

483rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520, U. S. Army

SPECIAL NARRATIVE REPORT.

MISSION: 18 July 1944, Memmingen A/D, Germany.

I. ENEMY RESISTANCE.

A. Air. Our Group was alone when it arrived at the I. P. at 1045 hours and was immediately attacked by approximately 100 FW-190's, a few of which may have been Me-110's and Me-109's. They made their first pass from out of the sun at three o'clock and peeled off at 150 yards. They immediately reformed and came in en masse from six o'clock, attacking our rear box. They flew in a stepped up javelin formation making it very difficult for anyone other than our tail gunners to fire at them. Their plan of attack was fitted perfectly for our box in trail formation and they concentrated on one box at a time working from rear to front.

As they came in at close range, they seemed to throttle down and poured continuous rocket and 30 mm. fire into our formation. One rocket projector was observed under each wing and it was stated that when directly hit by a rocket a bomber would burst into flames immediately. A multitude of small white bursts were observed.

The attack lasted 30 minutes and practically all passes were made from level rear and from five, six, and seven o'clock. The fighter escort arrived about 8 minutes after the initial attack, and was very effective from then on, despite the fact that they were heavily outnumbered.

The enemy fighters were of various colors, including the following: silver fuselage with yellow cowling; silver fuselage with red band near tail; black with gray bellies and some olive drab.

From the above encounters, our Group lost fifteen (15) aircraft, and claims the following victories: 23 destroyed, 7 probables, and 2 damaged. (These figures later went up to: 54 destroyed, 8 probables, and 5 damaged).

After leaving the target area, our Group was again attacked by 25 Me-109's over Innsbruck. They came in from high, out of the sun and passed under our formation. No losses or victories resulted from this attack.

B. Flak. There was no flak at the target.

II. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS.

A. Communications. The command channel was jammed by the enemy, making it impossible to call the escort for assistance.

It was the opinion of our Group leader that entirely too much intercommunication was conducted by other Groups on the way into Germany, making it possible for the enemy to definitely establish the position and course of the formation.

B. Flak. Flak was observed only at Innsbruck, which appeared to be from approximately six (6) guns.

C. Naval. Two ships which resembled submarines were observed at 45° 30'N - 13° 00'E.

D. Ground. A very large airfield with several runways was observed at 46/03N, 12/37E. Another airfield was observed at 48/04N, 10/55E.

E. Air. Our aircraft No. 792 was seen at 1035 hours, heading for Switzerland; with one engine on fire.

A total of eight chutes was all that were seen during the encounter.

III. CONCLUSION.

A. Total losses. From fighters - 15.

B. Damage. From fighters - 3 slight, 2 serious.

C. Victories. (Claim sheets being submitted.)

Destroyed: 28 FW-190's. *
Probables: 7 FW-190's.
Damaged: 2 FW-190's.

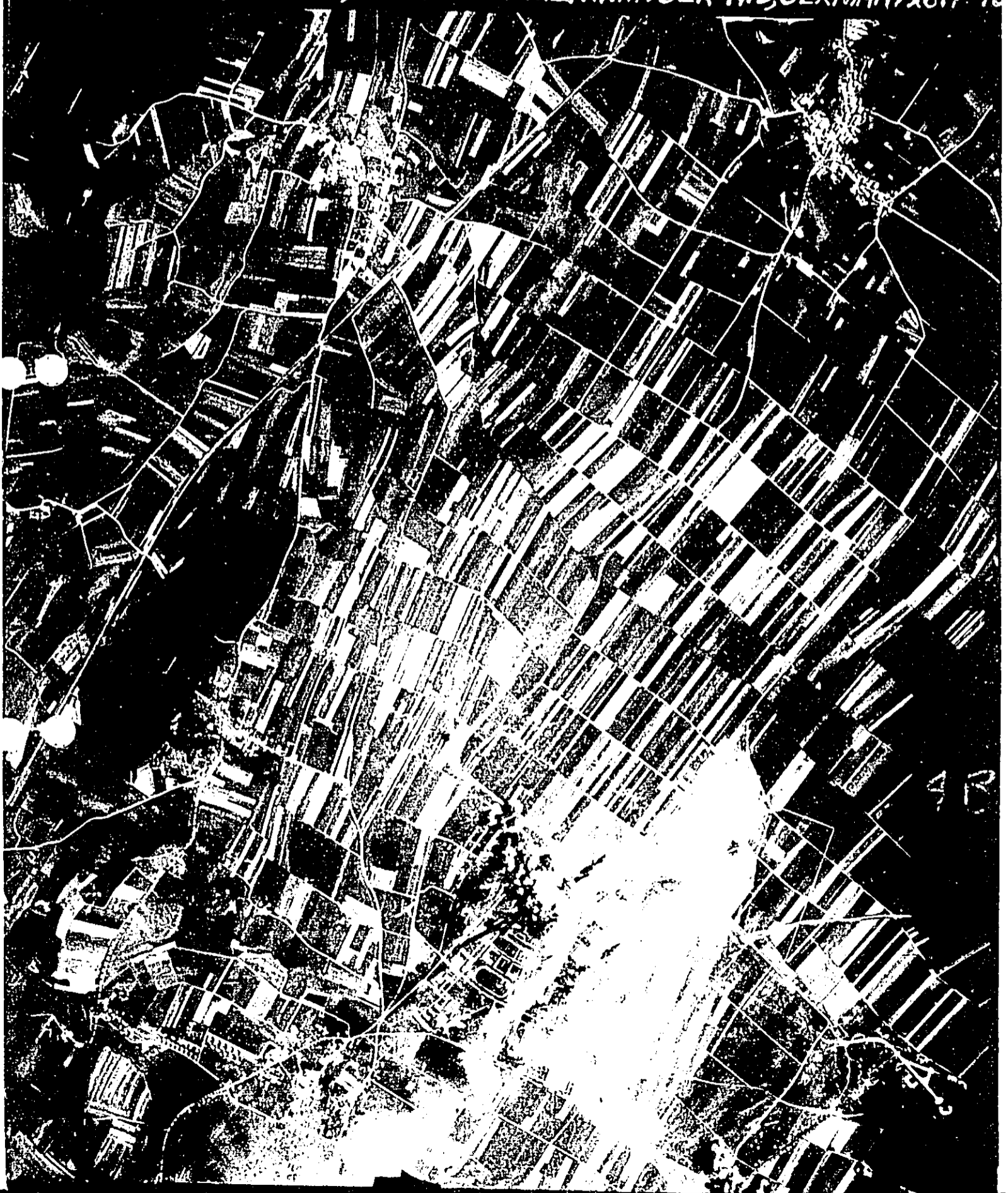
D. Corrections. None.

* (The final count on combat claims was 54 enemy aircraft destroyed; 8 probables; and 5 damaged.)

EDWIN J. SITGREAVES
Major, Air Corps
S-2, 433rd Bomb Group

(48336:4M51)

1V4X7 18 1056X12 23,300X95°-XMEMMINGER AID, GERMANYX817 70



C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY THIRD
BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520

19 July 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO : All Concerned.

The following TWX is quoted for your information:

FROM LAWRENCE NR 544
TO CO, 483rd BOMB GROUP
CONFIDENTIAL CITE FW AC28

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM TRAINING IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION. FAF ABLE 87 THE AIR BATTLE WAGED BY THE FOUR EIGHT THREE BOMBARDMENT GROUP AGAINST ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY GERMAN FIGHTERS IN THE MEMINGEN AREA YESTERDAY WAS AS FIERCE A BATTLE AS HAS EVER BEEN FOUGHT BY A GROUP OF THIS AIR FORCE PD WITHOUT AID OF ESCORT FIGHTERS AND IN SPITE OF HEAVY LOSSES THE GROUP FOUGHT VALIANTLY THROUGH REPEATED ATTACKS BY ENEMY FIGHTERS COMPLETING A MOST HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BOMBING ATTACK ON THE ASSIGNED TARGET AND DESTROYING TWENTY FIVE GERMAN FIGHTERS PD BY HIGHEST COMMENDATIONS AND THE ADMIRATION OF THE ENTIRE AIR FORCE TO THE CREWS PARTICIPATING FOR THEIR COURAGE AND DETERMINATION AND SKILL AS EVIDENCED BY THE SUCCESS OF THIS GALLANT ATTACK.

LAWRENCE

By order of Colonel BARTON

K P BISHOP
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY THIRD
BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520

19 July 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO : All Personnel, 483rd Bombardment Group (H)

Yesterday this Group became engaged in an air battle with the German Air Force and suffered very heavy casualties. Normally in battles of this kind we are supported by several other bombardment and fighter groups. This time we stood alone! By ourselves, we shot down at a conservative estimate, many times our own number of German Fighters and still went in and destroyed our assigned target. We took our losses, severe as they were, but we fought and decisively defeated a large portion, possibly a third, of the cream of German Fighter Forces in Europe.

This battle is a gallant chapter in the history of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) and of the United States Air Forces. I am proud of you all and you have every right to be proud of yourselves!

Yesterday we established a fighting tradition which we must continue to uphold. Failure to do so would constitute a betrayal to the memories of those brave and gallant men who did not come back. I know you will not fail, but will continue to carry out more and more successful attacks against the German enemy until the war is victoriously ended.

PAUL L BARTON
Colonel, Air Corps
Commanding