le Marche and Meaux.
- e. Meager Heavy Gunfire was encountered on route at Beauvais, Orleans/Bricy, Chateaudun, Abancourt Area, SE of Caen, SE of Dieppe, Compiagne, and Fontainebleau.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 24 May 1944.

5. Communications.

- a. W/T and R/T channels were satisfactory although excessive interference was reported on the base HF/DF channels of two groups. "Window" was discharged by designated groups in the target area. Carpet-blinker equipment was used with apparent success. Operators reported enemy radars changing frequencies when jammed, reverting from tracking to searching and in some cases enemy radar transmissions were shut off completely.

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FORM V-11		Orly A/F		Melun A/F		24 May					1944
UNIT		2BD	389	445	453	44	392	492	93	446	
A I R C R A P T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	386	32	37	33	36	33	26	30	35	
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	386	32	37	33	36	33	26	30	35	
	NO. A/C ATTACHED	342	27	36	32	35	32	32	23	34	
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACHED	44	5	1	1	1	1	4	7	1	
	NO. A/C SORTIES	372	27	36	33	36	32	34	30	34	
B O O B S	NO. A/C	342	27	36	32	35	32	32	23	34	
	NO. & TYPE	2125x100IB 1507x300GP 1891x500GP 553x1000GP	96x500GP	432x500GP	384x500GP	780x300GP	727x300GP	383x500GP	183x1000GP	237x1000GP	
	TONNAGE	1081.6	90.5	108	96	117	109	95.8	91.5	118.5	
	TARGET	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	NO. OF A/C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	NO. & TYPE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	TONNAGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	1081.6	90.5	108	96	117	109	95.8	91.5	118.5	
	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, IA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB. DATA, NO CLAIM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
C.T.	27-3-0-0	2-0-0-0	7-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	4-0-0-0	7-1-0-0	9-0-0-0	1-2-0-0		

6
STANDARD REPORT OF OPERATIONS

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CENTRAL OFFICE
24 MAY 1944

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24 May 1944

FORM V-11

UNIT		448	458	466	467
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	38	23	28	25
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	38	23	28	25
	NO. A/C ATTEMPTING	22	21	28	20
	NO. A/C NOT ATTEMPTING	16	2	-	5
	NO. A/C SOWING	35	22	28	25
B O M B S	NO. A/C	22	21	28	20
	NO. & TYPE	1137x100IB	572x100IB 118x500GP	334x500GP	416x100IB 144x500GP
	WEIGHT	56.9	58.1	83.5	56.8
	TARGET	-	-	-	-
	NO. OF A/C	-	-	-	-
	NO. & TYPE	-	-	-	-
	WEIGHT	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL WEIGHT ALL TARGETS	56.9	58.1	83.5	56.8
	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, IN CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, RECOVERED, DROPPED, NO CLAIM	-	-	-	-	
A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	

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 DIVISION
 24 MAY 1944
 DIVISIONAL OFFICE
 24 MAY 1944