



## OFFICIAL

Group Vice-President

Phillip G. Day  
237 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71105  
Phone 318-868-6485

Deputy Group Vice-President

Albert A. Muller  
Quinta Coromoto  
Calle Auyantepuy - Chuao  
Caracas 1060 - Venezuela

Everything that was done, that could be done, was pointed for the eventual first mission. It came on 10 April 44.

The alert for the first combat mission came on 9 April 44, just 29 days after the personnel of the Group arrived at Rackheath. Forty-nine of fifty-two of the Group planes were available. After all of the preparation, forethought and check lists, as the crews chosen to fly the mission assembled for briefing it was found that there were no photos of the target at Rackheath and a hurried trip to Horsham had to be made to procure them. When the briefing began, the opidiastroscope would not project the pictures to be shown. This was soon corrected and the briefing continued to its ending without further mishap.

The target was an Airfield at Bourges in Central France. Thirty planes made the mission. Col. Shower led the Group, Major Smith (Group Operations Officer) commanded the second Squadron. The planes carried 6 X 1000# S.A.P. (Semi-Armour-Piercing) bombs each (the two lead ships only four each, but in addition carried sky markers, smoke emitting ballistic devices). Each plane also had aboard 3000 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition. (Does that seem right to you gunners?)

Take offs begin at 0600. After assembly and insertion into the bomber stream and droning across France to the Initial Point (IP) for the bomb run, the first Group bombing effort was made, the results of which were considered very good, however some of one of a squadron's bombs dropped slightly west of the Mean Point of Impact (MPI). Although no planes returned early from the mission, two failed to drop on the target due to mechanical(?) difficulties and two failed for other (?) reasons. Nine bombs were jettisoned on the way out and eighteen were returned to Rackheath. (I know this math does not quite add but that is the Mission Report by the Group Ordnance Officer.)

The time of return of the Group was made known and great numbers of the personnel gathered around the perimeter track to welcome the aircraft home. It was an unusually beautiful day in England, blue skies, bright sun attempting to ward off the chill of the crowd. The ships of the Group flew over the base in perfect formation, thirty dispatched, thirty returned, a feeling of joy and pride, and relief, for those who stayed behind. Neither flak nor fighters had been encountered. The crews on the first mission had had a "milk run". It was a good start.

In April 44 sixteen missions were flown. They are fairly well chronicled in the information I have. These briefly, the first ten, were:

#1 As Above.

#2 11 April 44. Target: Focke-Wolf Factory at Ascherleben (or Oscherleben) Germany. Twenty-six planes, dispatched in three Squadrons, Herzberg led, Palmer had second Squadron, Wallace had third Squadron, attacked target with 1384 X 100# M47 I.B. incendiary bomb clusters on target, 32 clusters on target of opportunity with eleven clusters returned to base. Results-Good, Moderate flak and fighters encountered-No casualties attributed to enemy action, however one plane crash landed in England resulting in death for seven of the crew, that of Lt. Jack M. Skinner, 790th B.S.

#3 12 April 44. Target: Same as Mission #2. Twenty-seven planes loaded with 52 X 100# I.B.s each were dispatched but recalled before penetration into France. One ship jettisoned its load, the others returned theirs to base.

#4 13 April 44. Target: Airdrome Installations at Lechfeld, Germany. Twenty-eight planes took off, one aborted during assembly. The load was again 100# I.B. clusters, 1456 clusters dispatched. Of these 1196 were dropped on primary target, 117 were dropped in Germany on targets of opportunity and 13 others in the Channel. Smith led the Group, Garner the second Squadron. Results were not good, one Squadron 3000 ft. SE of the MPI, the other 2000 ft. E of MPI. Moderate flak and fighter opposition was encountered and considerable battle damage occurred. One ship was lost, last seen going down in the direction of Switzerland with a fire in the left wing (Lt. Ernest Calvori's Crew) under control, no parachutes. (Note: Calvori and Abel J. Williams KIA, L. M. Haines MIA, Fisher, Evans, Bush, Strout, Bigelow, Robb, Ellison POW.)

#5 17 April 44. Target: "No Ball" Installation at W. Zernes, France. Ten aircraft carrying 80 X 1000# General Purpose (GP) bombs dispatched at 1350 to attack German V-1 weapon site. Nine bombed through overcast (PFF) in three ship elements- 8 X 1000# bombs returned to base in one ship-Unobserved results-Light inaccurate flak-No fighter opposition-No losses or casualties.

#6 18 April 44. Target: Aircraft factory at Brandenburg, Germany. Twenty-seven planes loaded with 1352 X 100# led by Shower, Palmer second Squadron. Two ships returning early due to engine malfunctions dropped in Germany, another dropped on Heligoland and another jettisoned in North Sea. Twenty-three dropped on target with fair results. No enemy aircraft were encountered and meager to moderate flak caused no damage or casualties.

#7 19 April 44. Target: Airfield at Paderborn, Germany. Twenty-seven aircraft were dispatched and reached target, carrying 1062 X 100# GP and 4 X 100# M47 IB. Smith led Group, Holdrege Second Squadron. Results were fair, some bombs on MPI but majority 1000' to 2500' short of MPI - Meager flak-No fighters-No losses or casualties.

#8 20 April 44. Target: "No Ball" at Siracourt, France. Fourteen aircraft with 112 X 1000# GP bombs took off and flew to target. The lead ship was hit by flak as it approached "bombs away" and did not drop, no second run over target was permitted. Remaining aircraft did not drop as consequence. Eight bombs were jettisoned in Channel by the lead ship, remainder returned to Base - No enemy fighters but intense accurate flak caused widespread damage to aircraft-Lt. Oliver W. Snook, CP of lead ship, KIA.

#9 21 April 44. Target: Aircraft factory at Zwicau, Germany. Thirty-two aircraft took off carrying 500# GPs and 100# IBs. Mission was recalled when assembly could not be effected due to icing and other weather conditions.

#10 22 April 44. Target: Marshalling (Rail) Yard at Hamm, Germany. Twenty-eight aircraft dispatched with 142 X 500# GP and 700 X 100# IB. Twenty-six dropped on primary target, 132 X 500# GP and 678 X 100# IB. One plane dropped 10 X 500# GP on village at IP, another dropped 52 X 100# IB on another small

village due to bomb door trouble. Shower led the Group, Garner the second Squadron. Results were very good. Heavy flak was encountered into and out from target. No enemy aircraft opposition was encountered over Germany, however several German aircraft followed the formation back to Rackheath. (Take off was 1530-Return was very late in evening.) Twin engine and single engine enemy fighters attacked the Group's planes as they landed resulting in two aircraft crashing and fifteen deaths. (Lt. James A. Roden's crew, 788th and five of Lt. Stalie C. Reed's crew, 791st.) Strafing and bombings by the enemy fighters resulted in the deaths of Daniel E. Miney and Michael P. Mahoney, Ground Crewmen.

Well, thats ten down, two hundred eleven to go. No, I won't (can't) detail even this much of the remainder of the missions. I will write of some additional highlights in future Poop, some I know about first hand. Your input is invited and encouraged.

BITS AND PIECES

When I wrote home to my wife after Thanksgiving Day, 1944, I said that I had been on a flight that day, and on going to the Combat Mess to eat, had been given only a turkey wing and a small amount of dressing. Now I know why! Adam Soccio, cook in the 467th BG, was probably not the most exemplary soldier in the US of A, and probably will be first to admit it, BUT lets hear what Adam has to say.

"On Thanksgiving Eve, 1944, I was on the 7 PM to 7 AM shift, we had twenty turkeys to prepare, in the Officer's Mess, across from the Combat Mess. There were cooking these turkeys, Robinson, me and a KP's name I can't recall. The chap (?) who took care of the Officer's Club, and had the keys to the store room, etc, took out a bottle of Scotch and we all partook of it, several drinks each and thus enjoyed the cooking of the turkeys all the more. In the early morning, a GI came to the mess hall door, I was in the kitchen minding the turkeys. Robinson went to the door and then came to tell me that the (this) GI wanted to buy two turkeys. I said "Okay, let him have them," which we did. And we split the loot. (Unspecified - Editor)

Later on in the morning, Sgt, Barilich came in to check on the turkeys. He counted and recounted but could only come up with eighteen. Back and forth he went, counting, until he asked me, "Weren't there twenty turkeys?" I answered, in a very dumb and bewildered manner, "Who knows what happened with moving them over here and all that. I don't know." We didn't get caught!!"

At a reunion in 1965, Lloyd Haug talked about buying two cooked turkeys in 1944, Adam told him, "It was Robinson and me you bought them from."

Adam, Lloyd, you owe me! White meat, dark meat, dressing, giblet gravy!!

BUT, let me tell you of my Christmas 44 meal. These are in letters to my wife, Cille, and my family, no made up stuff. (I told you I was going to write of the Mess facilities and personel.) I have in hand the menu for Christmas Day, 1944.

- |                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Fruit Juice - Orange or Tomato |                 |
| Fruit Salad                    | Cranberry Sauce |
| Giblet Gravy                   | Pickled Relish  |
| Sage Dressing                  | Pumpkin Pie     |
| Mashed Potatoes                | Hard Candy      |
| Creamed (?) Peas               | Fruit - Apples  |
| Scalloped Corn                 | Bread & Butter  |
|                                | Coffee          |

All brought to US courtesy of the United States Army Air Force and,

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Charles R. Boucher | Mess Officer            |
| J. W. VanKoten     | Combat Mess Officer     |
| W. H. Barber       | EM Mess Officer         |
| R. H. Pratt        | WAAF Site Mess Officer  |
| Forest D. Ulrich   | Combat Mess Sergeant    |
| John F. Upchurch   | EM Mess Sergeant        |
| Vagn Poulsen       | WAAF Site Mess Sergeant |

Now, the rest of those mothers who fed us, come hell or high water, (I'm sorry I don't have anything but the last names - HELP!).

ENLISTED MEN'S MESS

- |             |              |              |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| S/Sgt. Ward | Walters      | Meachem      |
| Sgt. Bennet | Willis       | Myers        |
| Cunnett     | Wupten       | Poplus       |
| Evans       | Cpl. Buzzio  | Sarmack      |
| Griffin     | Conroy       | Stewart      |
| Lacker      | Davis        | PFC. Udall   |
| Richter     | Garby        | PVT. Glucker |
| Tankersly   | Grechowalski | Reagan       |
| Villereal   | Lecefield    |              |

COMBAT MESS

- |               |            |                |
|---------------|------------|----------------|
| Sgt. Anderson | Thomas     | Lamb           |
| Barilich      | Tnude      | Manhard        |
| Cruna         | Turman     | Overton        |
| Cummings      | Ward       | Richards       |
| Davidson      | Cpl. Balog | PFC. Pamberton |
| Leigh         | Cassione   | Turmol         |
| McGrail       | Gunnerson  | PVT. Robinson  |
| Minzenmayer   | Hardy      | Sigic          |
| Podgott       | Hudson     | Sizemore       |
| Rush          | James      | Soccio         |
| Scroggs       | Kupas      | Ward           |

WAAF SITE MESS

- |                 |              |                |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| S/Sgt. Kirkland | Cpl. Butards | T/5 Carter     |
| Sgt. Bradshaw   | Carter       | Franciscans    |
| Dale            | Ellis        | Priest         |
| Lee             | Lewis        | PFC. Kramarick |
| Markley         | Polosh       | PVT. Munkirs   |
| Tletszk         | Roberts      | Neimezek       |

I wrote home on 27 December 44 that I had had a big Christmas dinner, that it was especially good. I wrote "I had turkey, dressing, giblet gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, cranberry sauce, other vegetables, fruit juice, cake, coffee, etc."

Thanks, all of you mess hall personel for your untiring efforts to keep me (us) fed.

Tony North, 62 Turner Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 4HB, England, would like to borrow, copy and return any Group aircraft pictures that you have for his book on the 96th Combat Wing.

Only 70 of 650 information and convention poll sheets returned. Spend 5 minutes and 20¢ and send them back to me please.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PAINTING OF "WITCHCRAFT" WILL TAKE PLACE AT 2 PM OCTOBER 22, 1982 AT SAN DIEGO AERO-SPACE MUSEUM. COL. SHOWER WILL BE THE PRESENTOR FOR THE 467th BG. ALL YOU IN THE VICINITY MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO ATTEND

Phillip G. Day  
237 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Shreveport, LA. 71105

MC 2880



467th  
Bomb Group



FRANK S WATSON  
8013 KRIM NE 7208 AZTEC RD, NE  
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87109 \*\*  
87110