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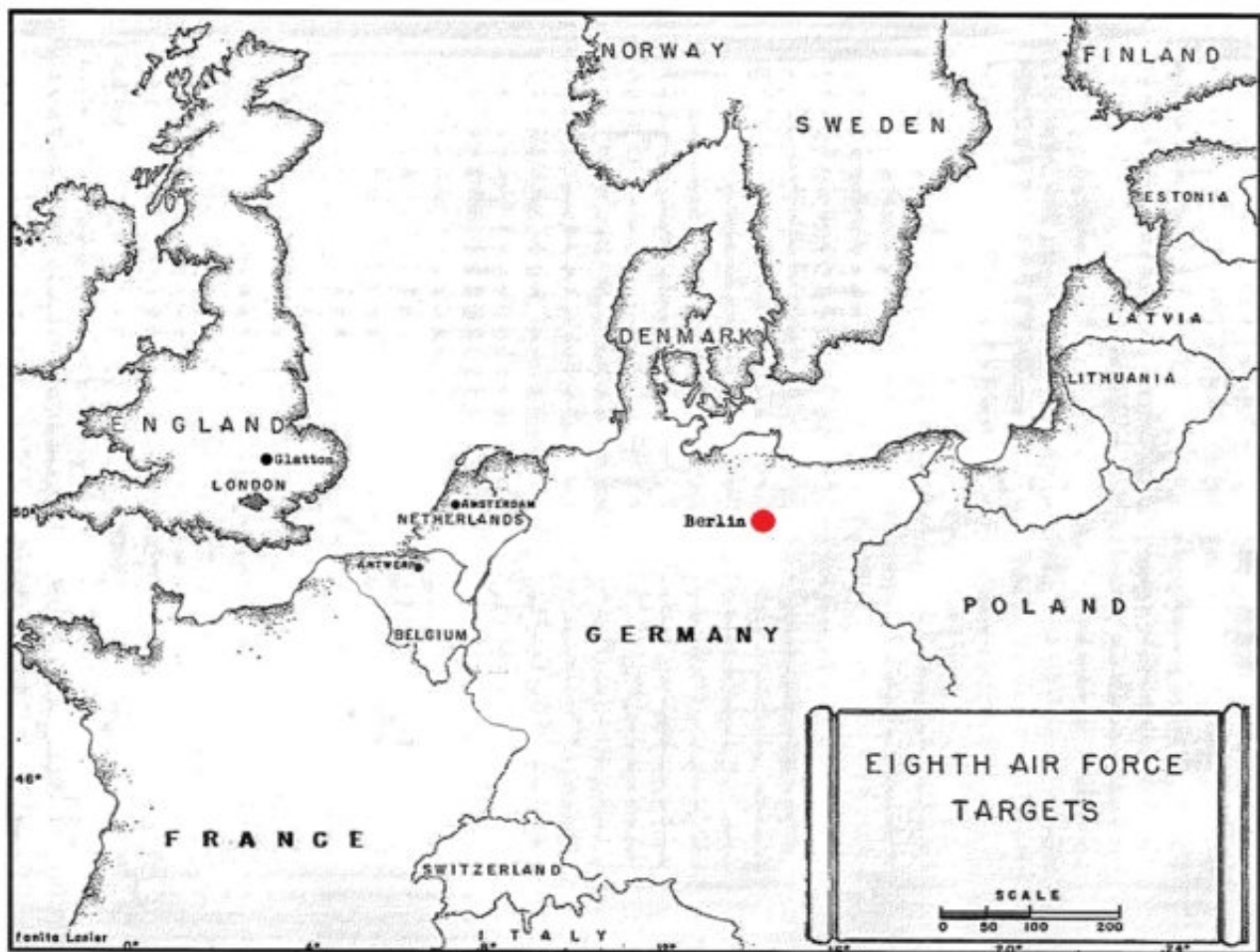
MISSION NO. 9

Missions

TARGET: V.K.F. BALL BEARING WORKS

BERLIN, GERMANY

8 MARCH 1944



Seventeen aircraft returned to Erkner and the VK.F. ball bearing works, this time with excellent results. Ten combat wings, totaling 620 bombers of the Eighth Air Force, were dispatched, accompanied by 500 fighters, the largest number of fighter escort planes assembled to date to escort the bombers. A total of 470 bombers attacked the primary target.

The 457th comprised the low box of the 94th Combat Wing. Major Francis was Air Commander and Lt. Charles D. Brannan was pilot.

The route to the target was flown as briefed. The area surrounding the target was clear and bombing was visual. The factory was blanketed with bombs, which covered the target area with fire and smoke. Other smaller industrial buildings were hit and the railway station was destroyed.

Again the Group was attacked by enemy fighters; however, the friendly fighter support was excellent. Anti aircraft fire was moderate, with nine aircraft sustaining damage. No aircraft were lost.

The lead wing of the 3rd Air Division met fierce fighter Opposition and sustained heavy losses.

MISSION NO. 9

MARCH 8th 1944

748th Squadron		749th Squadron		750th Squadron		751th
A/C # 110		A/C # 613		A/C # 303		A/C #
p	Lt Leonard P. Soenke	Lt	Marsden W. Mattatall	Lt	Edward B. Dozier	Lt
cp	Lt Howard B Collins	Lt	John L. Fowler	Lt	Charles E. Newmeyer	Maj
n	Lt Curtis J Overdahl	Lt	Manford Markowitz	Lt	Alexiss P. Umoff	Lt
b	Lt Albert J. Thompson	Lt	Ralph C. Jordan	Lt	Charles W. Hilton	Lt
tt	Sgt Walter A. Ginter	Sgt	Joseph Waszlerscz	Sgt	Charles J. Coffman	Sgt
ro	Sgt Joseph J. Lukasik	Sgt	Frank R. Machak	Sgt	Hyman Kalb	Sgt
bt	Sgt Lwen L. McDonough	Sgt	Milton F. Rudd	Sgt	Harold I. Reader	Sgt
lwg	Sgt Aaron L. Barris	Sgt	Gilbert C. Goode	Sgt	George Q. Pfeifer	Sgt
rwg	Sgt Arthur J. Kimball	Sgt	Anthony J. Nunes	Sgt	Gerald E. Peston	Sgt
tg	Sgt Prentis A. Cooper	Sgt	Gordon D. Hobson	Sgt	Frank L. Ridenhour	Sgt

A/C # 467		A/C # 548		A/C # 618		A/C #
p	Lt Kenneth W. Burkhart	Lt	Malcolm Johnson	Lt	Robert D. Lane	Lt
cp	Lt Noble L. Webster	Lt	Russell M Dobyns	Lt	Howard E. James	Lt
n	Lt William B. Wescott	Lt	Gabriel D. Ofiesh	Lt	Robert C. Dvorak	Lt
b	Lt Julius Venerofsky	Lt	George Cahelo	Lt	William L. Smith	Lt
tt	Sgt Stephen F. Billisits	Sgt	Joseph Garbett	Sgt	Winfred C. Kincaid	Sgt
ro	Sgt T. J. Shields	Sgt	Wallace C. Nicholson	Sgt	Gervin R. McBride	Sgt
bt	Sgt samuel B. Goff	Sgt	Glenn W. Barnes	Sgt	John E. Misener	Sgt
lwg	Sgt Sidney N. Erickson	Sgt	William Zamecnik	Sgt	Edward A. Bleck	Sgt
rwg	Sgt Edward A. Berrier	Sgt	Leonard A. Smith	Sgt	Joe B. McCall	Sgt
tg	Sgt Carl Tulowitski	Sgt	Wallace D. Cagle	Sgt	James J. Vaughn	Sgt

A/C # 471		A/C #	A/C # 057		A/C #	
p	Lt Kenneth R. Johnston	Lt		Lt	Charles R. Blackwell	Lt
cp	Lt Kenneth W. Brucker	Lt		Lt	Theodore R. Baskette	Lt
n	Lt Herbert N. Webb	Lt		Lt	Irving R. Meyers	Lt
b	Lt William G. Smith	Lt		Lt	Verne M. Boon	Lt
tt	Sgt Nolan V. Claxton	Sgt		Sgt	Thomas W. Howard	Sgt
ro	Sgt Danial A. Malcolm	Sgt		Sgt	Morgan J. Newman	Sgt
bt	Sgt Drancis E. Friedel	Sgt		Sgt	Edward Nabozny	Sgt
lwg	Sgt Edwin D. Waggoner	Sgt		Sgt	Billy L. Dalton	Sgt
rwg	Sgt Paul O. Conner	Sgt		Sgt	Francis W. McCall	Sgt
tg	Sgt Gilbert Slocum	Sgt		Sgt	Clifton H. Harrel	Sgt

A/C # 587		A/C #	A/C # 551		A/C #	
o	Lt Thomas E. Lee	Lt		Lt	Alfred W. Fischer	Lt

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