

HOME

ASSOCIATION

GROUP HISTORY

MISSIONS

PERSONNEL

AIRCRAFT

ME

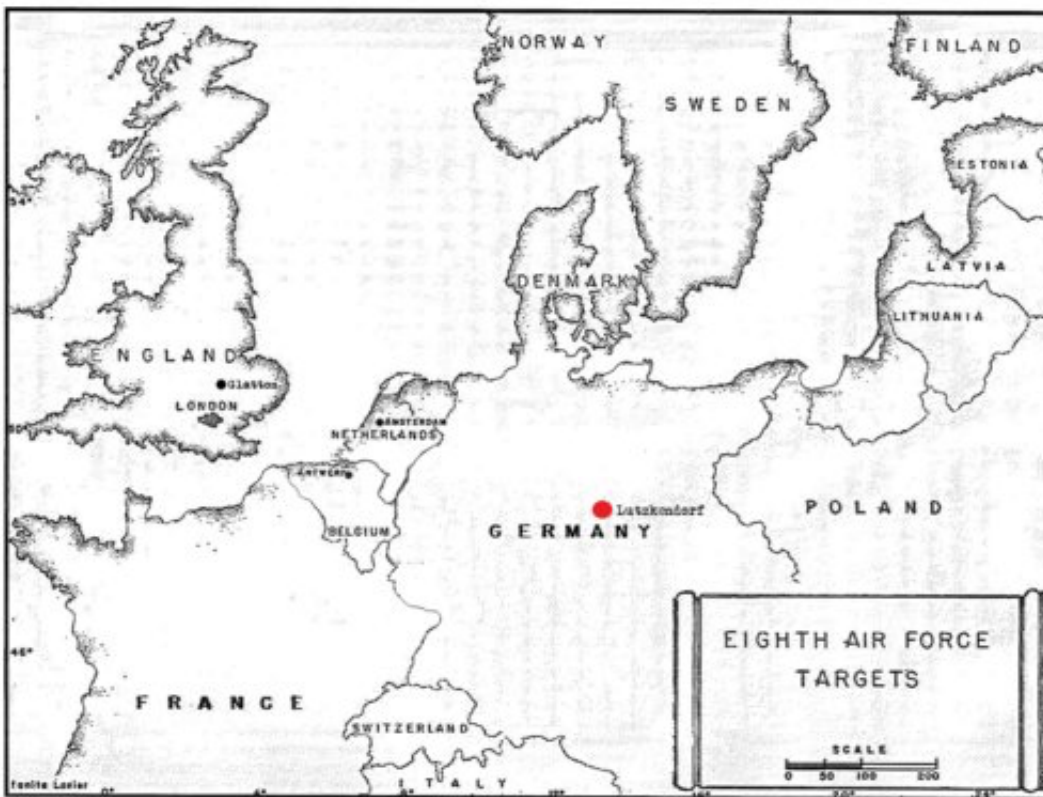
MISSION NO. 44

Missions

TARGET: SYNTHETIC OIL REFENERY

LUTZKENDORF, GERMANY

12 MAY, 1944



Duration of mission 8 hours and 15 minutes

The long awaited blitz on the German synthetic oil refineries occasioned the largest air raid the Eighth Air Force had yet undertaken. The 45 7th furnished the lead and low boxes for the 94th B Combat Wing for the assault on Lutzkendorf, producer of 30,000 tons of petrol and diesel oil annually. The target was six miles west of Merseburg. Major Fred A. Spencer flew as Air Commander of the B lead box with Lt. Jerry Godfrey flying as pilot. Captain Jacob M. Dickinson led the B low box, with Lt. Clarence E. Schuchmann as pilot.

The weather was CAVU, but ground haze and smoke Obscured visibility. Bombing results were fair. No enemy fighter opposition was encountered, and flak was moderate but accurate. Eleven craft sustained damage.

On the return trip to the base, a German operated B-17 joined the formation near Coblenz and continued with the formation to Brussels. Also, the craft piloted by Lt. John Akers encountered engine trouble. His plane began to lag behind the formation and was last seen near Eisenach on the trip back to England. With only one engine providing power and flying at 1,500 feet altitude, the crew bailed out over Belgium and all were taken as POWs. Because of the seriousness of his injuries, Lt. Akers was later involved in a prisoner of war exchange through the International Red Cross and returned to the States. He was hospitalized until May 1946, when he was discharged.

Although the 457th's crews saw no enemy fighters, wings of the 3rd Division met severe attacks, causing the loss of thirty- two bombers. It was reported the Luftwaffe pilots resorted to ramming the B-17s. Total losses for the Eighth amounted to forty-two craft.

The mission was the first of many to be directed against the synthetic oil refineries.

Meanwhile, on the Base, a lack of military courtesy by members of the command was noted. As a consequence, classes were conducted for all personnel reported for having failed to salute. The course consisted of two one-hour lectures on military customs and courtesies.

The crew of Lt John Akers was lost on this date

MISSION NO. 44

May 12th 1944

	748th Squadron		749th Squadron		750th Squadron		751th
	A/C # 101		A/C # 706		A/C # 098		A/C #
p	Lt	Cornelius R. Woolf	Lt	James V. Elduff	Lt	Clarence E. Schuchmann	Lt
cp	Lt	Louis G. Mueller	Lt	Ennis E. Brown	Maj	Jacob M. Dickinson	Maj
n	Lt	Kenneth B. Taylor	Lt	Robert Newcomb	Lt	Alexis P. Umoff	Lt
b	Lt	Gerard J. Hyink	Lt	Ras M. Clausen	Lt	Warren H. Suddath	Lt
tt	Sgt	John L. Batts	Sgt	Norbert A Meeuwsen	Sgt	Joseph I. Hibbs	Capt
ro	Sgt	Samuel I. Craft, Jr.	Sgt	Andrew G. Voytko	Sgt	Robert Bridges	Sgt
bt	Sgt	Alden B. Orr	Sgt	Patrick J. Fusci	Sgt	Harold A. Dusseau	Sgt
lwg	Sgt	Roman A. Zelazo	Sgt	Mildredge C. Doan	Sgt	J. H. Lambert	Sgt
tg	Sgt	Ernest R. Campe	Sgt	Charles R. Carlisle	Sgt	Edgar D. Lanzoni	Sgt
			Sgt	Charles L. Stewart	Lt	Donald K. Goss	Sgt
	A/C # 088		A/C # 001		A/C # 579		A/C #
p	Lt	Paul V. Chapman	Lt	Harry R. Stafford	Lt	Edward B. Dozier	Lt
cp	Lt	James M. Oschier	Lt	Bernard J. Yavorosky	Lt	Richard E. Hoelzer	Lt
n	Lt	William J. McKelvey	Lt	Arthur A. Flach	Lt	Roland O. Byers	Lt
b	Lt	George R. Walker	Lt	Anthony G. Wodek	Lt	John B. Blachley	Lt
tt	Sgt	Kenneth E. Myers	Sgt	Virgil D. Naylor	Sgt	Dwight H. Anderson	Sgt
ro	Sgt	Anthony Marrone	Sgt	Francis M. Craven	Sgt	William C. Young	Sgt
bt	Sgt	Robert S. Wood	Sgt	Virgil R. Hook	Sgt	Frank L. Ridenhour	Sgt
lwg	Sgt	Richard E. Trundy	Sgt	Jean P. Dubois	Sgt	Fredrick L. Exley	Sgt
tg	Sgt	Tom G. Overn	Sgt	Walter H. Osika	Sgt	Charles O. Webber	Sgt
	Sgt	Meldron E. McGibbon	Sgt	John R. Graham	Sgt	Gerald E. Poston	Sgt
	A/C # 055		A/C # 060		A/C # 618		A/C #
p	Lt	Edward J. Reppa	Lt	Robert L. Wetherald	Lt	Edward R. Stevens	Lt
cp	Lt	Aaron J. Ayres	Lt	Francis G. Bogle	Lt	Charles W. Johns	Lt
n	Lt	Curtis J. Overdahl	Lt	Thomas W. Burns	Lt	Claude H. Sullivan	Lt
b	Lt	George R. Stateman	Lt	Alex W. Fisher	Lt	Charles J. Canty	Lt
tt	Sgt	Stephen F. Billisits	Sgt	Cleo F. Corder	Sgt	Stewart C. Moody	Sgt
ro	Sgt	James B. Toney, Jr.	Sgt	John J. Orazem	Sgt	James C. Baum	Sgt
bt	Sgt	John Harmke	Sgt	George Stiller	Sgt	Joseph W. LaBonte	Sgt
lwg	Sgt	Ivan W. Browning	Sgt	Secondo P. Pentacolone	Sgt	James H. Neelan	Sgt
tg	Sgt	Kenneth L. Holder	Sgt	Onnie B. Baskette, Jr	Sgt	James H. Bryant	Sgt
	Sgt	Charles W. Mehring	Sgt	Frank R. Machak			
	A/C # 470		A/C # 087		A/C # 558		A/C #
n	Lt	Harris E. Mathis	Lt	Benny M. Flowers	Lt	Norman W. Breit	F/O