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MISSION NO. 46

Uncategorized

MISSION NO. 46

BERLIN, GERMANY

19 MAY, 1944



The Group sent thirty-six planes comprising the lead and low boxes of the 94th A Combat Wing to Berlin. Targets were government buildings near the center of the city where other targets had previously been bombed.

Lt. Col. Raymond L. Cobb flew as Air Commander of the lead box in a PFF ship. Major George C. Hozier led the low box with Captain Jerry Godfrey as pilot, and Major Theodore C. Hoffman led the high box with Lt. Malcolm E. Johnson as pilot. En route to the target, Me-109s and FW-190s were observed away from the formation. The 109s and 190s peeled off and attacked the low squadron of the lead Group. As a result of the attack, the plane piloted by Lt. Phillip H. Birong was hit and left the formation with two engines on fire. The craft went into a spiral and all the crewmen, except one, successfully bailed out and became POWs.

There was seven-tenths cloud cover over the target area, so bombing was by PFF. Bombing results were fair. Flak was moderate but accurate, damaging seven planes. Fighter Protection was good except for the interval prior to the bomb run. Overall, the Eighth lost twenty-eight aircraft.

The first crew in the Group to do so, Lt. Robert D. Lane, Pilot, completed its tour with this mission, and celebrated by the traditional buzzing of the field and shooting of flares.

The Daily Bulletin called the attention of personnel to military discipline, personal appearance, and other elementary things that should have been learned in basic training. Also, a simulated briefing of combat crews was given for the benefit of all ground personnel.

rwg	Sgt	Norman C. Bonney	Sgt	Mildredge C. Doan	Sgt	John T. Poshefko	Sgt
lwg	Sgt	Michael Stasko	Sgt	Thomas L. Treadwell	Sgt	Howard W. Martin	Sgt
tg	Sgt	Edwin Dempsey	Sgt	Charles R. Carlisle	Sgt	Karl E. Kramer	Sgt

	A/C # 055		A/C # 067		A/C # 620		A/C #
p	Lt	Edward J. Reppa	Lt	Rudolph M. Stohl	Lt	William F. Rogers	Lt
cp	Lt	Aaron J. Ayres	Lt	David W. Schellenger	Lt	Stanley J. Wolczanski	Lt
n	Lt	Curtis J. Overdahl	Lt	John O. Millham	Lt	Wilbert J. Collard	Lt
b	Lt	George H. Stateman	Lt	James E. Thomas	Lt	Con F. Poyner	Lt
tt	Sgt	Stephen F. Billisits	Sgt	Robert C. Kreite	Sgt	Joshua D. Lane	Sgt
ro	Sgt	William L. Black	Sgt	William F. Bemus	Sgt	Orion H. Shumway	Sgt
bt	Sgt	Irving Feldman	Sgt	Walter W. Wagoner	Sgt	John Chumas	Sgt
rwg	Sgt	Kenneth L. Holder	Sgt	Sheldon T. Moore	Sgt	Sol Pollack	Sgt
lwg	Sgt	Charles W. Mehring	Sgt	Erwin A. Welling	Sgt	David H. Quick	Sgt
tg	Sgt	Ivan W. Browning	Sgt	John R. Billington	Sgt	Ray Jones	Sgt

	A/C # 662		A/C # 060		A/C # 568		A/C #
n	Lt	Leonard P. Soenke	Lt	Richard J. Dudek	Lt	Robert D. Lane	Lt

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