

*Missions flown by: -*

*Lt Robert D Sharp*  
*Pilot*

*860<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron*  
*493<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group (H)*



*“The Fighting 493<sup>rd</sup>”*

*Researched & Compiled by Darren Jelley*  
*Including data supplied by David Schmitt*

*493<sup>rd</sup> BG Researcher/Historian.*  
*The Fighting 493<sup>rd</sup> BG Association*

# Summary of Missions

Details of this “**Missions Flown Query**” are taken mainly from the original documents of the 493<sup>rd</sup> BG. These are referred to as the **DS DOCS** which are kindly shared by David Schmitt from his personal collection.

The position flown by any member of the crew is taken from the consolidated loading lists (CLL's). Whilst it is acknowledged that on occasions crew members would fly in alternative positions, in this document the positions shown on the CLL's are used.

**Mission** - the mission number according to the 493<sup>rd</sup> BG records      **Date** – Date of mission

**Target** - Name of the Primary Target, or that of the target that was attacked by the Group

**Type** - Target type      **Time** – Duration of the mission from Take-off to Landing

**MACR** - The missing Air Crew Report number (if appropriate)

“xfer” indicates this was the last mission of the aircraft with the 493<sup>rd</sup> BG

**Ship** – including short and full serial number & call letter of the aircraft, plus name (if known)

**Position** – the position flown in the formation. A = Lead, B= High and C = Low squadron.

Hardstand is the location of the aircraft on the ground for that mission.

\* indicates the hardstand was at Little Walden (March 1945 only)

**Type** – type of aircraft flown B-24 Liberator or B-17 Flying Fortress

**Sqdn** – the squadron the aircraft was attached to

**No Sortie** - if the box is ticked the mission did not count toward the crews final mission count. It usually indicates that the crew either aborted before they reached enemy territory, or the mission was scrubbed.

**Bomb load** – Quantity and type of bombs carried

**AC** – Command Pilot .... found on lead aircraft only. He would normally occupy the co-Pilots seat

**P** – Pilot.      **CP** – co-Pilot. (if a Command Pilot was carried, the co-Pilot would usually fly in one of the gunner's positions. Waist, Top Turret or Tail indicated by Co-PILOT in that position)

**N** – Navigator (may also refer to dual role Navigator/Bombardier – a Bombardier or a Navigator trained in both roles)      **N2/PN** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Navigator or Pathfinder Navigator (carried on lead aircraft only) flew in nose turret on B-24's – indicated by PN-NAV in the NT position

**NSP/MO** Mickey Operator/Radar Navigator (lead Pathfinder aircraft only)

**B** – Bombardier      **B2/IB** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Bombardier/instrument Bombardier

**TOG** - enlisted man trained to release the bombs, guided by the lead aircraft release.

**R** – Radio Operator      **E** – Flight Engineer      **NT/NG** – Nose Turret Gunner (B-24) or Nose Gunner (B-17) if Navigator/Bombardier carried.      **BT** – Ball Turret Gunner      **WG** – Waist Gunner      **TG** – Tail Gunner

**TT** – Top Turret Gunner      **G** – Gunner not assigned to or listed in any specific role

**RCM** – Radio Counter Measures Operator (Radar Jammer) carried on specific aircraft equipped for role

**F** – Aerial Photographer      **PAX1 & PAX2** passengers, (usually non combat personnel)

**Crew notes** refer to the individual aircraft shown for that mission. These notes come from official reports or were made by members of the crew in personal diaries or memoirs.

**Mission Notes** relate to the mission for that day.

**DS DOCS** are the personal documents held for the individual, covering arrival, assignments, promotion etc

**MOS** is the Military Occupation Speciality (Job description) for the subject of this document. Where the subject undergoes re-classification more than one MOS may be shown.

**NOTE: all dates are in UK format i.e. Day/Month/Year as used by the ETO military forces at the time**

# "DS DOES"

1623 44/10 31/10/1944 Listed Officers Roster  
1830 44/10 31/10/1944 SO #181 assigned from 70th Repl Depot further assigned 862 BS  
0383 44/11 30/11/1944 Listed Officers Roster  
0809 44/12 31/12/1944 Listed Officers Roster  
1146 45/01 10/01/1945 Listed promoted from 2/Lt to Lt  
1185 45/01 31/01/1945 Listed Officers Roster  
1612 45/02 28/02/1945 Listed Officers Roster  
1787 45/02 15/02/1945 SO #46 transfer from 862 BS to 860 BS  
1822 45/02 26/02/1945 SO #57 TD to AAF Rest Home AAF Sta 557 9 days  
0144 45/03 31/03/1945 listed Officers Roster  
0994 45/05 listed released to Zone of Interior May 1945

## Mission Occupational Specialty (MOS)

### PILOT, B-17 (1091)

Pilots B-17 aircraft and commands crew in the accomplishment of offensive missions against the enemy.

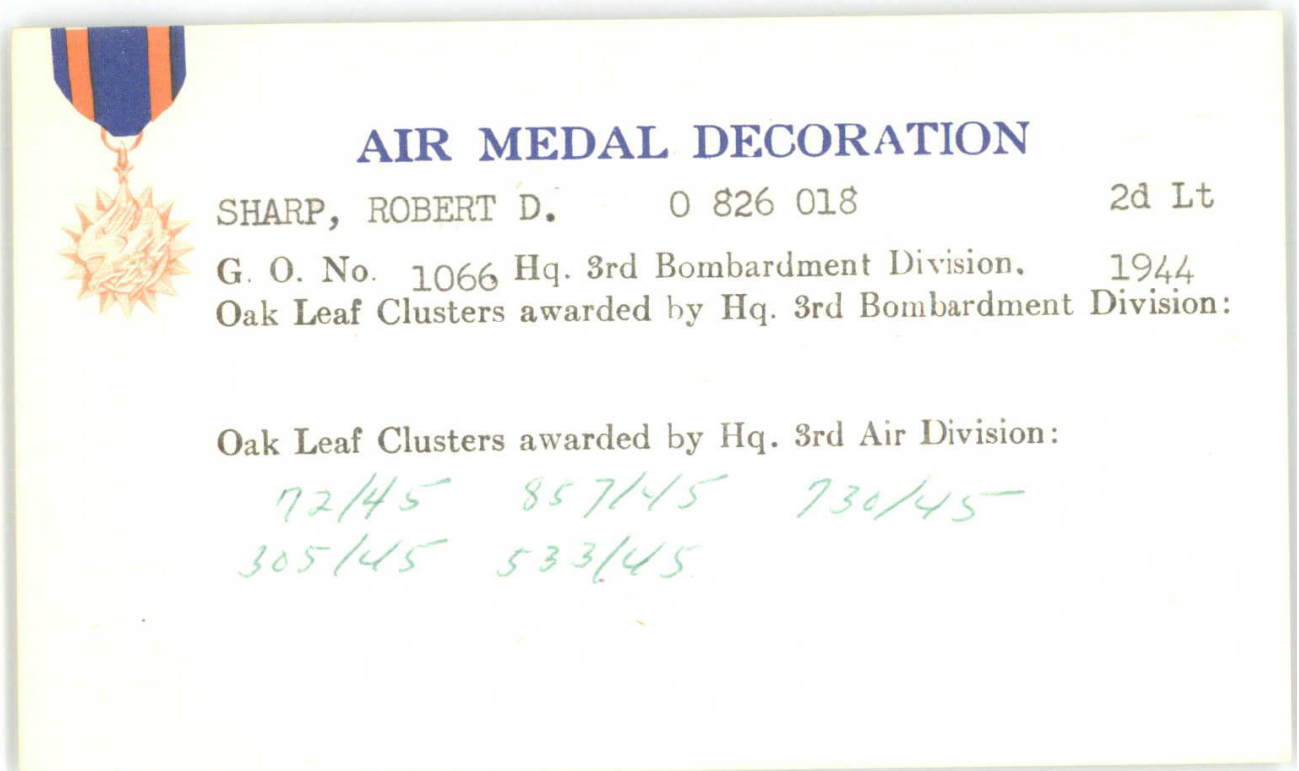
Ascertains, prior to mission, that aircraft has been properly inspected by crew members; takes off, operates, and lands airplane under varying flying conditions and such hazards as adverse weather, enemy attack, and low-altitude and night flying; maintains flight records and reports observations made during mission.

Must have thorough knowledge of general and local flying regulations and meteorology.

Must know tactics used against various types of objectives and against hostile fighter attacks.

Must meet prescribed physical standards.

Must be a rated pilot and have completed transition and tactical training in B-17 aircraft.



Mission 493/8AF	079	702	Date: 05-Nov-1944	Bomb Load:	6 x 1000lb GP
Target:	Ludwigshafen, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR: <input type="text"/>
Type:	I.G. Farben chemical plant			TOG:	<input type="text"/>
Ship:	232	M	43-38232	R:	Sirianni Michael A
	Proud Pappy			E:	Greenlee Lynn D
position:	C#10	H/stand (* = L.W.)	24	NT/NG:	<input type="text"/>
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 862	Hrs 06:50	BT:	Levlocke Nicholas (Jr)
AC:	<input type="text"/>			WG:	Salomon Theodore H
P:	WRIGHT JAMES T			TG:	DuVall Quentin L
CP:	SHARP ROBERT D			TT:	<input type="text"/>
N:	SMITH WAYNE E			G:	<input type="text"/>
N2/PN:	<input type="text"/>			RCM:	<input type="text"/>
NSP/MO:	<input type="text"/>			F:	<input type="text"/>
B:	JOHNSON WILLIAM A (Bdr)			PAX1:	<input type="text"/>
B2/IB:	<input type="text"/>			PAX2:	<input type="text"/>
Crew Notes	<div></div>				

Mission details

Ludwigshafen was listed as the secondary target. The primary target was ground troop support in the Metz area (Thionville, France).

36 aircraft from the 493rd BG plus 2 PFFs from the 34th BG flew on this mission. Formation was unable to bomb the primary target due to 10/10 cloud cover. Visibility over the Secondary target was good. Smokescreen over Ludwigshafen reported as being "not too effective". "B" squadron reported "an excellent heavy smoke screen further obscured the city."

A & C squadrons hit one mile north of the target.

Results of B squadron unobserved. Due to malfunction, bombs released late and fell across the river in Mannheim.

From Charles E Wood diary - bombed engine plant near Ludwigshafen

From Thelbert W Niehoff & Curtis W Miller diaries - Chemical plant

bomb load 6 x 1000lb GP's

Flak in the target area was reported to be intense - accurate - tracking and barrage fire. Three to five inaccurate rockets were fired from the Ludwigshafen area. In the area of 4921 - 0626, four rockets described as accurate were fired.

Several crews reported 2 or 3 vertical vapor trails at considerable distance from the formation, at approximate location 4923-0615 at 1055 hours. The trails were reported to be at altitudes ranging from 30,000 to 35,000 feet.

Aircraft lost

43-38359 Hit by flak over the target. No 2 engine was hit and caught fire, the propellor spun off.

43-38264 was hit by the same bursts of flak as 43-38359. No3 engine was hit and caught fire.

Mission 493/8AF	080	704	Date: 06-Nov-1944	Bomb Load:	20 x 250lb GP
Target:	Neumunster, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	
Ship:	377	F	43-38377	R:	Jones Richard S
	Grim Reaper			E:	Wahl Jack H
position:	C#12	H/stand (* = L.W.)	20	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 862	Hrs 07:15	BT:	Lambert Paul J
AC:				WG:	Bovo Vincent J
P:	LEWIS RICHARD B			TG:	Silver Richard L
CP:	SHARP ROBERT D			TT:	
N:	BURRIS FRANK I			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:	MORGAN ALEXANDER L			PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>36 aircraft from the 493rd BG plus 2 PFFs from the 34th BG attacked the Marshalling yard at Neumunster, Germany. Group S3 report indicates "all (aircraft) passed over the Primary target, but only 35 from the 493rd plus 2 PFF's from the 34th BG were able to release their bombs on the target" . Lead navigator's report also shows "bombs were away at 1040 on the primary target". Lead bombardier's narrative states "the assigned secondary target was bombed", but in the disposition of bombs he then states ".....were in formation as they passed over the primary target"</p> <p>The target was hit through cloud cover so results were unobserved. 1 aircraft was unable to release its bombs on time over the primary target, so bombed a target of opportunity - an airfield, at 5430N 0903E, the bombs hitting what appeared to be a barracks area.</p> <p>Flak at the target (5405N 0957E) was reported as being moderate, inaccurate, tracking and barrage. Over Kiel, about 20 rockets were seen.</p> <p>Bomb load 20 x 250lb GP's</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	082	715	Date: 16-Nov-1944	Bomb Load:	Lead 22 x 260lb fragmentation plus 2 x skymarker wing 24 x 260lb M-81 fragmentation
Target:	Duren, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Ground support			TOG:	
Ship:	477	S	44-6477	R:	Neal Roy A
position:	C#05	H/stand (* = L.W.)	27	E:	Pucarelli Fred V
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 862	Hrs 06:50	NT/NG:	
AC:				BT:	Howe Charles M
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			TT:	
N2/PN:				G:	Weber Valentine J
NSP/MO:				RCM:	
B:				F:	
B2/IB:				PAX1:	
				PAX2:	
Crew Notes	Landed Woodbridge - Weather				
Mission details	<p>36 aircraft from the 493rd BG plus 2 PFF aircraft from 34th BG left England to bomb the primary target, designated as "Area Number Two" behind the enemy lines in Duren, Germany. The bomb run was made at an altitude of 21,000 feet. PFF was used instead of micro-H for bombing. Recognition signals and navigation aids definitely established the bomb line as briefed, and bombs were away at 1136.</p> <p>"A" squadron led the formation, followed by "B" squadron 500 feet higher, and then "C" squadron flying 500 feet below the lead squadron. All aircraft dropped on the smoke markers of the lead pathfinder.</p> <p>Results were not observed due to 8-10/10 cloud coverage. Flak was meagre and inaccurate, and a sharp turn was made to the RP, starting let down to 10,000 feet. The Group landed at Woodbridge emergency airfield due to heavy fog over Debach. The FIDO system was in operation. All aircraft landed without difficulty.</p> <p>Bomb load 24 x 260lb M-81 fragmentation. Lead aircraft carried 22 x 260lb fragmentation bombs plus 2 x skymarker smoke bombs each.</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	086	725	Date: 26-Nov-1944	Bomb Load:	PFF aircraft 10 x 500lb GP & 2 x skymarker wing 12 x 500lb GP
Target:	Primary Hamm, Germany TOO Bielefeld, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	
Ship:	226	B	43-38226	R:	Neal Roy A
	Spoilt Baby			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	B#12	H/stand (* = L.W.)	12	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 862	Hrs 05:55	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Weber Valentine J
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:	JOHNSON WILLIAM A (Bdr)			PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes	Spare aircraft replaced 228 2-D-27				
Mission details	<p>25 aircraft including 2 PFFs departed Debach for the Primary target of Hamm in Germany. The target was covered by 9/10 undercast, and, due to interference from another group, the decision was taken to proceed to the target of last resort, the marshalling yards at Bielefeld.</p> <p>The PFF equipment in the lead of "A" squadron was inoperative so the High "B" squadron took over the lead and the the 493rd BG bombed in Group formation, on the smoke markers of the "B" squadron lead PFF.</p> <p>24 of the 27 aircraft successfully bombed the target and returned to base.</p> <p>Very little flak was encountered on this mission.</p> <p>Bomb load 12 x 500lb GP's lead PFF aircraft carried 2 x skymarker bombs and 10 x 500lb GP's each</p> <p>Notes</p> <p>The 493rd BG Pathfinder aircraft are now based at Debach</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	087	729	Date: 29-Nov-1944	Bomb Load:	6 x 1000lb GP
Target:	Hamm, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	
Ship:	282	H	43-38282	R:	Neal Roy A
	Sweeny's Brats			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	A#11	H/stand (* = L.W.)	30	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 862	Hrs 05:55	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Weber Valentine J
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	Schmidt Robert W
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:	JOHNSON WILLIAM A (Bdr)			PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>38 aircraft including 2 PFFs left the base and 36 aircraft bombed the secondary target, the marshalling yard at Hamm, Germany. Target was bombed using H2X radar technique. Equipment in lead "A" squadron PFF aircraft failed shortly after take off, so lead was handed to "B" squadron PFF crew.</p> <p>With just one PFF equipped aircraft operational, target was attacked in Group formation. Mickey Operator believes bombs fell north of the center of the M/Y.</p> <p>Crew reported what were apparently two J/P's in mild vertical climbs , at 5158N - 0643E, and 5209N - 0633E respectively, at 1247 and 1327 hours. These a/c were at a considerable distance from the formation.</p> <p>Rockets were fired in series of three to four at the target area, but were inaccurate. Continuous pointed, moderate, inaccurate to accurate flak at 5237-0437. Moderate, accurate barrage fire at Hamm.</p> <p>Bomb load 6 x 1000 GP's</p>				



Mission 493/8AF	088	731	Date: 30-Nov-1944	Bomb Load:	lead aircraft 18 x 250lb Gp & 2 x skymarker wing aircraft 20 x 250lb GP
Target:	Merseburg, Germany			No Sortie:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Synthetic oil refinery (Leuna)			TOG:	
Ship:	223	A	43-38223	R:	Neal Roy A
	Day's Pay			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	B#05	H/stand (* = L.W.)	32	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn:	862	Hrs	08:00
AC:					
P:	SHARP ROBERT D				
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A				
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R				
N2/PN:					
NSP/MO:					
B:	JOHNSON WILLIAM A (Bdr)				
B2/IB:					
Crew Notes	aborted - unable catch formation after change of a/c (this was a replacement to a/c 44-8424 details unknown) returned 20 x 250lb GP's to base				
Mission details	<p>37 aircraft, including 2 pathfinders, took off from the base. 34 of these aircraft passed over and bombed the secondary target at Merseburg.</p> <p>The 490th BG and 34th BG flew south of the briefed course, and continued 15 miles beyond the briefed IP. To avoid flying a collision course the 493rd lead aircraft continued approximately 10 miles over the IP. Clouds, poor visibility and dense smoke screens were encountered.</p> <p>The lead bombardier's narrative for this mission states that photo results for "A" squadron show that the target hit was the Braumkokle-Benzin A.G. At Zeitz, Germany. 5104N 1209E</p> <p>"B" squadron continued north after "A" &amp; "C" squadrons released, as the mickey operator identified they were still short of the target. Bombs were released on the smoke screen at the center of the target.</p> <p>Flak was intense &amp; accurate Tracking and barrage</p> <p>Lost aircraft 43-38739 was lost due to battle damage near the enemy lines.</p> <p>Battle damage (44/11 HPIM1783) - number of hits 43-38218 x1, 44-8314 x 1, 44-6467 x 1, 43-38195 x 2, 44-8352 x 64</p> <p>Bomb load lead aircraft 18 x 250lb Gp's &amp; 2 x skymarkers. Wing aircraft 20 x 250lb GP's</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	090	741	Date: 06-Dec-1944	Bomb Load:	lead aircraft 18 x 250lb GP & 2 x skymarker wing aircraft 20 x 250lb GP
Target:	Merseburg, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR: <input type="text"/>
Type:	Synthetic oil refinery (Leuna)			TOG:	<input type="text"/>
Ship:	226	B	43-38226	R:	Neal Roy A
	Spoilt Baby			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	CS#03	H/stand (* = L.W.)	12	NT/NG:	<input type="text"/>
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 862	Hrs 07:30	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:	<input type="text"/>			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	<input type="text"/>
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	<input type="text"/>
N2/PN:	<input type="text"/>			RCM:	<input type="text"/>
NSP/MO:	<input type="text"/>			F:	<input type="text"/>
B:	JOHNSON WILLIAM A (Bdr)			PAX1:	<input type="text"/>
B2/IB:	<input type="text"/>			PAX2:	<input type="text"/>
Crew Notes	composite squadron flew with 34th BG Landed Woodbridge - FIDO				
Mission details	<p>38 aircraft including 3 PFFs left the base, 37 aircraft passed over and bombed the Oil Refinery at Merseburg, the secondary target.</p> <p>Two minutes before the IP the lead aircraft was informed that there was 10/10 cloud cover over the primary target. The primary was to be attacked only under visual conditions. Formation turned towards and bombed the secondary target.</p> <p>3 aircraft from the 493rd BG flew with the 34th BG and all successfully bombed the target at Merseburg. Crews Vaughan, Sharp &amp; Brady.</p> <p>Weather on their return was poor over the base, with the exception of 5 aircraft that landed at Woodbridge, which was utilising the FIDO system (Fog dispersal), most of the formation landed at Wendling. The gunners were returned to Debach by truck that evening, with the aircraft and skeleton crew returning to their home base the following day when the weather had cleared. The crews that stayed slept in the beds of men who were away on pass.</p> <p>Flak encountered - none. Heavy barrage observed directly ahead of course after bombs away. Formation turned away to avoid contact.</p> <p>Bomb load lead aircraft 18 x 250lb GP's &amp; 2 x skymarker smoke bombs wing aircraft 20 x 250lb GP's</p> <p>DS Doc 0671, the Operational report "Narrative" shows the target to be Lutzkendorph.</p>				



Mission 493/8AF	092	748	Date: 12-Dec-1944	Bomb Load:	10 x 500lb GP & 2 x 500lb M-17 incendiary PFF aircraft carried skymarkers in lieu of M-17's
Target:	Darmstadt, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	223	A	43-38223	R:	Neal Roy A
	Day's Pay			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	B#05	H/stand (* = L.W.)	17	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn:	862	Hrs	07:10
AC:					
P:	SHARP ROBERT D				
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A				
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R				
N2/PN:					
NSP/MO:					
B:					
B2/IB:					
				BT:	Howe Charles M
				WG:	Schmidt Robert W
				TG:	Saxton Nyal L
				TT:	
				G:	Robinson Clayton E
				RCM:	
				F:	
				PAX1:	
				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					

Mission details

38 aircraft, including 2 pathfinders, left the base. 37 aircraft passed over and bombed the primary target of Darmstadt, Germany. One aircraft turned back early for mechanical reasons, shortly after leaving the English coast.

Just prior to reaching the I.P. The micro-H equipment on the "A" squadron lead became faulty and it was thought best to turn the Group lead over to "B" squadron. "B" squadron moved up to take the lead while "A" squadron swerved into the high position.

The turn at the I.P. Was made as briefed and a visual run was decided upon. Flying on autopilot the final approach run of thirty nine miles was made without interference or difficulty. The target was obscured by smoke from previous bombs, but the area was identified about one minute before reaching it. The bombs were released by salvo with the wing ships releasing in train with an eighty foot interval.

SAV's show that "A" squadron hit to the right of the target and over, whilst "B" and "C" squadrons were to the left, but with some hits on the MPI.

No flak was encountered at the target but there were a few inaccurate burst as the formation passed over enemy lines on the way out.

Bomb load 10 x 500lb GP's 2 x 500lb M-17 incendiaries (PFF aircraft carried skymarkers in lieu of M-17's)

at 1234 1 JP (Jet Propelled aircraft) contrail seen going straight up  
at 1345 2 V-2s were seen in a steep climb heading towards England.

Comment from Henry Skeen (pilot) "The worst part of the mission was finding Debach on return. The visibility was very low and there were no modern navigational aids, so it was hunt in the "soup" for yellow-yellow flares being fired from the end of the runway. I will never forget that landing."

Mission 493/8AF	093	750	Date: 15-Dec-1944	Bomb Load:	10 x 500lb GP & 2 x 500lb M-17 incendiary PFF aircraft carried skymarkers in lieu of M-17's		
Target:	Hannover, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/>	MACR:	
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:			
Ship:	477	S	44-6477	R:	Neal Roy A		
	-----			E:	Pucarelli Fred V		
position:	B#12	H/stand (* = L.W.)	21	NT/NG:			
Type:	B-17	Sqn:	862	Hrs	06:30	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert W		
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L		
CP:	MUNDAY ADLAI S			TT:			
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	Weber Valentine J		
N2/PN:				RCM:			
NSP/MO:				F:			
B:	JOHNSON WILLIAM A (Bdr)			PAX1:			
B2/IB:				PAX2:			
Crew Notes							
Mission details	<p>38 aircraft, including 2 pathfinders, left the base for the mission to Hannover. 2 aircraft returned early so 36 aircraft in total (including the 2 pathfinders) bombed the marshalling yards. SAV's show 10/10 undercast but PFF sighting was made. Mickey Operators believe bombs hit in target area, slightly to the left of the M.P.I.</p> <p>Bomb load 10 x 500lb GP &amp; 2 x 500lb M-17 incendiary PFF aircraft carried skymarkers in lieu of M-17's</p> <p>From the report narrative A V-2 was sighted, visible to 40,000' then only contrail visible to 50,000' where it disappeared. Angle of climb to 28,000' 80 deg then 60 deg until it disappeared heading towards England.</p> <p>A comment was made that the P-51 escort aircraft dropped their belly tanks over the bomber formation between the I.P and the target.</p> <p>The weather ship was flown by 2/Lt Iwanciow with Capt Norman R Cook as command pilot.</p>						

Mission 493/8AF	P3		Date:	18-Dec-1944	Bomb Load:			
Target:	Practice Mission				No Sortie:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MACR:	
Type:	Practice Mission				TOG:			
Ship:	477	S	44-6477		R:			
	-----				E:			
position:	A#08	H/stand (* = L.W.)		-	NT/NG:			
Type:	B-17	Sqn:	862	Hrs	04:00	BT:		
AC:					WG:			
P:	SHARP ROBERT D				TG:			
CP:					TT:			
N:					G:			
N2/PN:					RCM:			
NSP/MO:					F:			
B:					PAX1:			
B2/IB:					PAX2:			
Crew Notes								
Mission details	The Wing conducted a practice mission in preparation for a test of German Gun - laying radar equipment.							

Mission 493/8AF

095

760

Date: 24-Dec-1944

Target:

Frankfurt &amp; Darmstadt, Germany

Type:

Airfields

Ship:

558

I

43-38558

position:

C#05

H/stand (\* = L.W.)

-

Type:

B-17

SqN:

862

Hrs

08:40

AC:

P:

SHARP ROBERT D

CP:

PARKER LORIMER A

N:

NAIMY GEORGE R

N2/PN:

NSP/MO:

B:

B2/IB:

Bomb

Load:

"A", "B" & "C" squadrons 38 x 100lb GP's  
 "D" & "E" squadrons 12 x 500lb M-12 incendiary  
 (PFF's 2 x skymarker & reduced bomb load)

No Sortie:



MACR:

TOG:

Weber Valentine J

R:

Neal Roy A

E:

Pucarelli Fred V

NT/NG:

BT:

Howe Charles M

WG:

Schmidt Robert W

TG:

Saxton Nyal L

TT:

G:

RCM:

F:

PAX1:

PAX2:

Crew  
Notes

aborted - blew exhaust stack #1 engine 38 x 100lb GP's returned to base. Return early spare

Mission  
details

"Today's mission was a "maximum effort" for the 8th Air Force. The 493rd Group put up 64 aircraft; 61 of which bombed targets in Germany.

This Group furnished 37% of the Wing's strength."

5 squadrons took off from Debach. A total of 68 aircraft were scheduled on this mission, including 7 pathfinders. 62 aircraft (including all of the PFFs) were credited with sorties.

Squadrons A,B,C & D were assigned the Frankfurt-Rhein Airfield, and Squadron E was assigned the Airfield at Darmstadt as the primary targets.

Weather was clear with ground haze which made it difficult to see target, but bomb bursts could be seen.

Bomb loads. "A", "B" & "C" squadron Lead PFF aircraft carried 34 x 100lb GP's & 2 x skymarkers.

Wing aircraft each carried 38 x 100lb GP's

"D" & "E" squadron Lead PFF aircraft carried 10 x 500lb M-12 incendiaries & 2 x smokemarkers. Wing aircraft each carried 12 x 500lb M-12 incendiaries

Flak was tracking and fairly accurate. Numerous rockets over target area.

Bombing results

"A" squadron had hits on A/F but part of pattern was short. Fair to good results

"B" squadron hit 1 mile north of A/F. Poor results

"C" squadron hit unidentified target at Wiesbaden. Bombs in field. Poor results. A local airfield was the target but was missed.

"D" squadron hit north side of A/F with fair to good results

"E" squadron bombed 1 1/2 miles right of MPI. Poor results.

One ME-262 was sighted at 5001N 0835E at 1509 hours. Circled formation to back and went below out of sight.

Mission 493/8AF

100
770

Date: 30-Dec-1944

Target:

Kassel, Germany

Type:

Marshalling yard/Tank factory

Ship:

304

E

44-8304

-----

position:

B#09

H/stand (\* = L.W.)

-

Type:

B-17

Sqn: 862

Hrs 07:00

AC:

P:

SHARP ROBERT D

CP:

PARKER LORIMER A

N:

NAIMY GEORGE R

N2/PN:

NSP/MO:

B:

B2/IB:

Bomb Load:

12 x 500lb GP  
lead PFF also released 2 x skymarkers each

No Sortie:

☐
MACR:

TOG:

Weber Valentine J

R:

Neal Roy A

E:

Pucarelli Fred V

NT/NG:

BT:

Howe Charles M

WG:

Schmidt Robert W

TG:

Saxton Nyal L

TT:

G:

RCM:

F:

PAX1:

PAX2:

Crew Notes

Mission details

A call from the weather ship informed the Group that ten tenths cloud cover prevented bombing of the primary target, the marshalling yards at Bebra, Germany, which were to be bombed by visual means only. The formation proceeded to the secondary target, which was also obscured by ten tenths cloud cover, but of the 38 aircraft, including 3 pathfinders that left the base, 36 aircraft passed over and bombed the Marshalling yard at Kassel using PFF methods. "B" squadron had to release early when the 490th bomb Group turned after releasing their own bombs, and swung into the squadron.

Flak: moderate to intense, barrage and tracking directed at Group, inaccurate at target. One to three accurate rockets at target. Crews report two to four bursts of red flak

Bomb load 12 x 500lb GP's

Lt Vaughan in a/c 43-38190 crash landed at Woodbridge after no 1 engine blew off cowling and caught fire over the North Sea. Five gunners bailed out of waist when engine caught fire. None of the bodies have been recovered as yet. (Sweet Sue)

43-38190 was considered as a return early spare.



Mission 493/8AF	100-A	772	Date: 31-Dec-1944	Bomb Load:	20 x 250lb GP lead PFF also released 2 x skymarkers each
Target:	Misburg, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Oil refinery			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	477	S	44-6477	R:	Neal Roy A
	-----			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	B#13	H/stand (* = L.W.)	16	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 862	Hrs 07:50	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:				PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>Of the 38 aircraft scheduled for this mission, 36 aircraft attacked the primary target at Misburg Germany, or the secondary target at Hamelin, Germany.</p> <p>"A" &amp; "C" squadrons bombed the primary target at Misburg visually with excellent results. 11 aircraft in "B" squadron passed over the primary target but did not bomb due to a rack malfunction in the lead aircraft. 9 of the aircraft later bombed a target of opportunity at Hamelin, Germany (marshalling yard) although results were declared as poor, impact wa one fourth mile short of M/Y.</p> <p>Flak over the target was moderate to intense, accurate barrage type. twoME-262's were seen but did not attack</p> <p>Bomb load 20 x 250lb GP's</p> <p>Lost Aircraft</p> <p>44-8352 (Malone) - shortly after releasing bombs a large burst of flames and smoke was seen under the plane. Crews thought this might have been a burst of flak or a bomb exploding prematurely. The aircraft left the formation, slowly dropping behind and losing altitude in wide spirals, but under control. No 1 and No 3 engines were on fire. When the aircraft reached an altitude of 15,000 ft one of the crew was seen to bail out. It is believed there was an explosion in the plane at 5,000 ft, at which point it fell off sharply in a tight spin and crashed in a town at 52-25N 09-04E, at 1214.</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	100-B	776	Date: 02-Jan-1945	Bomb Load:	10 x 500lb GP and 2 x 500lb M-17 incendiary lead PFF also released 2 x skymarkers each
Target:	Bad Kreuznach, Germany			No Sortie:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MACR: <input type="text"/>
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	558	I	43-38558	R:	Neal Roy A
position:	C#06	H/stand (* = L.W.)	14	E:	Pucarelli Fred V
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 862	Hrs 07:40	NT/NG:	
AC:				BT:	Howe Charles M
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			TT:	
N2/PN:				G:	
NSP/MO:				RCM:	
B:				F:	
B2/IB:				PAX1:	
				PAX2:	
Crew Notes	Spare aircraft replaced 43-38613 aborted - high oil pressure bombs jettisoned at 5221N 0251E return early spare				
Mission details	<p>38 aircraft left the base, with the first lead PFF making a take off at 0725 and the last aircraft leaving the runway almost exactly one hour later at 0823. An instrument ascent was made and the Group, aided by flares, use of an Aldis lamp in the tail of the lead aircraft and downward recognition lights, completed the formation and proceeded to Bad Kreuznach in Germany.</p> <p>34 aircraft successfully bombed the Primary target area, a railway marshalling yard. Weather in the target area was excellent so visual bombing methods were used.</p> <p>SAV's show "A" squadron had good results, "B" squadron very good. the "C" squadron had to abort the first run after being overflown by the high squadron just before the target. Fearing that the high squadron would release, the low squadron made a 360 degree turn to the left, and bombed on the 2nd pass. Hits were unobserved. Three A/C bombed targets of opportunity. (a) Bridge at 4942N 0802E - results unobserved. (b) Berganbern - bomb hits observed in built up area of town (4906N 0759E). (c) Bridge over Rheine at 4936N 0754E - near miss.</p> <p>Enemy fighters neither seen nor encountered.</p> <p>Flak None at Target.</p> <p>Bomb load 10 x 500lb GP's and 2 x 500lb M-17 incendiaries Lead aircraft also carried 2 x smoke markers</p>				

Mission 493/8AF

100-D

789

Date: 10-Jan-1945

Target:

Cologne, Germany

Type:

Marshalling yard

Ship:

829

S

43-38829

position:

A#08

H/stand (\* = L.W.)

47

Type:

B-17

Sq: 863

Hrs

06:20

AC:

P:

SHARP ROBERT D

CP:

N:

N2/PN:

NSP/MO:

B:

B2/IB:

Bomb

Load:

wing aircraft 6 x 1000lb GP  
lead aircraft also released 2 x skymarker each  
chaff squadron 4 x 1000lb GP's

No Sortie: ☒

MACR:

TOG:

R:

E:

NT/NG:

BT:

WG:

TG:

TT:

G:

RCM:

F:

PAX1:

PAX2:

Crew  
Notes

NTO runway blocked/damaged

Mission  
details

A mission to bomb Cologne, Germany, was scrubbed on the 9th January due to poor weather conditions. A second attempt was being made today to bomb the same target, the railroad marshalling yard and bridge crossing the Rhine. Take off was made by ice covered aircraft on a snow covered runway.

44 aircraft were scheduled to fly this mission, but only 23 aircraft bombed the marshalling yards at Cologne. 14 aircraft were unable to take off.

3 aircraft ran off the hardstands which were covered in snow, one aircraft blew a tyre which in turn held up another aircraft. The remaining aircraft stayed on the ground after the wheel of a plane went through the runway in use, thereby blocking all others from taking off. One aircraft, 44-8304 (Lt Butler & crew), crashed and exploded a few minutes after take off. There were 5 survivors from the 9 man crew. Those aircraft that did take off assembled in two squadrons. "The "over target" positions cannot be considered exactly correct because of the confusion and conflicting reports concerning target area" (page 1086)

Bomb load 6 x 1000lb General Purpose bombs lead aircraft also released 2 x skymarker smoke bombs each chaff aircraft carried reduced load of 4 x 1000lb GP's to compensate for the chaff load

lost aircraft

44-8304 crashed and exploded a few minutes after take off N/S

43-38278 due to confusion at the target area it is not known when the a/c left the formation. There were no reports of damage to any a/c by flak or enemy fighters.

DRJ Note:

43-38278 should read 44-6278 - Crashed in Ypres, Belgium. 3 of the 4 engines failed due to freezing weather conditions. 5 of the 10 crew members perished. It is believed that the 5 men died because their parachutes failed to deploy properly. The parachutes got wet in their packs whilst the men were making their pre-flight checks. They had been placed on the ground in the snowy conditions, and froze at the high bombing altitude.

Mission 493/8AF	104	796	Date: 16-Jan-1945	Bomb Load:	"A" & "B" squadrons 12 x 500lb GP "C" squadron 12 x 500lb M-17 incendiary lead aircraft also released 2 x skymarker each
Target:	Bitterfeld, Germany (Secondary target)			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Jet Aircraft factory			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	282	H	43-38282	R:	Neal Roy A
	Sweeny's Brats			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	A#11	H/stand (* = L.W.)	17	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 862	Hrs 09:10	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:				PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes	<p>aborted - turned back early due to low manifold pressure, bombed a target of opportunity at 5222N 0817E in Germany. Landed Woodbridge - FIDO system in operation.</p>				
Mission details	<p>The primary target, an I.G.Farben plant, was briefed to be bombed only if visual. Clouds meant bombing would have to be by PFF methods so the secondary target was selected. The Mickey equipment on the "A" lead PFF aircraft failed prior to the IP. Lead was handed over to "B" squadron. Of the 32 aircraft that assembled for this mission, 31 passed over, and bombed, the aircraft facility at Bitterfeld. An additional 4 aircraft from the 490th BG also flew with the formation and successfully bombed the target.</p> <p>Bomb loads          "A" &amp; "B" squadrons 12 x 500lb GP's (43-38253 &amp; 43-38593 12 x 500lb M-17's)          "C" squadron 12 x 500lb M-17 incendiaries          lead aircraft also released 2 x skymarker smoke bombs</p> <p>Flak was meager and inaccurate. No enemy fighters seen</p> <p>Due to poor weather conditions the aircraft were unable to return to Debach and landed at "any available strip"          "A" squadron landed at RAF Station Rufforth near York,          "B" squadron were spread out at Coningsby, Lindholme, Fiskerton, Church Fenton and Grimsby.          "C" squadron landed at several allied bases on the continent.</p> <p>A/C 43-38829 landed on the continent at "Base B-53" to obtain medical attention for their wounded Navigator.          A/C 43-38235 AOC Metz, (Alsace-Lorraine), Germany. (airfield had been taken by American troops previous day) aircraft abandoned by crew and returned to Debach at a later date (a/c returned to combat 4th March 1945)          A/C 43-38226 abandoned on continent. (a/c returned to combat 10th March 1945)          A/C 44-8424 abandoned on continent. Salvaged.</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	105	803	Date: 21-Jan-1945	Bomb Load:	9 x 500lb GP & 2 x 500lb M-17 incendiary lead aircraft also released 2 x skymarker each
Target:	Mannheim, Germany			No Sortie:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	593	R	43-38593	R:	Neal Roy A
	Shameless Jane			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	B#06	H/stand (* = L.W.)	04	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 861	Hrs 07:40	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:				PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes	<p>aborted - engine fire , blown exhaust stack, landed Woodbridge return early spare. Bombs returned to base.</p>				
Mission details	<p>34 aircraft including 3 pathfinders assembled for mission nr 105 to the marshalling yard at Mannheim, Germany. 25 aircraft passed over and 22 bombed the Primary target. 10/10 undercast covered the target so PFF methods would be used.</p> <p>The Mickey (radar) equipment of the lead PFF aircraft failed on the route over, so "B" squadron took over the lead of the 93 "A" Group just before the IP. Unable to see the target, "A" squadron bombed on the smoke markers of "B" squadron. "C" squadron followed "A" squadron over the target.</p> <p>2 aircraft were late taking off, and formed up with &amp; bombed with the 490th BG. 1 aircraft flew with the 390th BG</p> <p>5 aircraft from the 34th BG joined C squadron over the target and dropped their bombs on Mannheim.</p> <p>Bomb load 9 x 500lb GP's 2 x 500lb M-17's</p> <p>Lost Aircraft</p> <p>43-38170 &amp; 43-38340 are unaccounted for at this time and no further information available</p> <p>NOTE</p> <p>43-38170 crashed on continent all crew safe</p> <p>43-38340 Emergency landing Germany after losing 3 engines - 9 x POW MACR 12236</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	106	807	Date: 23-Jan-1945	Bomb Load:	10 x 500lb GP 2 x 500lb M-17 incendiary Lead aircraft also released 2 x Skymarkers
Target:	Neuss, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	195	D	43-38195	R:	Neal Roy A
position:	B#03	H/stand (* = L.W.)	01	E:	Pucarelli Fred V
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 863	Hrs 05:00	NT/NG:	
AC:				BT:	Howe Charles M
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			TT:	
N2/PN:				G:	
NSP/MO:				RCM:	
B:				F:	
B2/IB:				PAX1:	
				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>26 aircraft took off from Debach but the lead pathfinder (PFF) aircraft in "A" squadron, and the lead PFF aircraft in "B" squadron both aborted whilst assembling. The deputy aircraft in each squadron took over the lead in each case. 12 aircraft from "A" squadron passed over and bombed the primary target, the marshalling yards at Neuss in Germany. Due to excessive congestion in the target area, "B" squadron became separated and a second run was made on the target. Haze &amp; contrails meant the target could not be seen until it was too late to release their bombs. Theses 11 aircraft bombed a target of opportunity at Dusseldorf, Germany. A Gee fix at bombs away showed position 5107N 0636E.</p> <p>Bombing was made by the "A" squadron using H2X methods. The Mickey operator thought he hit a little beyond the target. The bombs hit across the Rhine River with poor results. One probable hit on a railroad leading to the yards and one probable hit on a road.</p> <p>"B" Squadron's bombing was visual but the impact was unobserved. Photography shows the area bombed, the eastern side of the city of Dusseldorf but no impacts show on these photographs. Flak over the target was intense, accurate barrage type. Visibility was 7/10 - 9/10 in target area.</p> <p>Bomb load 10 x 500lb GP's 2 x 500lb M-17 incendiaries</p> <p>Radio counter measures (RCM) operators are carried on specially equipped 493rd BG aircraft for the first time. The radio transmitters used were designed to confuse the German flak gun radar signals, and hopefully reduce their accuracy.</p> <p>A/C 43-38613 (Lt Shelinski) assembled with 95th Bomb Group following a late take off after a change of aircraft.</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	108	811	Date: 29-Jan-1945	Bomb Load:	12 x 500lb GP Lead aircraft also carried 2 x smoke marker each.
Target:	Kassel, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Tank factories/Railway station			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	903	C	43-38903	R:	Neal Roy A
position:	A#03	H/stand (* = L.W.)	16	E:	Pucarelli Fred V
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 862	Hrs 06:20	NT/NG:	
AC:				BT:	Howe Charles M
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			TT:	
N2/PN:				G:	
NSP/MO:				RCM:	
B:				F:	
B2/IB:				PAX1:	
				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>25 aircraft took off from the base for the target at Kassel, Germany. Of these, 23 aircraft bombed the Primary Target.</p> <p>2 minutes before the IP the lead aircraft had a failure of #2 engine and handed the lead over to the deputy.</p> <p>SAV's show that the hits are in the target area, but cloud coverage over the target make it impossible to determine the impacts. Smoke markers indicate, too, that the hits are in the immediate area of the MPI, with probably good results. One hit is seen on the station, but it is not possible to say which Group scored this hit.</p> <p>Bomb load 12 x 500lb GP's</p> <p>Originally listed to fly 43-38244 , but had to swap to ground spare a/c 44-8312, the DeWolski crew assembled and bombed with the 379th BG due to their late take off.</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	109	817	Date: 03-Feb-1945	Bomb Load:	5 x 1000lb GP Lead aircraft also carried 2 x smoke marker each.
Target:	Berlin, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR: xfer
Type:	Road, rail & communications facilities			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	477	S	44-6477	R:	Neal Roy A
position:	A#10	H/stand (* = L.W.)	21	E:	Pucarelli Fred V
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 862	Hrs 08:05	NT/NG:	
AC:				BT:	Howe Charles M
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			TT:	
N2/PN:				G:	
NSP/MO:				RCM:	
B:				F:	
B2/IB:				PAX1:	
				PAX2:	
Crew Notes	a/c xfer to 486th BG				
Mission details	<p>A total of 38 aircraft formed over Debach and proceeded towards the target of Berlin, Germany. 36 aircraft passed over, and bombed the Primary target. "A" and "B" squadron successfully bombed the primary target. Bombs are estimated to have fallen with 500yds of the MPI</p> <p>However, about 4 minutes after the turn at the IP, the left bomb bay bombs and one smoke marker released from the lead aircraft of "C" squadron, about 25 miles short of the MPI, believing they were over the target 5 more aircraft released at that time. The bomb run was continued and the remainder of the bombs were released on the assigned target with unknown results.</p> <p>Flak over Berlin was moderate, barrage and tracking. Fairly accurate.</p> <p>At 1345 hours, at 5344N 0627E a JP (jet propelled fighter) was seen in a very steep climb. Observation was of two broken contrails close together.</p> <p>Bomb load 5 x 1000lb GP's</p> <p>Lost Aircraft</p> <p>Approximately 45 minutes after attacking the Primary target, aircraft 43-38242 reported one engine was throwing oil. The propeller of No 1 engine flew off and the aircraft temporarily lost control. The a/c was last seen lagging behind the group under control slowly losing altitude.</p>				



Mission 493/8AF	110	821	Date: 06-Feb-1945	Bomb Load:	10 x 500lb GP Lead aircraft also carried 2 x smoke marker each.
Target:	Chemnitz, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	241	M	43-38241	R:	Neal Roy A
	Ulpy			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	A#03	H/stand (* = L.W.)	48	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn:	863	Hrs	08:40
AC:				BT:	Howe Charles M
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			TT:	
N2/PN:				G:	
NSP/MO:				RCM:	
B:				F:	
B2/IB:				PAX1:	
				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>38 aircraft left Debach, bound for oil plants in Leipzig, Germany. Due to poor weather over the Primary target of Merseburg and the Secondary at Dresden, orders were received from 3d Air Division to attack the "Target of last resort", which was the marshalling yards at Chemnitz. Whilst all 38 aircraft passed over the target, only 37 were able to bomb.</p> <p>Flak encountered in the target area was meagre.</p> <p>Bomb load 10 x 500lb GP's</p> <p>Lost Aircraft</p> <p>At 1145 hours, the Pilot of aircraft 43-38593 radioed that he was proceeding to Russia. Later, at 1330 hours, a message from 3d Air Division instructed him to proceed to Motala, at 58-32N 15-02E, in Sweden.</p> <p>(from aircraft notes) February 6, 1945 battle damaged on mission to Chemnitz. Force landed at Oppeln, Germany. MACR 12235 6 x evaded &amp; 3 x POW</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	111	824	Date: 09-Feb-1945	Bomb Load:	6 x 1000lb GP Lead aircraft also carried 2 x smoke marker each.		
Target:	Munster, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/>	MACR:	
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	Weber Valentine J		
Ship:	903	C	43-38903	R:	Neal Roy A		
	-----			E:	Pucarelli Fred V		
position:	B#06	H/stand (* = L.W.)	16	NT/NG:			
Type:	B-17	Sqn:	862	Hrs	07:00		
AC:				BT:	Howe Charles M		
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			WG:	Schmidt Robert W		
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TG:	Saxton Nyal L		
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			TT:			
N2/PN:				G:			
NSP/MO:				RCM:			
B:				F:			
B2/IB:				PAX1:			
				PAX2:			
Crew Notes							
Mission details	<p>38 aircraft left the base, but due to poor weather conditions over the primary target, it was necessary to waste an hour over Great Britain, after assembly, to await better flying and bombing weather over the continent.</p> <p>On reaching the continent a further half hour delay was requested by higher authorities to give the weather a chance to clear.</p> <p>The Primary target was a bridge at Wesel, Germany, which was to be attacked only if visual, however it was still completely overcast, even allowing for the delays thus far. The Secondary target, an oil storage depot at Dulmen, Germany could not be attacked due to M-H (PFF) equipment failures.</p> <p>So, 2 squadrons, "A" &amp; "B" forming the lead and the high squadrons, totalling 21 aircraft, attacked a target of last resort, the marshalling yards at Munster. John Ramsey, navigator, reported they were 15 miles away from the target when the bombs were released.</p> <p>The 3rd, "C" squadron, of 12 aircraft, did not attack due to loss of signal on the H2X equipment. The run was discontinued when "A" &amp; "B" squadrons made their turns for the RP. A last resort target was not bombed due to close proximity of friendly lines, so "C" squadron returned their bombs to Debach.</p> <p>Bomb load 6 x 1000lb GP's</p>						

Mission 493/8AF	114	835	Date: 19-Feb-1945	Bomb Load:	16 x 500lb GP lead aircraft carried 12 x 500lb GP's and 2 x skymarkers each
Target:	Rheine, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	513	N	44-6513	R:	Neal Roy A
	Boise Belle			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	C#04	H/stand (* = L.W.)	06	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 05:15	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:				PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>29 aircraft left Debach for the mission to bomb the Rheine marshalling yard in Germany. This was to be the first mission led by the Group's new commanding officer Lt Col. Robert Landry. A &amp; B squadrons dropped on M/H. Both "Mickey" Operators reported very good runs. C squadron made H2X sighting.</p> <p>Visibility was poor, reported to be 10/10 clouds over the target</p> <p>Flak was minimal for this mission.</p> <p>Bomb load 16 x 500lb GP's lead aircraft carried 12 x 500lb GP's and 2 x skymarkers each</p> <p>NOTE: the paperwork of the 493rd BG "thins out" at this time so full mission details are not always available.</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	116	839	Date: 21-Feb-1945	Bomb Load:	5 x 500lb GP & 5 x 500lb M-17 incendiary lead aircraft also released 2 x skymarker bombs each		
Target:	Nurnberg, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/>	MACR:	
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	Weber Valentine J		
Ship:	276	C	43-38276	R:	Neal Roy A		
	The Shack II			E:	Pucarelli Fred V		
position:	A#07	H/stand (* = L.W.)	12	NT/NG:			
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 07:50	BT:	Howe Charles M		
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert W		
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L		
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:			
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:			
N2/PN:				RCM:			
NSP/MO:				F:			
B:				PAX1:			
B2/IB:				PAX2:			
Crew Notes							
Mission details	<p>30 aircraft from the 493rd BG were scheduled for today's mission. Bombing of the secondary target at Nurnberg was by squadrons in lead, low, high order. A &amp; B Squadrons bombed by H2X technique with short "visual" assists, C Squadron dropped on the smoke markers of A squadron due to inoperative equipment. All squadrons report seeing hits in the city. SAV's of A,B and C Squadrons show sufficient detail to enable plotting of strikes but impact unobserved. "A" squadron hit in NE portion of city.</p> <p>Bomb load 5 x 500lb GP's &amp; 5 x 500lb M-17 incendiaries</p> <p>Flak at the target was moderate, fairly accurate tracking type.</p> <p>7 FW-190's were observed flying on a 90 deg heading, at altitude between 15,000 and 17,000 ft they made no threat of an attack and flew out of sight almost due East. These aircraft were about 3000ft from the formation. Bandits were reported in the target area but none were encountered nor seen.</p> <p>One crew reported a flak shell fired in the target area, which upon bursting left a burst similar to a smoke marker bomb</p>						

Mission 493/8AF	117	841	Date: 22-Feb-1945	Bomb Load:	12 x 500lb GP lead aircraft also released 2 x skymarker bombs each
Target:	Assigned Gera, Germany Attacked Bamberg, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	756	S	43-38756	R:	Neal Roy A
	Battlin Butch II			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	A#04	H/stand (* = L.W.)	04	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn:	860	Hrs	09:20
AC:					
P:	SHARP ROBERT D				
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A				
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R				
N2/PN:					
NSP/MO:					
B:					
B2/IB:					
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>The primary target for today was briefed to be Gera, Germany. poor weather led to a Target of Opportunity at 4950-1056 (BAMBERG), being selected and bombed by H2X technique. Excellent synchronised run and all M/O's think bombs hit the city.</p> <p>Flak was meagre to moderate, predicted concentration, fairly accurate.</p> <p>Bomb load 12 x 500lb GP's</p> <p>Weather: 6/10 – 8/10 layered alto-stratus and alto-cumulus cloud cover. Tops at 19,000ft. Visibility aloft was good.</p> <p>Crews considered the weather enroute in and out as quite bad.</p> <p>Fighter support was good.</p> <p>81 tons of bombs were dropped on the target.</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	128	877	Date: 10-Mar-1945	Bomb Load:	1 a/c carried 12 x 500lb GP, remainder 42 x 100lb GP & 2 x 500lb M-17 incendiary lead aircraft also released 2 x skymarkers
Target:	Soest, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	310	-	43-38310	R:	Neal Roy A
position:	--	H/stand (* = L.W.)	-*	E:	Pucarelli Fred V
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 06:50	NT/NG:	
AC:				BT:	Howe Charles M
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			TT:	
N2/PN:				G:	
NSP/MO:				RCM:	
B:				F:	
B2/IB:				PAX1:	
				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>Of the 30 aircraft that left Little Walden, all reached and bombed the primary target, the marshalling yard at Soest, Germany. 1157 x 100 GP bombs, 48 x 500lb M17 bombs and 12 x 500 GP bombs were dropped.</p> <p>Micro H technique used by squadrons in order "A", "B", "C".  493rd "A" M/O believes bombs hit in the target area. Navigator achieved a Gee Fix at BRL, which collaborates with M/O statement.  "B" squadron dropped on "A" lead due to equipment malfunction.  "C" squadron M/O believes bombs hit target area. BRL was close to "A" squadron smoke markers.</p> <p>Flak over the target was meagre, inaccurate, barrage.</p> <p>Weather was 10/10 so results unobserved</p> <p>Bomb load 1 a/c 12 x 500lb GP's, remainder 42 x 100lb GP's 2 x 500lb M-17 incendiaries</p> <p>Photo Interpretation Report  The target was bombed by Micro H Technique. One Sortie of PFF (H2X) scope photography was received for plotting. Photos were of good quality and showed the impact to occur about one-half mile over the target on the eastern outskirts of the town of Soest. Using as a basis for pattern, one mile in diameter it is quite probable that some of the hits were in the marshalling yard.</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	130	883	Date: 12-Mar-1945	Bomb Load:	34 x 100lb GP & 2 x 500lb M-17 incendiary lead aircraft also released 2 x skymarkers
Target:	Siegen, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	765	E	44-8765	R:	Neal Roy A
position:	A#04	H/stand (* = L.W.)	37*	E:	Pucarelli Fred V
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 06:35	NT/NG:	
AC:				BT:	Howe Charles M
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			TT:	
N2/PN:				G:	
NSP/MO:				RCM:	
B:				F:	
B2/IB:				PAX1:	
				PAX2:	
Crew Notes	Spare aircraft replaced 310 S-R-26				
Mission details	<p>Of the 30 aircraft which assembled, all attacked the Primary target at Siegen, Germany. Deputy lead of "A" squadron took over on the bomb run, due to a malfunction of the lead aircraft's Mickey equipment.</p> <p>1016 x 100 GP bombs and 59 x 500 M17 incendiary bombs were dropped. 4 x GP's and 1 x M-17 were jettisoned.</p> <p>All 3 squadrons bombed by Cat-Mouse technique. M/O's believe that a good run was made on the target, which Gee fixes seem to substantiate.</p> <p>Bomb load 34 x 100lb GP's &amp; 2 x 500lb M-17 incendiaries</p> <p>Nil flak encountered</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	132	889	Date: 15-Mar-1945	Bomb Load:	6 x 1000lb GP bombs fitted with Long Delay Fuses (LDF) lead aircraft also released 2 x skymarkers
Target:	Oranienburg, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	311	M	43-38311	R:	Neal Roy A
	American Lady			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	A#04	H/stand (* = L.W.)	31*	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn:	860	Hrs	07:30
AC:					
P:	SHARP ROBERT D				
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A				
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R				
N2/PN:					
NSP/MO:					
B:					
B2/IB:					
Crew Notes					

### Mission details

Lt Col Fitzgerald and the 493rd BG led the 3rd Air Division to Oranienburg, Germany. 36 aircraft, including 6 chaff aircraft were airborne. 35 bombed the primary target and one aircraft bombed a target of opportunity. 179 x 1000 GP bombs were dropped on the targets.

Squadrons dropped by visual techniques with poor to fair results.

"A" squadron bombed 5 miles south of the MPI with poor results.

"B" and "C" hit to the west and right of the MPI, with some hits observed on the "choke point" of the marshalling yard. Bursts from "B" squadron could be seen some 3000 feet short of the MPI with a pattern to the last burst being about 2000 feet long. No bursts seen closer than 1000 feet to the MPI. The main portion of the pattern from "C" squadron could be seen about 1500 feet right and 000 feet short of the MPI, with the pattern working up across the extreme southern end of the yard,so it is reasonable to believe that some of the LDF's were in the yard at this point

Bomb load 6 x 1000lb GP's  
bombs fitted with Long Delay Fuses (LDF)

flak at the target was moderate, tracking, accurate.

The 493rd "A" squadron turned on the I.P. Course was furnished by the M.O. But at 12 miles from the BRL the bombardier picked up what he thought to be the target and changed course to the south and right. The target he picked up was a marshalling yard five miles to the south of the assigned MPI. This error is attributed to misidentification of the target due to dense haze. Results were probably poor.



Mission 493/8AF	133	892	Date: 17-Mar-1945	Bomb Load:	8 x 500lb GP & 4 x 500lb M-17 incendiary some aircraft loaded with GP's only
Target:	Primary Muldenstein, Germany Secondary Bitterfeld, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR: <input type="text"/>
Type:	Oil refinery			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	316	F	43-38316	R:	Neal Roy A
	Hank's Battle Wagon			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	B#04	H/stand (* = L.W.)	28*	NT/NG:	<input type="text"/>
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 09:10	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:	<input type="text"/>			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	<input type="text"/>
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	<input type="text"/>
N2/PN:	<input type="text"/>			RCM:	<input type="text"/>
NSP/MO:	<input type="text"/>			F:	<input type="text"/>
B:	<input type="text"/>			PAX1:	<input type="text"/>
B2/IB:	<input type="text"/>			PAX2:	<input type="text"/>
Crew Notes	<div></div>				
Mission details	<p>Assigned target for today was the Jet aircraft factory at Muldenstein, target attacked was Bitterfeld.</p> <p>30 aircraft from the 493rd BG were airborne, with 2 returning early. The remaining 28 successfully bombing the last resort target of Bitterfeld, Germany. "C" squadron led the formation, followed by "A" then "B"</p> <p>A total of 224 x 500lb GP bombs and 112 x 500lb M17 incendiary bombs were dropped.</p> <p>Visibility over the target was 10/10.</p> <p>Mickey operators of "A" and "C" squadrons think they hit the target. "B" squadron dropped on the smoke markers of "A"</p> <p>1 aircraft bombed a target of opportunity, whilst a second jettisoned their bombs over the North Sea (both aircraft returned early)</p> <p>Bomb Load 8 x 500lb GP &amp; 4 x 500lb M-17 incendiary (from Diary 2 aircraft shown with loads of 12 &amp; 14 x GP's only)</p> <p>Flak over the target area was nil, but was encountered over Bad Homburg as meagre, barrage, accurate.</p> <p>At position 5019N 0803E 2 B-17's, thought to be from the 490th BG, were seen to collide. 1 - 2 chutes were seen.</p> <p>Lt Pace &amp; Crew of the 863rd BG completed their tour.</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	137	906	Date: 22-Mar-1945	Bomb Load:	500lb GP & 500lb M-17 incendiary (quantity per aircraft unknown)
Target:	Dusseldorf, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Army Ground Forces Barracks area			TOG:	Weber Valentine J
Ship:	070	-	43-39070	R:	Neal Roy A
position:	B#03	H/stand (* = L.W.)	-*	E:	Pucarelli Fred V
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 05:50	NT/NG:	
AC:				BT:	Howe Charles M
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			TT:	
N2/PN:				G:	
NSP/MO:				RCM:	
B:				F:	
B2/IB:				PAX1:	
				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>30 aircraft took off on this mission. All 30 passed over and visually bombed the primary target at Dusseldorf, Germany. 180 x 500lb GP bombs and 180 x 500lb M17 incendiary bombs were dropped on target.</p> <p>"A", "B" and "C" squadrons bombed the Primary target visually. SAVs of "A" and "B" squadron show very good to excellent results with bursts well covering the MPI. SAVs of "C" squadron show that bombs fell within the pattern of "A" and "B" squadrons which had previously bombed. "C" squadron bursts are hidden by smoke.</p> <p>Bomb load 500lb GP's &amp; 500lb M-17 incendiaries Flak was moderate, tracking and accurate.</p> <p>The target appeared to be a group of buildings seen on the photography prior to the impact. The scale of photography is too small to make an accurate interpretation but the buildings are about 25 -30' long by 10' wide and had all appearances of being recently constructed storage for ammunition or the like....</p> <p>It is evident that the condition of the formation made possible this job of bombing, a wonderful example of pinpoint accuracy.</p> <p>This is perhaps the best job of bombing done by this group during its operation in the ETO</p> <p>Charles B DeBerry - P.I. Officer DS DOCS 45/03 0072</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	139	911	Date: 24-Mar-1945	Bomb Load:	14 x 500lb mix of GP and "Comp B" M-64 One a/c released bombs fitted with LDF
Target:	Varel, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Airfield			TOG:	
Ship:	316	F	43-38316	R:	Neal Roy A
	Hank's Battle Wagon			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	B#04	H/stand (* = L.W.)	28*	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 06:00	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:	FOWLER DAVID G			PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>30 aircraft took off from Little Walden, but one (43-39066) aborted with a faulty airspeed indicator (later declared an illegal abortion).</p> <p>29 aircraft bombed the Primary target, the airfield at Varel, Germany. A total of 406 x 500lb GP bombs were dropped on the target.</p> <p>"A" squadron bombed the Primary target visually. SAVs show the bombs hit 1500 yds NE of the MPI with poor results.</p> <p>"B" squadron bombed the Primary target visually with very good results. SAVs show pattern centered directly on the MPI.</p> <p>"C" squadron bombed the airfield visually with good results. Pattern is about 500 yds over MPI, but 75% of hits in the field area, many hits seen on the N-S runway</p> <p>Flak over the target was meagre, barrage, inaccurate en route over Wilhemshaven flak was moderate, inaccurate, barrage type</p> <p>bomb load 14 x 500lb GP. One a/c released bombs fitted with Long Delay Fuses (LDF) 256 bombs of the 406 released were the M-64 Comp B type (high explosive) 14 Comp B M-64 bombs were jettisoned by 1 a/c</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	140	917	Date: 28-Mar-1945	Bomb Load:	12 x 500lb GP
Target:	Primary Peine, Germany. Secondary (attacked) Hannover, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	
Ship:	316	F	43-38316	R:	Neal Roy A
	Hank's Battle Wagon			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	C#04	H/stand (* = L.W.)	28*	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 07:15	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:	STEWART ALBERT L			PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>30 aircraft were airborne but one returned early.</p> <p>A total of 336 x 500lb GP bombs were dropped on Hannover, Germany.</p> <p>Primary target was to be the Hanomag tank factory, but poor weather prevented visual bombing. Group bombed the secondary target of the marshalling yard at Hannover by PFF technique. Mickey operators believe the results were good. Cloud breaks in the target area permitted limited observations which also indicate good results. SAVs show cloud cover over impact but indicate bombs hit town of Hannover.</p> <p>A &amp; C squadrons: impact could be seen on SAV's and poor results are indicated, the bombs dropping on the mud flats along the river.</p> <p>B squadron: the impacts of this squadron did not show on the SAVs but were plotted by wind reaction, gained from the A and C squadron SAV's. This plot showed poor results.</p> <p>Bomb load 12 x 500lb GP's"12 x 500lb GP</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	141	918	Date: 30-Mar-1945	Bomb Load:	6 x 1000lb GP
Target:	Hamburg, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Oil refinery			TOG:	
Ship:	316	F	43-38316	R:	Neal Roy A
	Hank's Battle Wagon			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	C#02	H/stand (* = L.W.)	28*	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 06:50	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:	STEWART ALBERT L			PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					

Mission details

31 aircraft took off from Little Walden bound for the Primary target, the submarine pens at Hamburg, Germany. 4 aircraft returned early with mechanical problems. 28 aircraft were credited with sorties. The lead aircraft of "A" squadron aborted at 5247-0526 so the High Squadron took over. "B" squadron made an H2X, with visual assist, run on the target. the Mickey operator estimated poor results due to a defect in the equipment. "A" squadron dropped on the smoke markers of "B" squadron.

A total of 155 x 1000lb GP bombs were dropped on the target.

2 aircraft were hit by flak in the target area and are declared MIA (Lt Dwyer & Lt Hoagland)

1 aircraft was lost after crashing 1/2 mile from Little Walden on their return from the mission. (Lt Goodspeed) on investigation it was found that the aircraft had sustained major flak damage over the target. 6 men died.

Flak was moderate to intense tracking & accurate over the target

Bomb load 6 x 1000lb GP's  
5 aircraft jettisoned 30 x 1000lb GP's in the North Sea

8 aircraft suffered minor flak damage, 1 major damage and 1 aircraft was salvaged. 2 aircraft were lost.

Overall bombing results were poor.

The attack on the target was made by H2X techniques with last minute visual corrections. The best bombing was done by the low squadron that hit about 1/4 mile over the MPI, with their pattern starting across the river and into the city area.

The lead and high squadrons bombed about 4 1/2 and 6 miles respectively north of the target. The hits of the lead squadron fell into a built up area on the outskirts of the city. The high squadron into an open area with two stray hits going into an airfield in the area.

Mission 493/8AF	143	924	Date: 03-Apr-1945	Bomb Load:	6 x 1000lb GP
Target:	Kiel, Germany			No Sortie:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Dry Docks & slipways			TOG:	
Ship:	316	F	43-38316	R:	Neal Roy A
	Hank's Battle Wagon			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	B#02	H/stand (* = L.W.)	15	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 06:50	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:	STEWART ALBERT L			PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>This was the first combat mission flown from Debach since the runways were renewed during March 1945.</p> <p>The mission was delayed for 7 hours because of bad weather. Aircraft did not take off until around 1.30pm, returning at around 8.30pm that evening.</p> <p>31 aircraft were airborne initially, with 2 returning early. 28 aircraft attacked a Secondary target at Kiel. (the primary "unknown" target needed visual sightings to be accurate)</p> <p>Bombing was made in squadron formation using H2X technique.</p> <p>Mickey operator believes results were good.</p> <p>1 aircraft from "B" squadron was unable to release its bombs over the target due to a rack malfunction. The bombs were later jettisoned over the North Sea.</p> <p>A second aircraft also had issues resulting in bombs being jettisoned, whilst a third aircraft returned their bombs to the base</p> <p>(the bombing summary indicates all 3 aircraft jettisoned in the North Sea. Bombardiers reports show no malfunctions from A or C squadrons, so the two "return early" aircraft must have released over the North Sea.)</p> <p>SAVS show 10/10 cloud cover. Results were unobserved.</p> <p>Bomb load 6 x 1000lb GP's</p> <p>Flak over the target was Meagre-moderate, inaccurate to slightly accurate, tracking. 2 aircraft suffered minor damage, whilst for a 3rd, the damage was declared as major.</p> <p>Neither SAVs or scope photography were available for plotting showing any recognizable features of the target.</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	144	926	Date: 04-Apr-1945	Bomb Load:	6 x 1000lb GP
Target:	Kiel, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Dry Docks & slipways			TOG:	
Ship:	610	G	44-8610	R:	Neal Roy A
	Peoria Belle			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	C#02	H/stand (* = L.W.)	11	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 06:50	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:	STEWART ALBERT L			PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>Of the 30 aircraft that became airborne, 2 were declared as return early spares, each returning their bombs to Debach. 28 aircraft attacked and bombed the secondary target at Kiel. Bombing was by PFF methods. "A" Squadron bombed on the smoke markers of the group ahead because target broke up on 8 mile check point while using the lead PFF radar equipment.</p> <p>"B" Squadron bombed using H2X technique. "C" Squadron bombed H2X with very short visual assist. Sufficient facts cannot be gained from preliminary investigation of hot prints to definitely ascertain individual pattern of each squadron. SAVs show 2 impacts, probably those of "A" and "B" squadron, hitting 2 miles east of MPI. "C" squadron impacts were unobserved.</p> <p>Bomb load 6 x 1000lb GP's</p> <p>Flak over the target was meagre to moderate, inaccurate, tracking. 1 aircraft suffered minor damage.</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	145	928	Date: 05-Apr-1945	Bomb Load:	38 x 100lb GP
Target:	Primary: Unterschlausersbach, Germany Secondary: Nurnberg, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR: <input type="text"/>
Type:	Airfield			TOG:	<input type="text"/>
Ship:	316	F	43-38316	R:	Neal Roy A
	Hank's Battle Wagon			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	B#02	H/stand (* = L.W.)	03	NT/NG:	<input type="text"/>
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 07:50	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:	<input type="text"/>			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	<input type="text"/>
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	<input type="text"/>
N2/PN:	<input type="text"/>			RCM:	<input type="text"/>
NSP/MO:	<input type="text"/>			F:	<input type="text"/>
B:	STEWART ALBERT L			PAX1:	SMITH WILLIAM G
B2/IB:	<input type="text"/>			PAX2:	<input type="text"/>
Crew Notes	shown with "C" squadron over the target				

Mission details

The primary target for mission 145 was the airfield at Unterschlausersbach, Germany. This was a visual only target.

30 a/c were airborne - with 3 of these being return early spares. Bad weather created difficulty in forming up, aircraft assembled "where they could"

Because of cloud cover, only the low "C" squadron was able to bomb the first priority target. 7 aircraft of the "C" made the attack. The turn at the I/P was assisted by M/Os, (Mickey Operators) who lined the formation up at the target. SAV's showed poor results.

7 aircraft in the lead "A" squadron bombed the Marshalling Yard at Furth visually through an error in identification. Declared as a Target of Opportunity. SAV's show poor results (lead bombardier suffered an attack of "Flak Happiness" over Nuremburg, and dropped short of the flak ahead)

12 aircraft of the high "B" squadron bombed the second priority target, the Railroad Station/Marshalling yard at Nurnberg, again visually. SAVs show the impact starting short and walking directly across the MPI with very good results. The concentration of hits in the yard are sufficient to say that the majority of the lines running from the station are cut.

Bomb loads 38 x 100lb GP's

152 x 100lb GP's were jettisoned, in the North Sea or in the English Channel, from 4 aircraft.

Flak at Nurnberg was moderate to intense, barrage tracking, accurate.

Crews reported highly satisfactory fighter support for today's mission.



Mission 493/8AF	148	935	Date: 09-Apr-1945	Bomb Load:	"A" squadron 8 x 500lb GP & 4 x 500lb M-17 "B" & "C" 34 x 100lb GP & 2 x 500lb M-17
Target:	Schleissheim (Munich), Germany			No Sortie:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Airfield			TOG:	
Ship:	316	F	43-38316	R:	Neal Roy A
	Hank's Battle Wagon			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	B#02	H/stand (* = L.W.)	16	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 08:15	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert L
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:	STEWART ALBERT L			PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes	aborted - reason unknown jettisoned 34 x 100lb GP & 2 x 500lb M-17 return early spare				
Mission details	<p>Combat mission 148 was flown to Munich, Germany. Of the 31 a/c which became airborne, 1 returned early. The remaining 30 a/c bombed the first priority target.</p> <p>SAVs show "A" squadron had good results. Center of pattern was 100 feet NE of MPI. "B" squadron had poor to fair results, center of pattern 500 yards from MPI. 5% of pattern in target area. "C" squadron had fair results. Bombs were in the smoke of "B" squadrons efforts, and were slightly better.</p> <p>All bombing was carried out visually.</p> <p>Bomb load mix of 500lb GP's 500lb M-17 incendiaries, 100lb GP's  "A" squadron 8 x 500lb GP's &amp; 4 x 500lb M-17 incendiaries  "B" &amp; "C" squadrons 34 x 100lb GP's &amp; 2 x 500lb M17 incendiaries</p> <p>Flak in target area...Moderate, accurate, tracking and barrage  11 aircraft received minor damage</p> <p>1 aircraft (43-38316) jettisoned 34 x 100lb GPs &amp; 2 x 500lb M-17's</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	149	938	Date: 10-Apr-1945	Bomb Load:	24 x 250lb GP
Target:	Neuruppin, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR: <input type="text"/>
Type:	Airfield			TOG:	<input type="text"/>
Ship:	629	J	43-38629	R:	Neal Roy A
position:	B#02	H/stand (* = L.W.)	10	E:	Pucarelli Fred V
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 07:55	NT/NG:	<input type="text"/>
AC:	<input type="text"/>			BT:	Howe Charles M
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			TT:	<input type="text"/>
N2/PN:	<input type="text"/>			G:	<input type="text"/>
NSP/MO:	<input type="text"/>			RCM:	Barnes Leland I
B:	STEWART ALBERT L			F:	<input type="text"/>
B2/IB:	<input type="text"/>			PAX1:	<input type="text"/>
				PAX2:	<input type="text"/>
Crew Notes	<div></div>				

Mission details

Of the 30 a/c that left Debach, 29 of them reached and bombed the airfield at Neuruppin, Germany. one aircraft aborted and returned early.

The target was bombed by visual techniques in squadron formation.

SAVs show "A" squadron bombed with very good results covering MPI with very good pattern.

"B" squadron bombed with good to very good results

"C" squadron bombs fell just over the MPI, but postholed airfield and pattern continued down into hangar area

Bomb load 24 x 250lb GP's

one aircraft , a return early spare, jettisoned 24 x 250lb bombs in the North Sea. 695 bombs were released over the target.

Flak over the target was Meagre tracking and inaccurate, however at 5252N 1130E it was described as being accurate.

3 aircraft suffered minor damage

"This target presented special difficulties as the MPIs had no prominent features, but were simply points on the landing ground. There were no runways on the field to aid the bombardier in orientating himself.

The bombardiers are to be congratulated for their work on this mission.

It is apparent by the patterns that all the formations were good, indicative of good flying by the wing ships

There were at least 16 single and twin aircraft ships on the field at the time of the bombing. The bomb craters will keep them on the ground for a few days."

A.R.Curran

1st Lt. Air Corps

Asst P.I. Officer

Mission 493/8AF	150	941	Date: 11-Apr-1945	Bomb Load:	6 x 1000lb GP
Target:	Ingolstadt, Germany			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Marshalling yard			TOG:	
Ship:	316	F	43-38316	R:	Neal Roy A
	Hank's Battle Wagon			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	C#03	H/stand (* = L.W.)	16	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 08:00	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:	STEWART ALBERT L			PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>Combat mission #150 was flown to bomb a marshalling yard at Ingolstadt, Germany. 30 aircraft took off and all reached and bombed the Primary target.</p> <p>SAVs show "A" squadron bombed approximately 2500 feet short of MPI. Hits were in an open area with poor results.</p> <p>"B" squadron bombed with approximately 40% of their pattern within 500 feet of MPI with very good results. The yard received a good concentration of hits with one probable hit and two near misses on the southern round house. There were at least 3 strings of goods wagons to be seen under the pattern and it is felt all lines in the area of the pattern received severe damage needing major repairs.</p> <p>"C" squadron selected, as their MPI, the choke point on the North side of the M/Y and bombed with major portion of pattern short of MPI. Some hits were seen on the MPI. Results possibly fair.</p> <p>Bomb load 6 x 1000lb GP's</p> <p>no Flak reported</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	151	948	Date: 14-Apr-1945	Bomb Load:	12 x 500lb GP
Target:	Royan, France			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR: <input type="text"/>
Type:	Gun/Troop emplacements			TOG:	<input type="text"/>
Ship:	316	F	43-38316	R:	Neal Roy A
	Hank's Battle Wagon			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	B#07	H/stand (* = L.W.)	16	NT/NG:	<input type="text"/>
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 07:45	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:	<input type="text"/>			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Hume Robert L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	<input type="text"/>
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	<input type="text"/>
N2/PN:	<input type="text"/>			RCM:	<input type="text"/>
NSP/MO:	<input type="text"/>			F:	<input type="text"/>
B:	STEWART ALBERT L			PAX1:	<input type="text"/>
B2/IB:	<input type="text"/>			PAX2:	<input type="text"/>
Crew Notes	<div></div>				

Mission details

Combat mission 151 was flown to Royan, France in support of the French ground troops. There were 31 aircraft airborne with one of these being a return early spare.

There were two "MPI's listed for this mission, with 19 aircraft from the "A" & "B" squadrons releasing 226 bombs over their target at 4538N 0109E, whilst 1 aircraft from the "C" squadron attacked the second point on the target, at 4538N 0104E, releasing a further 120 bombs.

Due to various difficulties in locating the MPI and interference, "A" squadron made 3 runs on the target, "B" squadron made two, and "C" squadron hit the target on their first pass.

29 a/c made effective sorties and their bombing results were excellent

"A" squadron was 3rd over the target and bombed with good to very good results. There are a number of hits in the target area and hits on the assigned target point.

"B" squadron was 2nd over the target and bombed with excellent results. 92% within 500' and 100% within 1000' of the MPI.

"C" squadron bombed first with good results. The pattern was loose but the target received several good hits in the assigned aiming point.

Bomb load 12 x 500lb GP's

1 aircraft jettisoned 12 bombs at 4630N 0200W following a malfunction in the salvo release unit. 14 bombs were returned to Debach

flak at 4613N 0125W (ile de Re) was meagre, tracking,inaccurate

Mission 493/8AF	152	951	Date: 15-Apr-1945	Bomb Load:	42 x 100lb M-47 incendiary
Target:	Royan, France			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR:
Type:	Gun/Troop emplacements			TOG:	
Ship:	316	F	43-38316	R:	Neal Roy A
	Hank's Battle Wagon			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	A#02	H/stand (* = L.W.)	16	NT/NG:	
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 08:30	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:				WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	
N2/PN:				RCM:	
NSP/MO:				F:	
B:	STEWART ALBERT L			PAX1:	
B2/IB:				PAX2:	
Crew Notes					
Mission details	<p>For this mission the group returned to Royan, France. 30 a/c were airborne and all were credited with sorties. Each aircraft dropped 42 x 100lb chemical incendiary bombs.</p> <p>The first priority target, the gun/troop emplacements, was bombed visually with good to very good results.</p> <p>Intense black smoke caused by bombs of previous groups obscured most of the 493rd strikes and makes definite assessment impossible. Some bursts can be seen in the target area, and the smoke markers falling in the vicinity of the MPI indicate that the bombing was good.</p> <p>Bomb load 42 x 100lb M-47 incendiaries</p> <p>1 aircraft returned with 1 x M-47 , whilst 3 hung up bombs in total were jettisoned</p> <p>Flak in the target area was meagre, inaccurate, tracking.</p>				

Mission 493/8AF	153	955	Date: 16-Apr-1945	Bomb Load:	12 x 500lb GP
Target:	Rochefort, France			No Sortie:	<input type="checkbox"/> MACR: <input type="text"/>
Type:	Tank defenses			TOG:	<input type="text"/>
Ship:	316	F	43-38316	R:	Neal Roy A
	Hank's Battle Wagon			E:	Pucarelli Fred V
position:	B#05	H/stand (* = L.W.)	16	NT/NG:	<input type="text"/>
Type:	B-17	Sqn: 860	Hrs 06:55	BT:	Howe Charles M
AC:	<input type="text"/>			WG:	Schmidt Robert W
P:	SHARP ROBERT D			TG:	Saxton Nyal L
CP:	PARKER LORIMER A			TT:	<input type="text"/>
N:	NAIMY GEORGE R			G:	<input type="text"/>
N2/PN:	<input type="text"/>			RCM:	<input type="text"/>
NSP/MO:	<input type="text"/>			F:	<input type="text"/>
B:	STEWART ALBERT L			PAX1:	<input type="text"/>
B2/IB:	<input type="text"/>			PAX2:	<input type="text"/>
Crew Notes	Lt Sharp and crew completed their tour of duty today				
Mission details	<p>Combat mission 153 was flown to the Rochefort area, France, again in support of French ground troops. There were 30 a/c airborne and all of these attacked the first priority target.</p> <p>SAVs show "A" and "B" squadrons bombed 1500' to 2000' short and to the right of the MPI with poor results. "C" Squadron bombed 8000 yds over the target with poor results</p> <p>Bomb load 12 x 500lb GP's</p> <p>Flak. One large burst was observed, accurate on the Group ahead.</p> <p>from photo interpretation report</p> <p>"A" squadron bombed with 75% within 500' and 100% within 1000' of the MPI with very good results. One stick of bombs can be seen on the trap with numerous near misses. The general pattern was excellent and marked credit is due to the bombardier in being able to pick up this difficult target. The target was apparently selected to knock out a possible strong point in the trap.</p> <p>"B" squadron bombed with approximately 10% within 500', 65% within 1000' and 100% within 2000' of the MPI with good to possibly very good results. The trap extends all the way across the peninsular, and although the pattern was just right of the MPI, it crossed a section of the trap with smoke from the lead making exact strikes unobserved.</p> <p>"C" squadron bombed some 8000 yards over the target with poor results.</p>				