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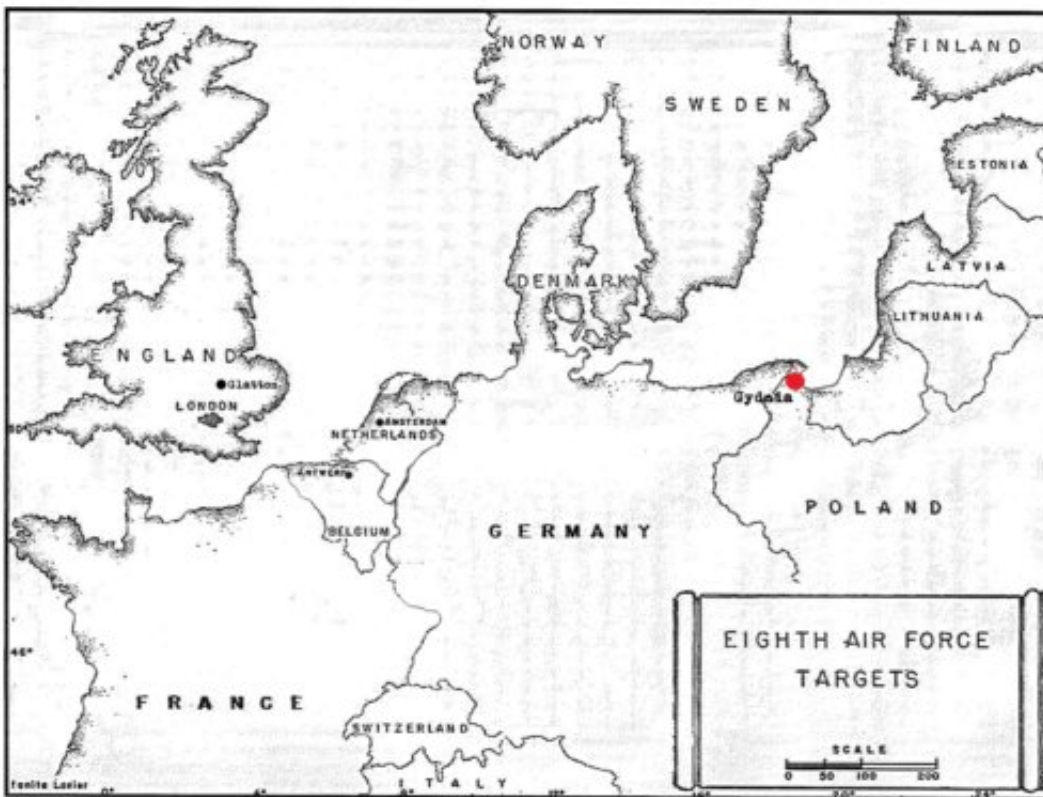
MISSION NO. 23

Missions

TARGET: AIRCRAFT FACTORY

GYDNIA, POLAND

9 APRIL, 1944



A large scale attack was launched against the FW-190 eastern complex of aircraft factories in north central Germany and Poland. Twelve Combat Wings were airborne for the deepest penetration to date.

The 457th's target was an aircraft factory, situated at Rahmel, seven miles from the center of Gdynia, that produced FW-190s. The 457th comprised the 94th A Combat Wing, and led the Wing. U. Col. Henry B. Wilson was Air Commander with pilot Lt. J. L. Smith. In addition, the 457th supplied two squadrons for the high box. Major Fred A. Spencer as the high box leader, with Lt. Jerome E. (Jerry) Godfrey as pilot. The flight route took the Group in a northeasterly direction over the North Sea, across Denmark and the Baltic Sea, and to the target area. Bad weather, which had hampered the Group in England and over the North Sea, caused seven planes to become lost and abort the mission. In addition, four more were lost from the high box and two, having failed to assemble with the Group, aborted when the Group they joined abandoned the mission.

The weather had cleared by the time the formations reached the IP.

A good formation produced a good bomb run, and bombing results were good, in spite of enemy fighter attacks along the run. Flak was moderate over the target.

Immediately after leaving the target, the formation was attacked by waves of FW-190s and Me-109s, coming in from the nose and from the tail. Aircraft piloted by Lt. Amos W. Shepard and Lt.

Robert K. Walker took direct hits, with both being shot down. One member of Lt. Shepard's crew and three of Lt. Walker's crew, including Lt. Walker, failed to survive. The aircraft piloted by Lt. Stuart James took a direct hit, claiming the life of one crew member.

The attacks continued over the Baltic Sea, where Lt. David P. Parks was shot down and seven crew members lost their lives. The attacks continued over Denmark. Lt. Donald G. Karr crashed his badly damaged aircraft at Woodbndge, an English base near the coast.

Gunners from the 457th received credit for three enemy aircraft destroyed, one probably destroyed and one damaged. The mission required eleven hours. The bombing results drew a commendation from the Division Headquarters.

(Compiler Note: For an account of LT. Donald Karr' mission, for which he was awarded the Silver Star, see Chapter 19.)

MISSION NO. 23

April 9th 1944

	748th Squadron		749th Squadron		750th Squadron		751th
	A/C # 591		A/C # 086		A/C # 620		A/C #
p	Lt	Adrian W. Seabock	Lt	Benny M. Flowers	Lt	William F. Rogers	Lt
cp	Lt	Lloyd E. Icenogle	Lt	Harry E. Cameron	Lt	Stanley J. Wolczanski	Lt
n	Lt	Warren B. Speidel	Lt	Marsh Hovey	Lt	Wilbert J. Collard	Lt
b	Lt	William G. Smith Jr.	Lt	Frank H. Pearman	Lt	Dino H. Tonelli	Lt
tt	Sgt	Louis M. Castelucchi	Sgt	William L. Finley	Sgt	Joshua D. Lane	Sgt
ro	Sgt	Frank T. Ingersoll	Sgt	Andrew H. Bouchard	Sgt	Orion H. Shumway	Sgt
bt	Sgt	Leslie B. Reid, Jr	Sgt	William Zamecnik	Sgt	Edward F. Rugg	Sgt
lwg	Sgt	William B. Woodell	Sgt	Ben H. Collingsworth	Sgt	Sol Pollack	Sgt
tg	Sgt	Prosser Jeffreys	Sgt	Reginald W. Buxton	Sgt	David H. Quick	Sgt
	Sgt	Francis E. Cornue	Sgt	Victor U. Meador	Sgt	Ray Jones	Sgt
	A/C # 470		A/C # 629		A/C # 084		A/C #
p	Lt	Bernard V. Conner	Lt	David P. Parks	Lt	Edwin S. Jones	Lt
cp	Lt	Owen B. Coffman	Lt	Floyd E. Grove	Lt	Clyde S. Jolley	Lt
n	Lt	Clement H. Marsden	Lt	William E. Ellerbusch	Lt	Claude H. Sullivan	Lt
b	Lt	Zaven R. Astor	Lt	Edward J. Quinn	Lt	Howard A. Handran	Lt
tt	Sgt	Frank T. Aylstock	Sgt	Don J. Kesselmayer	Sgt	Harry C. Lake	Sgt
ro	Sgt	James A. McCamey	Sgt	Cosmo J. Fazio	Sgt	James A. Martin	Sgt
bt	Sgt	Edward J. Brazinski	Sgt	Ruben H. Halverson	Sgt	Patsy Varrassi	Sgt
lwg	Sgt	Hal H. Willitt	Sgt	Charles M. Kerr	Sgt	Alfred Beacon	Sgt
tg	Sgt	Carl W. Lewis	Sgt	Anthony M. Pasce	Sgt	Ernest W. Kerr, Jr.	Sgt
	Sgt	Leo L. Lange	Sgt	George H. Grebe	Sgt	Kenneth E. Davidson	Sgt
	A/C # 558		A/C # 633		A/C # 075		A/C #
p	Lt	Kenneth W. Burkhart	Lt	Richard J. Dudek	Lt	Robert M. Krumm	Lt
cp	Lt	Noble L. Webster	Lt	Russell M. Dobyns	Lt	Edward R. Stevens	Lt
n	Lt	William B. Wescott	Lt	John F. Moore	Lt	Roland O. Byers	Lt
b	Lt	Julius Venerofsky	Lt	James H. Coonrod	Lt	Charles S. Gelber	Lt
tt	Sgt	John J. Serosky	Sgt	John J. Connell	Sgt	Lawrence J. Walsh	Sgt
ro	Sgt	Samuel B. Goff	Sgt	John Kessock	Sgt	Raymond J. Kristoff	Sgt
bt	Sgt	Carl Tulowitski	Sgt	Alfred A. Sabory	Sgt	Billy E. Hightower	Sgt
lwg	Sgt	Sidney N. Erickson	Sgt	Henri A. Boulay	Sgt	S. Marx	Sgt
tg	Sgt	Howard W. Barrier	Sgt	Harold D. McFarland	Sgt	John D. Barrett	Sgt
	Sgt	T. J. Shields	Sgt	Robert E. Bergeron	Sgt	Anthony Tozzi	Sgt