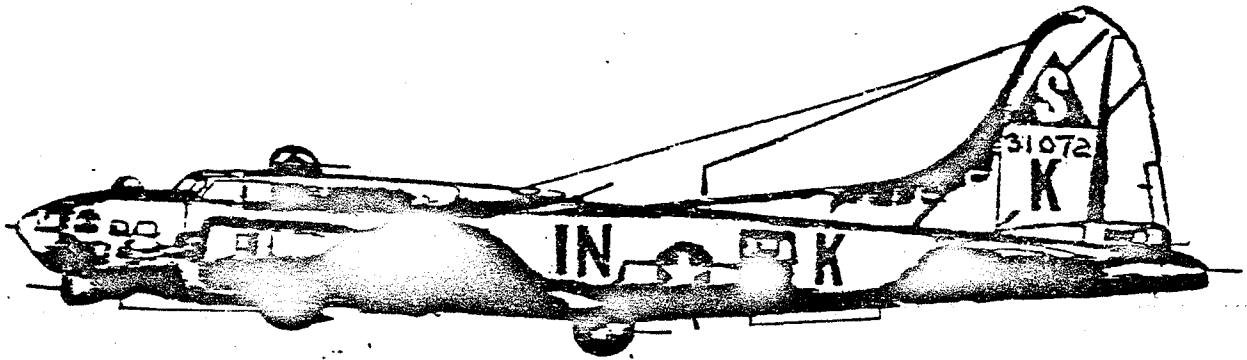


**613th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
SQUADRON HISTORY**



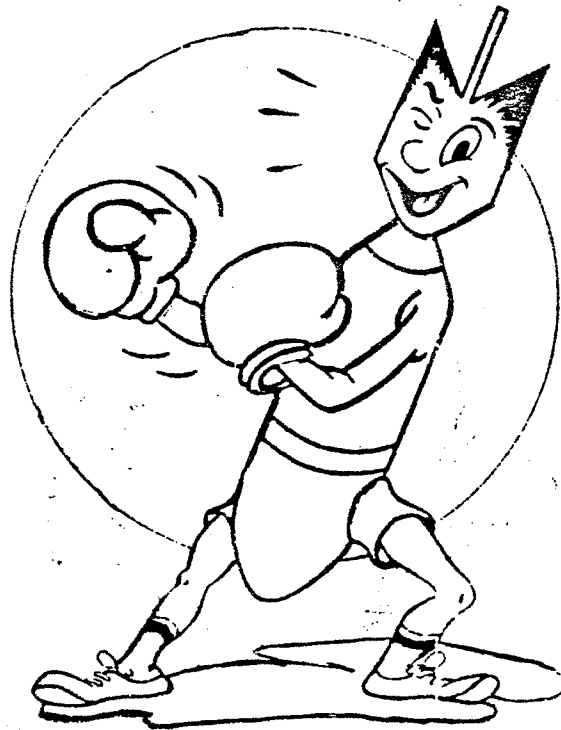


613TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

SQUADRON HISTORY

PART ONE

From 1st April 1943



613TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
401ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
U.S.A.A.F.

SQUADRON HISTORY

From 1st April 1943

by  
Lt. James L. Meredith, Squadron S-2

Transcribed from the 401st. microfilm

by

Vic Maslen

Dedicated to Edwin W. Brown  
former  
Commanding Officer  
613th. Bombardment Squadron (H).

April 1943

The war had been in progress some 14 months and heavy bombardment had, by this time, asserted itself not only as a mighty weapon of war but, also, as a function of air warfare that had the potential power of bringing cities and nations into a state of submission, when the 613th Bombardment Squadron (H) had its inception.

The Second Air Force charged with the organization and training of heavy bombardment units pursuant to the war endeavor and the record change already amassed by heavy bombardment units in the theatres of war issued General Order No. 46 dated 1st April, 1943 ordering the formation of the 401st Bombardment Group and its component squadrons of which the 613th Squadron was one. The activation and temporary headquarters of the Squadron was at the Army Air Force Base, Ephrata, Washington.

The first personnel were assigned to the Squadron on April 26th. Commissioned personnel assigned were Captain Edwin W. Brown and 2nd Lt.'s Burke, Carlin, Meredith, Meadville, Roemer, Wilson and Wood. Captain Brown was appointed Commanding Officer of the Squadron.

The enlisted personnel assigned were M/Sgt. Harris, S/Sgt.'s Boardman, Mizgalski, Szorie, Click and Smith; Sgt.'s Jack, Lipa, Owens, Malloy, Pratanich and Ridge; Cpl.'s Anderson, Drake, Fields, Krygier and Liembach. With few exceptions most of the personnel both commissioned and enlisted came to the organization from the 395th Bomb Group located at AAB Ephrata, Washington.

On April 26th this contingent of key personnel were sent on detached service to the Army Air Force School of Applied Tactics at Orlando, Florida for 30 days while the combat crews to be received at a later date were undergoing their first phase of training at a first phase training base.

On June 1st the personnel on detached service at the Army Air Force School of Applied Tactics at Orlando, Florida returned to their newly designated station, Geiger Field, Spokane, Washington.

The month of June was a period of preparation and establishment preparatory to the receiving of combat crews. As in any army organization, especially a new one, rumors were many and varied and many who were disappointed with what appeared the slowness of organization and operation of the Group as a whole were quick to predict that the 613th, as an organization, would never see foreign soil.

On July 7th the Squadron left Geiger Field, Washington by airplane and bus for their new station, Army Air Base, Great Falls, Montana.

The Squadron began its actual first flight training at Great Falls with four crews assigned. The crew commanders were, namely, 1st Lt. Leon Stann, 2nd Lt. Russell M. Fowler, 2nd Lt. William R. Raser and 2nd Lt. William Riegler.

July 26th - August 26th, 1943

Background.

The 613th Bombardment Squadron departed AAB Great Falls, Montana at 0700 hours July 26th by motor convoy for its temporary change of station, AAB Cut Bank, Montana. The distance travelled was 125 miles and the convoy arrived at 1200 hours.

The satellite air base at Cut Bank is located 4 miles west of the town of Cut bank and just within the boundary of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The base is small and compact with adequate facilities for the training of one Squadron. There are three runways, two of them being 8500 feet in length and the third, 6500 feet. Generally speaking, the locality is good for flying having fair weather and mostly flat terrain. One exception to this exists, that being the Rocky Mountain range approximately 50 miles to the West.

1st Lt. Claude Stanley is the base commander.

Training

The first casualty of the Squadron occurred on July 30th when Cpl. Joseph Nelson, a mechanic, was seriously injured when struck by a bomb bay tank which was accidentally released. He was immediately flown to the base hospital at Great Falls, and thence to the Bushnell Hospital at Brigham, Utah where he died on August 6th.

Bad luck lingered in its visit and on August 18th a ship piloted by 2nd Lt. John Fechtmuller had to make a forced landing due to engine failure. In spite of good piloting by Lt. Fechtmuller the lack of sufficient power caused the ship to fall just short of the runway. Four officers and one enlisted man were aboard. All were slightly injured with the exception of 2nd Lt. Ralph Murphy, a bombardier, who was seriously injured and died the following day as a result.

Then on August 21st a ship piloted by 2nd Lt. Marvin Bender had engine failure and due to the inability to maintain altitude the pilot landed in a field near the village of Conrad, Montana. None of the personnel were injured.

At the time of writing the Squadron had seven aircraft for the purpose of training.

Personnel

Captain Edwin W. Brown is the Commanding Officer and the various department heads are:

- Executive Officer ----- Capt. H.P. Ewald
- Adjutant ----- 1st Lt. J.P. Orcutt
- Operations ----- Capt. C.C. Hinkle
- Medical ----- Capt. H.B. Lander
- Intelligence ----- 2nd Lt. J.L. Meredith
- Engineering ----- 2nd Lt. C. Wilson
- Communications ----- 2nd Lt. G.P. Roemer
- Armament ----- 2nd Lt. J.C. Berry
- Ordnance ----- 2nd Lt. A. Kraczik

1st Lt. Frank Miller was transferred from AAB Moses Lake, Washington and appointed Assistant Operations officer on July 30th.

1st Lt. Carl Hinkle , Squadron Operations Officer was appointed Captain on August 9th.

The Squadron strength as of August 25th was as follows:

Officers -----	78
Enlisted Men -----	393
<u>Total</u>	<u>471</u>

Of this total strength there were 17 combat crews.

### Unit History (September Installment)

#### Background

The Squadron continued its training at the Cut Bank Army Air Base.

#### Training

The combat strength of the organization at this time was composed 17 crews divided into three flights. Crews were numbered consecutively from No. 21. The following officers were designated as flight leaders as of this date:

Flight A -----	Lt. Russell M. Fowler
Flight B -----	Lt. William Reigler
Flight C -----	Lt. Leon Stann

The Squadron participated in a Group mission on September 15th. Six crews represented the Squadron.

#### Personnel

A new crew, the 18th, was added to the Squadron. The crew was assigned from the Army Air Base, Rapid City, South Dakota and had already completed their 3rd phase training requirements.

Crew No. 24 under Lt. William Riegler had a battle experienced bombardier assigned to its crew. This bombardier, 1st Lt. Duward W. Fesmire, saw service in the South Pacific as a member of the famous and well awarded 19th Bombardment Group. As a bombardier on the much publicized ship the "Suzy Q" he flew 51 missions and was awarded the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and the 19th Bomb Group Special Award. He returned to the country as a Master Sergeant and was commissioned a 1st Lt. shortly thereafter.

Captain Edwin W. Brown is the Squadron Commanding Officer as of this date.

### Unit History (October - January)

Training in the 613th Squadron came to a halt on October 16th when the air echelon, 18 crews in strength, was ordered to Scott Field , Illinois for a period of last minute preparations prior to overseas movement. The movement was under command of Major Edwin W. Brown, the Squadron Commander. After a period of approximately 5 days the air echelon left Scott Field and proceeded to Syracuse, New York; Bangor, Maine and Gander Lake, Newfoundland. From Gander Lake they flew directly to Prestwick, Scotland and thence to an airdrome at Polebrook, England.

In the meantime, on October 19th, the ground echelon, with a few members of the air echelon who couldn't be taken by air, departed the Army Air Base, Cut Bank, Montana, by troop train, for a staging post at Camp Shanks, New York. Captain Ewald, the Squadron Executive Officer, was in command of the movement. The rail route was via Fargo, North Dakota; Minneapolis and St Paul, Minnesota; Chicago, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan; Windsor, Ontario; Niagara Falls, New York; Buffalo, New York and ended at Orangeburg, New York, the site of Camp Shanks, on October 22nd.

Four days were spent at Camp Shanks during which time everyone was involved in a hurry-up process of preparing for embarkation. A final and complete issue of clothing and equipment had to be made, clothing had to be checked and marked, and indoctrination lectures had to be given; and all this amidst the general excitement and anticipation of the "big trip" about to be taken undoubtedly made these four days the busiest and most tiresome of any period during our entire training.

At 0025 hours on the fourth day we again boarded a troop train which took us to Weehawken, New Jersey where we were met by a ferry and taken across the Hudson River to a pier at Manhattan, New York. It was there that we boarded the boat that was to take us to our foreign destination.

Rumors are ever present in the army and the 613th was no exception in that respect. During the interim between our departure from Cut Bank and our arrival at the pier several rumors had been circulated to the effect that we were slated to sail on one of the great luxury liners of peacetime days, and guesses had ranged everywhere from the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth of British fame to the Italian liner Rex. The latter was somewhat within the realm of possibility inasmuch as Italy had surrendered some weeks previously. Almost immediately on arrival at the pier all rumors and guesses became either fact or fiction for the vessel was officially identified as the renown Queen Mary whose reputation for an unescorted troop transport had, by this time, not only been established but well publicized. This knowledge of the "Queen's" ability to out-run and evade the undersea demons of Admiral Doenitz was obviously a comforting factor to many of us as soon as the ship was identified a certain tenseness gave way to much chatter and laughter. No doubt many realized at that moment that what could be a wearisome 10 or 12 days more probably would now be a much less wearisome 5 or 6 days.

Embarkation took place at approximately 0300 hours, October 27th. That day, until 1745 hours, was taken up with the job of getting settled for the trip. Boat drills and a talk by the ship's Captain were also a part of the last minute preparations aboard the ship. Undoubtedly speeches of any nature have had no greater effect than did the one given by the ship's Captain to those about to make the voyage. Speaking sternly, he stated the necessity for absolute obedience to the rules of the ship so that any emergency could be met in an orderly manner and with a minimum of loss; and he ended by saying that the greatest disaster that could befall the ship during the pending voyage would not be the loss of the thousands of lives aboard, but would be the loss of the ship. To those unacquainted with naval tradition it was a hard statement.

At 1745 hours, October 27th, the engines of the huge ship began to turn, a slight feeling of movement was sensed, and it was soon known that we were on our way - destination unknown.

Strangely enough, it was an uneventful but enjoyable trip consider-

ing that it was a troop movement. Each day of the journey a boat drill was conducted. Suffice it to say that a considerable exchange of the American dollar was involved over a game known as "poker". The appearance on the boat of a booklet entitled "Assignment to Britain" cleared all doubts as to our final destination. Approximately 5½ days later, November 2nd, the Queen Mary dropped anchor in the harbor at Greenock, Scotland, situated on the Firth of Clyde.

Debarkation took place the following morning. Troops were ferried to the mainland where they entrained and 14 hours later arrived at Geddington, England. There a truck convoy transported them to Deenethorpe, the site of the 613th's new phase of operations.

At the time of arrival in the United Kingdom the following personnel, in addition to the ones on page 2, were departmental heads:

Supply Officer -----	1st Lt. E.	Landy
Squadron Bombardier -----	2nd Lt. H.	Meadville
Squadron Navigator -----	1st Lt. H.	Wood

November 1943

The period from November 3rd to November 26th was spent in preparation for combat operations. The ground personnel were occupied in a process of getting set up in various departments at Deenethorpe while the combat crews spent the same period of the time at Polebrook where they were given indoctrination by the 351st Group. At this point it should be mentioned that the Squadron, in some respects, ceased to operate as such. Instead of operating as a Squadron, as was done in the States, most departments were pooled with the Group and functioned as a Group department. The result of this new method of operation meant that each department head was, in theory, still a Squadron department head, although he now operated as an assistant to the Group head of that particular department. There were some exceptions however, and they were as follows:

Motor Maintenance Officer ----	1st Lt. J.P. Orcutt
Base Security Officer -----	2nd Lt. F.H. Rea
Post Exchange Officer -----	1st Lt. R. Buckley

Prior to going operational the air echelon also underwent a change in the form of a transfer of nine of its original 18 crews to the 351st Group at Polebrook. This loss of crews was soon supplimented as will be seen later.

The transition from training to operations came on November 26th for on that date the 613th was dispatched on its first combat mission.

Mission 1

Target: Bremen

26 November 1943

The target for the first mission was Bremen and by no means a breather for a season opener. The 613th was the Lead Squadron in the Group formation on this first mission.

due to 10/10's undercast the target was obscured and bombing was not done by visual methods. All aircraft returned from this operation and there were no casualties. 2nd Lt. Charles E. Hess flying aircraft 42-31072 had to turn back early due to engine failure and did not reach the target.



The following six crews participated:

Lead Crew            1st Lt. W.    Riegler  
                         Col.    H.W. Bowman  
                         2nd Lt. W.    Anderson  
                         1st Lt. D.W. Fesmire  
                         T/Sgt. M.G. Lipa  
                         T/Sgt. L.W. Click  
                         S/Sgt. J.C. Jack  
                         S/Sgt. N.    Ohanian  
                         S/Sgt. G.    Owens  
                         1st Lt. F.C. Miller

Capt.    L.    Stann and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.E. Hess and crew.  
2nd Lt. J.R. Locher Jr. and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.B. Keith and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.M. Fowler and crew.

Mission 2

Target: Solingen

1 December 1943

On December 1st, 1943 the 613th flew its second mission. The target was Sloingen, Germany located in the heart of the heavily defended Ruhr Valley. Within the city the specific target was a manufacturing plant responsible for a good percentage of Germany's aircraft parts. Three crews took part in this mission and flew in the High Squadron of the Group formation.

Lt. Hess's crew flying in aircraft 42-39840 reached the target and bombed, however, enemy opposition, both air and ground, caused the loss of No. 3 and No. 4 engines. Enroute home, flying at 2500 feet, the action of the ship made it seem almost impossible to cross the water and reach England. Lt. Hess issued an order to the crew members to prepare to bail out. On checking with the crew again about ten minutes later he could not contact any of the Enlisted crew members by interphone. Going to the rear of the ship the co-pilot found that they had all bailed out. This occurred approximately 50 miles due east of Brussels, Belgium. The four officers remained with the ship and, in spite of terrific difficulty, successfully reached the English coast, landing at Manston. All other ships and crews returned safely. The participating crews were:

2nd Lt. C.E. Hess and crew.  
Capt.    L.    Stann and crew.  
1st Lt. H.L. Piper Jr. and crew.

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Aircraft Nick-names

Probably in no other branch of the service do the troops attach as much sentiment between themselves and their equipment as do the air crews and their aircraft in the Air Corps. This feeling and sentiment manifests itself in many ways but particularly in a nick-name they choose for their ship. Usually these names range from a parody on a popular song or current expression or the name of the pilot's wife. The crews of the 613th chose the following nick-names for their aircraft:

<u>Pilot</u>	<u>Aircraft No.</u>	<u>Code.</u>	<u>Nick-Name</u>
Capt. L. Stann	42-31033	IN-B	PEE TEY KUH
1st Lt. W. Riegler	42-31037	IN-F	PISTOL PACKIN MAMA
2nd Lt. R.M. Fowler	42-31081	IN-C	SON OF A BLITZ
2nd Lt. B.M. Shotts	42-31072	IN-K	BETTY J
2nd Lt. C.E. Hess	42-39840	IN-A	THE LOPIN LOBO
2nd Lt. H.L. Piper Jr.	42-31090	IN-L	NASTY HABIT
2nd Lt. J.R. Locher Jr.	42-3507	IN-O	DUFFY'S TAVERN
2nd Lt. W.B. Keith Jr.	42-39825	IN-M	ZENODIA
2nd Lt. D.M. Lawry			Unnamed

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Mission 3

Target: Paris

5 December 1943

The aero-engine works at Paris was the object of the 3rd mission on December 5th and five crews were dispatched by the 613th. They flew in the High Squadron of the Group formation. Due to 10/10's undercast the Group was unable to identify and bomb the target. All crews returned safely. Lt. Keith's crew was scheduled to fly this operation; however, on take-off, the ship was caught in the slip stream of the preceding aircraft and crashed just off the runway in the village of Deenethorpe. The Bombardier, Lt. King, and the Navigator, Lt. Flote, were seriously injured but due to the rapid and heroic efforts of ground crews were removed from the wreckage just prior to the explosion of 6000 lbs of bombs. The following crews participated in this mission:

1st Lt. W. Riegler and crew  
2nd Lt. D.M. Lawry and crew  
1st Lt. H.L. Piper and crew  
Capt. L. Stann and crew  
1st Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew

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By this time the Squadron had become fairly well adjusted at its new base. Of course there were minor grievances but, as older army men claim, such grievances represent a healthy state of moral. The Squadron area in relation to the rest of the base was located in the extreme southwest corner. In fact it was so far away from the headquarters that in walking the distance, and, providing one had very little on his mind, he might think he was on a stroll through the English countryside. This illusion was even more possible because of the fact that the route took him past a lone windmill, over a small creek, past a hatstack and by an abandoned farmhouse. Living quarters, as at all bomber stations, were the standard Nissen huts.

During the month of December the following officers were promoted to 1st Lt: 2nd Lt. F. Wilson, 2nd Lt. J.S. Berry, 2nd Lt. J.L. Meredith, 2nd Lt. H.W. Meadville, 2nd Lt. W. Riegler, 2nd Lt. B.M. Shotts and 2nd Lt. H.L. Piper.

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Mission 4

Target: Emden

11 December 1943

The shipping center of Emden, Germany was the object of the fourth mission on December 11th, 1943. Six crews were dispatched and flew as the Low Squadron of the Group formation. All crews reached the target and returned safely. The crews participating were:

2nd Lt. W.B. Keith and crew.  
1st Lt. H.J. Piper Jr. and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.M. Fowler and crew.  
Capt. L. Stann and crew.  
2nd Lt. D.H. Lawry and crew.  
2nd Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.

Mission 5

Target: Kiel

13 December 1943

Weather was favorable to operations at this of the month. Consequently the Squadron was again dispatched on 13th December, 1943. This time the target being Kiel, Germany. On this mission the 613th flew High Squadron in the Group and Captain Stann flew as Squadron Leader. The following crews represented the Squadron and returned safely:

1st Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.M. Fowler and crew.  
1st Lt. H.L. Piper Jr. and crew.  
2nd Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.  
2nd Lt. D.H. Lawry and crew.  
Capt. L. Stann and crew.

Mission 6

Target: Bremen

20 December 1943

Bremen, Germany was the target again on 20th December, 1943. The Squadron flew in the High Squadron of the Group with Major Edwin W. Brown as Squadron Lead. The following crews, all of whom returned safely, flew on this operation:

1st Lt. W. Riegler and crew.  
2nd Lt. D.H. Lawry and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.B. Keith and crew.  
1st Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.M. Fowler and crew.  
1st Lt. H.L. Piper Jr. and crew.

Mission 7

Target: Osnabruck

22 December 1943

The Squadron flew the lead position in the Group on a mission to Osnabruck, Germany on 22nd December, 1943. Osnabruck is located in west central Germany and the specific target was the marshalling yards. Another formation of bombers coming off the target at nearby Munster forced the formation to turn short of the target. No bombs were dropped and the Squadron returned without loss. Participating crews were:

2nd Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.  
1st Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew.  
Capt. L. Stann and crew.  
2nd Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.

Mission 8

Target: Gorenflos

24 December 1943

Photographic reconnaissance and other sources had for some time given credence to the report that the enemy was constructing installations, designed to propel a rocket type projectile just inside the French coast. On 24th Dec-



the target, bombed, and returned without loss. Crews taking part were:  
2nd Lt. C.E. Hess and crew.  
2nd Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.R. Rohner and crew.  
2nd Lt. S.J. Nason and crew.  
2nd Lt. J.R. Locher Jr. and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.

Mission 13

Target: Ludwigshaven

7 January 1944

The 13th mission for the Group was another attack on the I.G. Farben Industrie site in Ludwigshaven. Six crews from the 613th were briefed and took off with Major Brown leading. Due to 10/10's cloud cover assembly was not made and the crews returned without crossing the Channel.

Mission 14

Target: Oscherslaben

11 January 1944

Probably the greatest raid ever staged by the 8th Air Force, at least from the standpoint of enemy aircraft destroyed, took place on January 11th, 1944. The target was an aircraft plant at Oscherslaben located 120 miles west of Berlin. Eight crews of the 613th were dispatched and flew as the Lead Squadron of a composite Group. Major Brown, flying with Lt. Riegler's crew, was wounded by flak. One crew, Lt. Nason's, failed to return from this mission. Crews participating were:

1st Lt. W. Riegler and crew.  
1st Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.B. Keith and crew.  
2nd Lt. J.R. Locher Jr. and crew.  
1st Lt. H.L. Piper Jr. and crew.  
2nd Lt. S.C. Nason and crew. (M.I.A.)  
2nd Lt. W.C. Sheahan and crew.  
2nd Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.

Mission 15

Target: Gorenflos

14 January 1944

A second mission to bomb the rocket installations at Gorenflos, France took place on January 14th. Only two crews represented the Squadron on the operation and both returned safely. The crews flying were:

1st Lt. D.E. Jones and crew.  
1st Lt. H.L. Piper jr. and crew.

Mission 16

Target: Notre Dame de Ferme

21 January 1944

The months of December and January saw a concentration of raids on the Pas de Calais area, the site of the rocket installations. The 16th Mission, on January 21st, was another of these operations, this time to Notre Dame de Ferme, France. Five crews, all of whom returned safely, were dispatched. They were:

1st Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.E. Hess and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.R. Rohner and crew  
1st Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew.  
1st Lt. H.L. Piper Jr. and crew.

The Squadrons of the Group flew in trail across the target and the 613th was the second to bomb.

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The following changes in personnel assignments occurred during the month of January. On January 1st Captain Carl C. Hinkle, Squadron Operations Officer, was transferred to the 614th Squadron to the position of Commanding Officer; Lt. Raymond Buckley, Post Exchange Officer, was transferred to the 78th Station Complement Squadron, his duties remaining the same; 1st Lt. Frank C. Miller, Assistant Squadron Operations Officer, was transferred to the 614th Squadron as Assistant Operations Officer; Captain Leon Stann, formerly a flight leader, was appointed Squadron Operations Officer; 2nd Lt. Charles Burke, Assistant Squadron Armament Officer, was transferred to the 615th Squadron to the position of Squadron Armament Officer; 2nd Lt. John J. King, injured on take off, December 5th, was transferred to the 65th General Hospital.

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Mission 17

Target: Frankfurt

29 January 1944

On January 29th the Squadron dispatched eight crews to attack the city of Frankfurt, Germany. The Squadron, under the leadership of Major Brown, flying with Lt. Shotts' crew, flew as the Lead Squadron of the Group formation. All crews bombed the target and returned. T/Sgt. Thomas Urmson of Lt. Donald Jones' crew was slightly injured on this operation. The crews were:

1st Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew.  
Capt. L. Stann and crew.  
1st Lt. J.R. Locher Jr. and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.R. Rohner and crew.  
1st Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.  
1st Lt. W.B. Keith and crew.  
1st Lt. D.E. Jones and crew.  
2nd Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.

Mission 18

Target: Brunswick

30 January 1944

The last mission of the month on January 30th was to Brunswick, deep in Germany. This target was the site of large aircraft production and assembly plants. Seven crews with Lt. Riegler as lead formed the High Squadron of a composite Group formation. From this operation one crew, Lt. Rohner's failed to return. Crews participating were:

2nd Lt. R.R. Rohner and crew. (M.I.A.)  
1st Lt. W. Riegler and crew.  
1st Lt. H.L. Piper Jr. and crew.  
1st Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.  
1st Lt. J.R. Locher Jr. and crew.  
2nd Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.  
2nd Lt. L.M. Shanks and crew.

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The Squadron Executive Officer, Captain H.F. Ewald, was promoted to the rank of Major effective January 1st, 1944.

For the period of operations beginning November 26th, 1943 to the end of January, 1944, the combat record of the 613th was impressive; crew losses were low, bombing was good, when done visually so the results could be observed, and the gunners accounted for their share of the enemy, when he appeared. Officially, the gunners were credited with the destruction of 17 of the enemy and these were distributed as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>No. of A/C</u>
S/Sgt. M. DeVite	Cognac	1
S/Sgt. M. DeVite	Oscherslaben	1
S/Sgt. D.R. Sonichsen	"	1
Sgt. J. Sederis	"	1
Sgt. A.A. Tomkinson	"	2
1st Lt. D. Fesmire	"	1
S/Sgt. A. Schair	Frankfurt	1
T/Sgt. T. Urmson	"	1
1st Lt. C.P. Bennett	"	1
Cpl. H. Kelson	"	1
S/Sgt. J.H. Nicely	"	1
Sgt. T.H. Holland	"	1
S/Sgt. L.A. Le Cinque	"	1
T/Sgt. N. Schoenberger	"	1
S/Sgt. A.H. Farland	"	1
S/Sgt. R.V. Kerr	"	1

February 1944

By the end of February 1944 the 613th Squadron had been operational slightly over three months and had participated in 28 missions to Germany and occupied territory. There are several standards, no doubt, by which the success of any organization can be measured; some of them being obvious to those in the lower echelons and others reserved for those in a position to observe the overall picture. To those of us in the Squadron it had been a highly successful period of operations. From the standpoint of the losses the 613th had, over this period of time, lost five complete crews and six enlisted men of another crew, and I believe that a resume of the missions flown would indicate that this is a good record. Bombing, which is the prime purpose of all operations, when done by visual methods had been good, as evidenced by photographs. In the air the air gunners accounted for 20 enemy aircraft officially as destroyed and many others credited as probably destroyed and damaged. Behind this record of achievement in the air is a story of untiring effort on the part of the ground crews who keep 'em flying. The Engineering Section that maintain the aircraft, the Armament Section that cared for the guns and ammunition, and the Ordnance Section that loaded the bombs all contributed in no small way to the status of the 613th at the end of February.

Mission 19

Target: Wilhelmshaven

3 February 1944

Operations for February began on the 3rd of the month with a mission to Wilhelmshaven, Germany. The specific target in Wilhelmshaven was the site of the submarine activity where the construction of U-boats was in progress.

The Group was the Low Box in the Wing formation and the 613th flew as the Low Squadron of the Group.

Enemy opposition both from the ground and in the air was practically nil due to 10/10's undercast and, by the same token, bombing results were unobserved.

The following crews participated:

2nd Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.

Mission 20

Target: Frankfurt

4 February 1944

On 4th February the Squadron was dispatched on a mission to Frankfurt, Germany.

The Group was Lead Box of the Wing and the Squadron flew as the High Squadron in the Group formation.

Visual bombing was not done due to 8/10's to 10/10's undercast, consequently the results could not be observed. No enemy air opposition was encountered but moderate to intense flak persisted at the target area for about 30 minutes. All crews returned safely and none were injured.

The following crews participated:

2nd Lt. D.F. Scharff and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.C. Sheahan and crew.  
2nd Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
1st Lt. D.E. Jones and crew.  
1st Lt. H.L. Piper and crew.

Mission 21

Target: Chateauroux

5 February 1944

An enemy airdrome at Chateauroux, France was the object of an attack by this Group on February 5th. The 613th was Lead Squadron of the Group, which, in turn, was the Low Box of the 94th Wing.

Weather at the target was good and bombing was done visually with excellent results. The Lead Bombardier was Lt. Durward Fesmire, a veteran of many missions in the South Pacific area with the 19th Bombardment Group.

No flak was encountered on this mission but there was persistent air opposition. Lt. Pipers aircraft, 42-31374, was the object of enemy fire and during the course of the attack, he, his co-pilot, Lt. Hellmuth, and the Top Turret Gunner, S/Sgt. James Bailey, were wounded by a 20 mm shell. The nature of Lt. Piper's injuries were such that he could no longer stay at the controls. Lt. Hellmuth and S/Sgt. Bailey took over the aircraft and successfully landed it at Gravesend. All other crews returned safely. The following crews flew the mission:

1st Lt. H.L. Piper and crew.  
2nd Lt. D.F. Scharff and crew.  
2nd Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.  
1st Lt. W. Riegler and crew. (Capt. L. Stann, Group Leader)  
2nd Lt. D.F. Scharff and crew.

Mission 23

Target: Frankfurt

11 February 1944

Frankfurt, Germany was again attacked on February 11th. The Group flew as the Low Box of the Wing formation and the 613th flew as the Low Squadron of the Group.

Lt. Sheahan was scheduled to fly the mission but his aircraft caught fire prior to take-off.



The target was partially overcast and the bombing was done by methods other than visual. However some crews reported seeing the target through the breaks in the undercast and reported the results to be good.

Some enemy air opposition was encountered near the target and flak was described as moderate to meager. All crews returned safely, and they were:

1st Lt. J.R. Locher Jr. and crew.  
2nd Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
1st Lt. D.E. Jones and crew.  
2nd Lt. L.M. Shanks and crew.  
1st Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew. (Squadron Leader)  
2nd Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
2nd Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.

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On February 14th S/Sgt. Raymond C. Nield returned to the 613th and, thereby, became the first successful evader since the Group began operations. S/Sgt. Nield was a member of Lt. Hess's crew and bailed out over enemy occupied territory on the mission of December 1st to Solingen, Germany. After a brief stay with the organization he returned to H.Q.'s, E.T.O.U.S.A. where he was to await orders sending him back to the States.

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Mission 24

Target: Leipzig

20 February 1944

The longest mission the Group had yet flown was executed on February 20th when the targets in Leipzig, Germany were bombed. This operation was significant also in that the Group led the 1st Division. Actually 36 aircraft representing, in number, two Groups were put up by the Group. One Group led the Wing and Division and the other Group represented the High Box in the Wing formation. The 613th furnished the High Squadron in the Lead Box and 3 aircraft as an element of the High Squadron.

S/Sgt. Wilber F. Weaver, the Ball Turret Gunner on Lt. Jones' crew, had a break in his oxygen line and passed out at altitude. He was Taken to the radio room where he was resuscitated. This was the only casualty of the entire mission.

The specific target in Leipzig was an elaborate Me-109 assembly complex. It was bombed visually and with excellent results as the photograpgs later indicated.

Enemy air opposition was represented by approximately 30 to 50 single engine fighters which were vicious in their tactics. In the target area moderate flak was encountered which was good for altitude and deflection. The following crews were dispatched:

1st Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew. (Squadron Leader)  
2nd Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.  
1st Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.  
2nd Lt. L.M. Shanks and crew.  
2nd Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.  
1st Lt. D.E. Jones and crew.

Mission 25

Target: Lippstadt

21 February 1944

On February 21st the Group was dispatched to attack a German air-drome and repair installations at Lippstadt, Germany.

The 401st Group furnished the Lead and Low Boxes of the Wing formation and the 613th flew as the Lead Squadron of the Lead Box. Major Edwin W. Brown, the Squadron Commander, flew the Squadron and Group Lead.

Bombing was to be done visually, however, upon reaching the target it was found to be overcast, and a target of opportunity had to be selected. The target that was bombed was identified as Emlichein, Germany, near the Netherlands border.

Enemy opposition was composed of a few enemy fighters and meager and inaccurate flak. The following crews participated:

2nd Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.	1st Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.
2nd Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.	2nd Lt. W.B. Keith and crew.
1st Lt. W. Riegler and crew. (Major E.W. Brown, Group Leader)	
2nd Lt. D.F. Sheahan and crew.	2nd Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.
2nd Lt. S. Lew and crew.	

Mission 26

Target: Oscherslaben

22 February 1944

The 22nd February witnessed another mission to Oscherslaben, Germany, the site of the greatest of air battles of January 11th.

The Group flew as the Lead Box and furnished the Lead and Low Squadron of a complete Box. The 613th furnished 6 aircraft as the Low Squadron of the Lead Box and 3 aircraft as the second element of the Low Squadron of the High Box.

Lt. Shanks and crew were lost on this operation. The actual cause for this crew not returning was not determined inasmuch as none of the participating crews reported seeing the aircraft the object of any type of enemy action.

The target was partly obscured by an undercast but crews reported that bombing results were fair. The following crews represented this Squadron:

1st Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew. (Squadron Leader)	
2nd Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.	2nd Lt. D.F. Sheahan and crew.
1st Lt. J.R. Locher Jr. and crew.	2nd Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.
2nd Lt. L.M. Shanks and crew. (M.I.A.)	2nd Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.

Mission 27

Target: Schweinfurt

24 February 1944

On October 14th, 1943, a month before this Group had arrived in the U.K., the 8th Air Force ran a mission to the ball bearing works at Schweinfurt, Germany. The mission at that time proved to be extremely successful while at the same time exacting for such success the highest losses the 8th Air Force had yet experienced. By February 14th it had been estimated that the damage of October's raid had been repaired to the extent that the plant was again 75% operational. The result was that another mission to Schweinfurt was executed on February 24th.

The Group flew as the Low Box in the 94th Wing formation. The Squadron was represented by two crews who were spares and filled in as

other crews aborted. Both crews returned to base.

The target was bombed visually and the observed results as well as the photographic indicated that the job was highly successful. The crews taking part were:

2nd Lt. H.E. Vokaty and crew.

1st Lt. D.E. Jones and crew.

Mission 28

Target: Augsburg

25 February 1944

That the policy of the 8th Air Force was to progressively go deeper into the Reich was more obvious on February 25th than it had ever been before, for on that date the target was undoubtedly to be Augsburg, Germany deep in the southwest and well within view of the Alps. The specific target was the parent factory and experimental center of the Willy Messerschmitt industry.

The Group was the Lead Box of the 94th Wing and the 613th furnished 6 aircraft for the Lead Squadron.

The weather on this operation was described as being CAV, consequently the crews were well within view of the Alps as they swung off the target. Bombing was done visually and the photographs and observation were convincing proof that the target had been well hit. Those participating were:

1st Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew. (Capt. L. Stann)

2nd Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.

2nd Lt. W.B. Keith and crew

2nd Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.

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ORIGINAL

613TH SQUADRON AIRCRAFT

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Nickname</u>	<u>History</u>
41-9107	IN-P SC-X	then transfered to	Hack and target tug.
42-3507	IN-O	DUFFY'S TAVERN	Declared war weary.
42-31033	IN-B	PEE TEY KUH	MIA on 11 January 1944 with Lt. S.J. Nason - Oscherslaben.
42-31037	IN-F	PISTOL PACKIN MAMA	MIA on 20 July 1944 with Lt. K. R. Murgatroyd - Leipzig.
42-31072	IN-K	BETTY J	To Z of I (USA).
42-31081	IN-C	SON OF A BLITZ	MIA on 7 October 1944 with Lt. A.J. Nelson - Politz.
42-31090	IN-L	NASTY HABIT	Salvaged - battle damaged 5 Feb. 1944.
42-39825	IN-M	ZENODIA - EL ELEPHANTE	Crashed on take-off on 5 Dec. 1943 with Lt. W.B. Keith.
42-39840	IN-A	THE LOPIN LOBO	To Z of I on 21 June 1944.

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REPLACEMENT

613TH SQUADRON AIRCRAFT

42-30855	IN-N	OL' MASSA	MIA on 8 May 1944 with Lt. J.D. Lenkeit - Berlin.
42-31202	IN-D		Salvaged - battle damaged 29 March 1944.
42-31226	IN-G		MIA on 29 April 1944 with Lt. D.E. Butterfoss - Berlin.
42-31374	IN-B		MIA on 13 March 1944 with Lt. G.J. Hellmuth - Gorenflos.
42-31467	IN-J	SAC HOUND	MIA on 2 March 1944 with Lt. W.C. Sheahan - Frankfurt.
42-31508	IN-Q	COMMAND PERFORMANCE	Delivered 22 Jan. 1944. MIA. on 13 April 1944 with Lt. A.B. Vokaty - Schweinfurt.
42-31557	IN-R		Delivered 22 Jan. 1944. MIA on 28 May 1944 with Lt. W.B. Keith - Dessau.
42-31591	IN-J	HOMESICK ANGEL	To 1 BAD, scrapped 31 May 1945.

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Nickname</u>	<u>History</u>
42-31593	IN-L		MIA on 20 April 1944 with Lt. F.P. Dougherty - Bois Coquerel.
42-31730	IY-B transferred to IN-O	MORNING STAR	To Z of I. Completed 112 missions.
42-31930	IN-M		MIA on 22 Feb. 1944 with Lt. R.M. Shanks - Oscherslaben.
42-31983	IY-G transferred to IN-G	MARY ALICE	To Z of I.
42-32005	IN-M		Delivered 6 March 1944. Ditched on 24 July 1944 with Lt. E.W. Coleman - St. Lo.
42-39932	IN-H		Delivered 2 Jan. 1944. Rammed on taxiway 6 July 1944. Salvaged.
42-97344	IN-P		Delivered 28 April 1944. MIA on 24 August 1944 with Lt. M.S. Fish - Weimar.
42-97600	IN-Y		A PFF aircraft ex 351 B.G. MIA on 21 Nov. 1944 with Capt. F.E. Rundell Jr. - Merseburg.
42-97931	IN-Q transferred to IW-A	MADAME QUEEN	Delivered 1 June 1944. Force-landed on continent 15 Dec. 1944. To Z of I.
42-102580	IN-Q		MIA on 28 May 1944 with Lt. W.F. Protz - Dessau.
42-102581	IN-L	LONESOME POLECAT	MIA on 28 May 1944 with Lt. P.F. Scharff - Dessau.
42-102647	IN-G	BTO IN THE ETO	MIA on 28 May 1944 with Lt. F.H. Windham - Dessau.
42-102911	IN-L		Delivered 30 May 1944. Crash-landed and burned out 29 June 1944.
42-102947	IN-S		To Z of I.
42-107009	IN-E	LADY JANE	MIA on 6 Nov. 1944 with Lt. R.H. Hilestad - Hamburg.
42-107043	IN-B	FITCH'S BANDWAGON	Rammed on taxiway 2 June 1944, salvaged.
43-37511	IN-G		Delivered 29 April 1944. MIA on 24 August 1944 with Lt. M.M. Cain - Weimar.

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Nickname</u>	<u>History</u>
43-37706	IN-U		To Z of I.
43-37736	IN-T	LITTLE PEDRO	Delivered 12 June 1944. Abandoned on the continent 8 Nov. 1944, salvaged.
43-38160	IN-A transferred to IY-A		Delivered 10 August 1944. Force-landed France 5 Jan. 1945. To Z of I.
43-38187	IN-C		Delivered 27 Aug. 1944. Force-landed on continent 30 Nov. 1944. MIA with Lt. J.N. Donaldson on 16 February 1945 - Gelsenkirchen.
43-38267	IN-M	MAXIMUM EFFORT	Delivered 25 Aug. 1944. Crashed on runway 28 Nov. 1944, salvaged.
43-38458	IN-D to IN-A		Delivered 12 Sept. 1944. Force-landed on continent 30 Nov. 1944. To Z of I.
43-38607	IN-H		Delivered 5 Oct. 1944. MIA on 18 March 1945 with Lt. D.E. Vermeer - Berlin.
43-38758	IY-P transferred to IN-P		To Z of I.
43-38791	IN-G		Delivered 2 Dec. 1944. To Z of I.
43-38862	IN-N		To Z of I.
43-38941	IN-L		Delivered 6 Dec. 1944. Nosed over on continent 11 May 1945, abandoned.
43-39125	IN-M	DER GROSSARSCHVOGEL	MIA on 20 April 1945 with Lt. A.J. Bradley Jr. - Brandenburg. The last 401st aircraft to be lost in W.W. II.
44-6104	IN-N	HOMING PIGEON	MIA on 21 Nov. 1944 with Lt. R.J. Keck - Merseburg.
44-6113	IN-R		Delivered 2 June 1944. Force-landed on continent 9 Feb. 1945, abandoned.
44-6129	IN-A		MIA on 19 July 1944 with Lt. W.J. McKeon - Augsburg.
44-6132	IN-B		Delivered 8 June 1944. To Z of I.
44-6313	IN-F		To Z of I.

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Nickname</u>	<u>History</u>
44-6454	IN-C		Abandoned on continent 1 Jan. 1945
44-6588	IN-D		Delivered 2 Dec. 1944. To Z of I.
44-6842	IN-V		Handed to 384th B.G. post war.
44-8449	IN-P transferred to IY-F		A PFF and GH aircraft. Handed to 305th B.G. post war.
44-8454	IN-C transferred to IY-T		A PFF and GH aircraft. Handed to 305th B.G. post war.
44-8550	IN-Q transferred to IY-D		Delivered 2 Jan. 1945. A PFF and GH aircraft. Handed to 305th B.G. post war.
44-8648	IN-M transferred to IY-N		A PFF aircraft handed to 305th B.G. post war.
44-8767	IN-W		To Z of I.

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GROUP NON-OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT THAT WERE USED BY 613TH SQUADRON

41-9107	B-17E	This was an ex-97th B.G. aircraft that had seen action in the very early days of the 8th Air Force. Used as a hack and target tug.
42-3483	B-17F	A war weary aircraft allocated to 401st in July 1944 to act as a VHF relay over the North Sea.
41-31383	A-35	
43-35438	C-64	
41-6187	P-47C	Allocated late November 1944 and used to observe assembly, formation, air gunner training etc.

An Oxford aircraft from Polebrook was used for a short time in July 1944.

In August 1944 a 614th Squadron B-17 was declared war weary and stripped of guns and turrets and renamed PARIS EXPRESS.

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ORIGINAL 613TH SQUADRON CREWS

2nd Lt. R.M. Fowler  
 2nd Lt. W.J. Murphy  
 2nd Lt. J.B. Priest  
 2nd Lt. A. Buchanan Jr.  
 Sgt. A.F. Tryba  
 Sgt. H.W. Charnes  
 Sgt. L. Florez  
 Sgt. R.V. Martinez  
 Sgt. C.E. Kashner  
 Sgt. D.N. Hadsell

2nd Lt. C.F. Hess  
 2nd Lt. J.W. Mitchell  
 2nd Lt. C.W. Bryant  
 2nd Lt. R.W. Rowe  
 T/Sgt. E. Tatkin  
 T/Sgt. J. Burns  
 Cpl. M.J. Bauer  
 S/Sgt. R.C. Nield  
 S/Sgt. J.O. Gibson  
 S/Sgt. R.R. Miller

2nd Lt. W.B. Keith \*  
 2nd Lt. W.M. Hammond  
 2nd Lt. C.T. Floto  
 2nd Lt. J.B. King  
 T/Sgt. B.Z. Musser  
 T/Sgt. C.W. Novak  
 S/Sgt. W.D. Cohen  
 S/Sgt. H.J. Kelsen  
 S/Sgt. B.B. Besselieu  
 S/Sgt. R.V. Kerr

2nd Lt. D.H. Lawry  
 2nd Lt. J.S. Dockendorf  
 2nd Lt. H.W. Self  
 2nd Lt. B. Weiner  
 T/Sgt. F.G. Waterman  
 Sgt. L.J. Peters  
 S/Sgt. C.C. Roome  
 S/Sgt. R.W. Knutson  
 S/Sgt. C.C. College  
 Sgt. H.W. Wood

2nd Lt. J.R. Locher Jr.  
 2nd Lt. D.C. Pruitt  
 2nd Lt. F.D. Duquette  
 2nd Lt. J.F. Brown  
 T/Sgt. G.L. Kennedy  
 S/Sgt. A.A. Johnson  
 S/Sgt. F.G. Dewitt  
 S/Sgt. J.C. Klimek  
 S/Sgt. H.H. Domm  
 S/Sgt. C.G. Merrill

1st Lt. H.L. Piper Jr.  
 2nd Lt. G.J. Hellmuth  
 2nd Lt. J.A. Coventry  
 2nd Lt. R.E. Gipson  
 S/Sgt. J.M. Bailey  
 T/Sgt. C.S. Finnie  
 S/Sgt. C.A. Bedell  
 S/Sgt. R.W. Moore  
 Cpl. P.F. Lucas  
 S/Sgt. M.F. Devite

1st Lt. W. Riegler  
 2nd Lt. T.R. Cushman  
 2nd Lt. W.E. Anderson  
 1st Lt. D.W. Fesmire  
 T/Sgt. L.W. Click  
 S/Sgt. M.G. Lipa  
 S/Sgt. J.C. Jack  
 S/Sgt. N. Ohanian  
 S/Sgt. G. Owens  
 S/Sgt. R.V. Kerr

1st Lt. B.M. Shotts  
 2nd Lt. W.F. Maher  
 2nd Lt. W.F. Savage  
 2nd Lt. H.R. Briarton  
 T/Sgt. L.L. Swafford  
 T/Sgt. R.L. Ready  
 S/Sgt. H.W. Rieger  
 S/Sgt. D.H. Sonichsen  
 S/Sgt. W.F. Jones Jr.  
 S/Sgt. I. Iseminger

Capt. L. Stann  
 2nd Lt. S. Nason  
 2nd Lt. J.A. Duce  
 2nd Lt. A.A. Gould  
 T/Sgt. W. Jumper  
 T/Sgt. R.P. Wagner  
 S/Sgt. E. Leavitt  
 S/Sgt. D.W. Ogborn  
 S/Sgt. C. Biggs  
 S/Sgt. H.F. William

Nine of the original 613th crews were transferred to the 351st B.G. at Polebrook before the movement to Deenethorpe took place.

All ranks given are those held by that person when first arriving at Deenethorpe.

\* Crew Missing in Action.



REPLACEMENT CREWS UP TO THE END OF FEBRUARY 1944

2nd Lt. L.E. Fitchett  
 2nd Lt. B.M. Campbell  
 2nd Lt. L.W. Pfeiffer  
 2nd Lt. L.T. Sanchez  
 S/Sgt. M.H. Bergener  
 S/Sgt. B. Parslee  
 Sgt. L.N. Sassi  
 Sgt. A.F. Rose  
 Sgt. R.A. Finnsbury  
 Sgt. J. Petre

1st Lt. D.E. Jones  
 2nd Lt. E.T. O'Neil  
 2nd Lt. C.D. Bennett  
 2nd Lt. L.D. Drate  
 T/Sgt. T. Nimsor  
 T/Sgt. N. Schoenberger  
 S/Sgt. W.F. Weaver  
 S/Sgt. A. Schair  
 S/Sgt. A.M. Farland  
 S/Sgt. L.A. De Cinque

2nd Lt. D.M. Lenkeit  
 2nd Lt. J.R. Irvin  
 2nd Lt. M.J. Whiting  
 2nd Lt. D.C. Gaber  
 S/Sgt. M.C. Harp  
 S/Sgt. D.C. Gregory  
 Sgt. V.P. Street  
 Sgt. S.F. Klieber  
 Sgt. J.E. Fahnstock  
 Sgt. A.H. Carpenter

2nd Lt. S. Lew  
 2nd Lt. G.S. Priest  
 2nd Lt. R.F. Schlieper  
 2nd Lt. J.J. Kelly  
 S/Sgt. B.P. Thayer  
 S/Sgt. A.A. Johnson  
 Sgt. P.H. Franklin  
 Sgt. M.D. Robinson  
 Sgt. W.A. McCarthy  
 Sgt. A.E. Hibbs

2nd Lt. A. Livingstone  
 2nd Lt. J.J. Hannon  
 2nd Lt. L.F. Jaffe  
 2nd Lt. E.W. Dershimer  
 S/Sgt. C.B. Greer  
 Sgt. E.C. Munch  
 Sgt. A.M. Martinelli  
 Sgt. J.E. Bachler  
 Sgt. J.P. O'Brien  
 Sgt. E.M. Fetzer

2nd Lt. S.C. Nason \*  
 2nd Lt. J.W. Mitchell  
 2nd Lt. J.A. Duce  
 2nd Lt. A.A. Gould  
 T/Sgt. W.H. Jumper  
 T/Sgt. G. Owens  
 S/Sgt. E.W. Leavitt  
 S/Sgt. D.W. Ogborn  
 S/Sgt. C.H. Biggs  
 S/Sgt. H.P. Willman

2nd Lt. R.R. Rohner  
 2nd Lt. F.W. Leonard  
 Flt.O. S.W. Johnson  
 2nd Lt. E. Smetana  
 S/Sgt. R.L. Surowski  
 S/Sgt. J.P. Moreale  
 Sgt. K.G. Dickerson  
 Sgt. C.E. Barker  
 Sgt. L.A. Reif  
 Sgt. H.F. Arbrogast

2nd Lt. P.F. Scharff \*  
 2nd Lt. C.A. Eckert  
 2nd Lt. B. Schwartz  
 2nd Lt. R.E. Hoover  
 S/Sgt. R. Karl  
 Sgt. F.G. Pynigar  
 Sgt. C.E. Bedell  
 Sgt. R.T. Leking  
 Sgt. J.H. Smallin

2nd Lt. L.M. Shanks \*  
 2nd Lt. A.P. Mayne  
 2nd Lt. E.W. Wenrich  
 2nd Lt. T.H. Edkins  
 T/Sgt. M.N. Santangelo  
 T/Sgt. W.R. Jarrett  
 S/Sgt. H.N. Gibson  
 S/Sgt. H.E. Rodgers  
 Sgt. G.L. Puck  
 Sgt. F.G. Anderson

2nd Lt. J.C. Sharp  
 2nd Lt. V.J. Huss  
 2nd Lt. D.H. Stephens  
 2nd Lt. M.R. Busse  
 M/Sgt. H.K. Older  
 Sgt. W.G. Thomas  
 Sgt. J.J. Sederis  
 Sgt. R.F. Tobine  
 Sgt. J.A. Drain  
 S/Sgt. A.A. Tomkinson

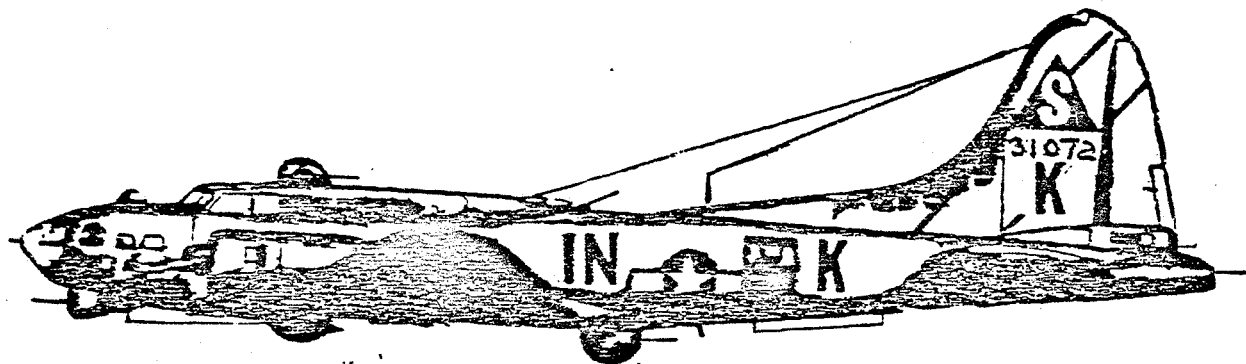
\* Crew Missing in Action.

2nd Lt. W.C. Sheahan \*  
2nd Lt. E.B. Ogden  
2nd Lt. R.C. Davis  
2nd Lt. D.M. Conway  
S/Sgt. R.W. Rickey  
S/Sgt. D.W. Silverstein  
S/Sgt. H. Justice  
Sgt. S. Falk  
Sgt. R.P. Tomlinson  
Sgt. J.W. O'Mara

2nd Lt. R.L. Stelzer  
2nd Lt. W.T. Johnson  
2nd Lt. H.L. Hobbs  
2nd Lt. R. Warren  
S/Sgt. J.O. Pack  
S/Sgt. D.A. Hecker  
Sgt. J.P. Black  
Sgt. E.J. Rice  
Sgt. T.H. Holland  
Sgt. J.H. Nicely

2nd Lt. A.E. Vokaty \*  
2nd Lt. W.M. Gambrell Jr.  
2nd Lt. S. Schachter  
2nd Lt. C.R. Strode  
S/Sgt. J.B. Baras  
S/Sgt. R.C. Halpin  
Sgt. H.M. Crull  
Sgt. R.C. Sanders  
Sgt. W. Canter  
Sgt. H.F. Cyn

\* Crew Missing in Action.

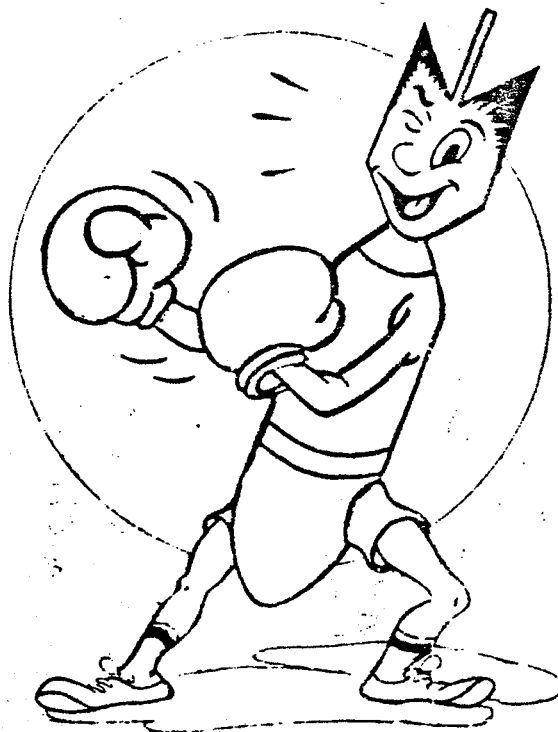


613TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

SQUADRON HISTORY

PART TWO

MARCH - APRIL - MAY 1944



MARCH - APRIL - MAY 1944

Due to a combination of better weather and the approaching invasion - at least it was generally believed that the invasion was approaching - the tempo of operations was greatly increased during this period. The Squadron participated in 33 operations over enemy territory, or an average of slightly over one mission every two days, figuratively speaking.

Personnel losses as a result of the operations amounted to five crews - a total of fifty men.

Against the enemy the crews accounted for three enemy aircraft damaged, during this period. One explanation for this drop in combat claims very possibly lies in the fact that this period of the air war was characterized by a very noticeable absence of the Luftwaffe. Newspapers and periodicals engaged in the business of reporting the war featured their articles with such questions as, "Where is the Luftwaffe?", or, "Has the GAF been defeated?". Regardless of what may have been the reason the Squadron could be proud of its record against the enemy for in the months of operation ending with April the 613th led the Group in the number of enemy aircraft destroyed or probably destroyed, having been officially credited with 21 destroyed and 11 probably destroyed.

Personnel

The following personnel were assigned to the Squadron during this period:-

2nd Lt. M.L. Dickinson to serve as Gunnery Officer.  
2nd Lt. L.G. Winchester to serve as Communications Officer.  
2nd Lt. P.R. Myers to serve as Assistant Intelligence Officer.  
2nd Lt. G.P. Reemer, Communications Officer, transferred to 9th A.F.  
Capt. W. Riegler and crew went on D.S. to the 306th Bomb Group to undergo training for Pathfinder work.  
1st Lt. H. Piper who was injured on the Chateauroux mission returned to the Squadron on April 22nd.

Mission 29

Target: Frankfurt

2 March 1944

On March 2nd the Group flew on a mission to Frankfurt, Germany. The 401st was the High Box of the 94th Combat Wing and the 613th was the High Squadron in the Group formation.

Lt. W.G. Sheahan's entire crew was lost on this operation. Their aircraft was last seen at approximately 1355 hrs when it was the object of an attack by enemy fighters. As many as 6 or 7 parachutes were seen to come out of the ship and later the tail broke off and the ship disintegrated.

The weather was 10/10's undercast and consequently this was a pathfinder mission and by the same token the results of the bombing could not be observed or photographed. The following crews participated:-

Lt. W.G. Sheahan and crew. (M.I.A.)  
Lt. D.E. Jones and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. A. Livingstone and crew.  
Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.  
Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.

Mission 30

Target: Wilhelmshaven

3 March 1944

The target of all targets, the one which crews were sweating out more than any came on March 3rd., 1944. The actual target was not Berlin but was a town named Erkner just 16 miles due east of Berlin. Erkner was the site of one of the few ball bearing plants in the Reich and a 1-plus priority target.

The Group flew in the high position of the Wing formation and the 613th furnished the spare aircraft. The following crews participated in the mission:-

Lt. L. Fitchett and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. D.M. Lenkeit and crew.

Shortly after crossing the enemy coast the formation was forced to turn south due to the weather. Bombing was done by pathfinder on a target thought to be Wilhelmshaven.

No crews were lost, all returning to base without incident.

Mission 31

Target: Cologne

4 March 1944

Inasmuch as the first attempt to bomb the ball bearing works at Erkner on March 3rd had failed due to weather conditions another attempt was made on March 4th.

The 401st Group furnished the Lead Box of the Wing and also Lead and Low Squadrons of the High Box of the same formation. The following crews of the 613th participated in this mission:-

Capt. L. Stann and crew.  
Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.  
Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. A. Livingstone and crew.  
Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew.

On this operation the formation encountered a front shortly after arriving in enemy territory. The front extended up to 25,000 feet and at the order of the Division Air Commander the formation started a search for a target of opportunity. Cologne was selected and bombing was done by Pathfinder methods. Moderate flak which was fairly accurate was encountered at the target, however no enemy aircraft were observed throughout the mission. All crews returned safely.

Mission 32

Target: Berlin/Templin

6 March 1944

In an attempt to successfully bomb the target at Erkner, Germany the Groups of the 8th Air Force were again dispatched to that target on 6th March.

The 401st Group was the Lead Box of the 94th Combat Wing on this operation and the 613th furnished 4 crews who flew as the Low Squadron of the Group formation in addition to the Squadron Commander, Major Brown, who flew the lead aircraft of the Group. The following are the crews who participated on this mission:-

Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.  
Lt. W.B. Keith and crew.  
Lt. A. Livingstone and crew.

The weather again prevented the formation from reaching the primary target and resulted in the bombing of Templin, Germany, a target of opportunity. The target was partially obscured and the bombing results were not accurately determined.

Enemy fighter opposition was described as being heavy and estimates ranged from 60 to 150 encountered. Attacks were persistent and vicious and as many as 20 enemy aircraft attacked the formation in line abreast. Flak was described as moderate and a few ground rockets were observed.

The Squadron suffered no losses from this operation.

Mission 33

Target: Erkner

8 March 1944

On March 8th the target at Erkner was successfully bombed by the 8th Air Force.

The 401st Group flew as the High Box in the 94th Combat Wing formation and the 613th Squadron flew as the High Squadron of the Group formation. The following crews participated:-

Lt. W.B. Keith and crew.  
Lt. L.W. Fitchett and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. J.R. Locher and crew. (Squadron Leader)  
Lt. D.C. Pruitt and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.

Both photos and crew observations disclosed the fact that the target was well hit. The tail gunner in the lead ship of the Group reported that he could observe the smoke raising from the target as far as 170 miles away enroute home.

Enemy opposition in the form of fighters was mild and only about 10 attacks, mostly single-engined 109's and 190's, were reported. Flak at the target was described as being good but otherwise on the mission was meager and poor.

Mission 34

Target: Berlin

9 March 1944

On March 9th the Group participated in the first American air attack on Berlin proper. Berlin was not the briefed primary target but was the secondary target in the event the primary could not be bombed. The primary target, which was Oranienburg, approximately 16 miles NW of Berlin, was obscured by cloud, forcing the formation to attack the secondary.

The 401st Group was the Low Box of the 94th Combat Wing formation and the 613th put up the following crews which flew as spares:-

Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.

Bombing was done by Pathfinder through 10/10 undercast, consequently no results were available by photo or crew observation. Perhaps the most phenomenal characteristic of this operation was the absence of a single enemy fighter over Berlin. At least that is the way it was presented to the public in the various newspapers, but to the man more familiar with the job of flying the answer to that lack of enemy fighter opposition was contained in the weather report and to him it did not mean or even suggest that the Luftwaffe was defeated.

The flak at the target was intense but only fair for altitude and deflection.

In addition to bombs the Group dropped parcels of leaflets on Berlin.

Mission 35

Target: Munster

11 March 1944

Munster, Germany just east of the Ruhr Valley, was the object of an attack on March 11th. The specific target within Munster was the marshalling yards.

The 401st Group was the Lead Box of the 94th Combat Wing and the 613th furnished the following crews which flew as the Lead Squadron of the Group:-

Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. W.B. Keith and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.

Bombing was done through 10/10 undercast consequently no observations of the results were made.

There was no opposition from enemy fighters and flak was nil.

Mission 36

Target: Gorenflos

13 March 1944

The rocket installations at Gorenflos in the Pas de Calais area of France were attacked on March 13th.

A different bombing formation was employed on this operation because of the size of the target. Instead of bombing as a Wing, each Group of the Wing formation made a separate bombing run. The 401st Group was the second Group of the Wing to cross the target. The following crews of the 613th flew

as the Low Squadron of the Group formation:-

Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.  
Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew. (Squadron Leader)  
Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.  
Lt. G.J. Hellmuth and crew. (M.I.A.)

Lt. Hellmuth and crew were lost on this mission as a result of flak. On a second run over the target other crews observed that a burst of flak had set fire to No.3 engine. The aircraft immediately pulled out of formation and began to disintegrate. As many as six parachutes were seen to come out of the ship. This was the first mission that Lt. Hellmuth had flown as first pilot. Prior to this mission he was co-pilot for Lt. Piper on the same crew but due to enemy action on the Chateauroux mission of February 6th. Lt. Piper was unable to return to duty and Lt. Hellmuth was moved into the pilots seat.

It was expected from weather reports that visual bombing would be done on the target, however, on reaching the target it was obscured by 10/10 cloud cover and the Group had to return without bombing.

No enemy air opposition was encountered but moderate flak was encountered which was good for altitude and deflection.

Mission 37

Target: Augsburg

16 March 1944

On March 16th the Group was briefed to bomb an enemy airdrome at Lechfeld, Germany which was known to be an experimental airdrome for Me-410's.

The Group flew as the Low Box in the 94th Combat Wing formation and the Squadron flew as the High Squadron in the Group formation. The following crews participated in the mission:-

Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.  
Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.

On reaching the primary target it was found to be overcast. The Group went on to the secondary target, Augsburg, and bombed there by Pathfinder methods. As a result no photos or observations of the bombing were possible.

Approximately 20 to 30 enemy aircraft were encountered throughout the mission. Most of the enemy fighters were Me-109's. Meager to moderate flak was encountered during the mission but was generally poor for altitude and deflection.

Mission 38

Target: Landsberg Am Lech

18 March 1944

The March 18th mission was to Landsberg Am Lech, Germany, the site of another German airdrome.

On this operation the Group furnished the High Box of the 94th



Combat Wing formation. The 613th put up the following crew which flew as a spare:-

Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.

Both photos and crew observation verified that the bombing was excellent, several hits being on the hanger and buildings on the north side of the airdrome.

Persistent enemy fighter attacks from about 20 to 30 Me-109's and Me-110's were experienced. Flak was encountered intermittently during the mission and was described as being meager but fair for altitude and deflection.

At this time in the air war rebirth is being given to the old saying that "The pen is mightier than the sword", for on each mission into Germany propaganda leaflets are loaded into our aircraft and are dropped on the target at the same time as the bombs.

Mission 39

Target: Watton

19 March 1944

Another mission to the rocket installations was made on the 19th March when the Group went to Watton, France. These installations, which there has been every reason to believe are for the purpose of launching either a rocket propelled aircraft or projectile, cover a comparatively small area. Usually these are in the open near a wooded area or even in a clearing in a wooded area and because of their size are difficult to identify.

On this operation the Group was the first of the 94th Combat Wing formation to cross the target and the 613th Squadron was represented by the following crews which flew as the Lead Squadron of the Group:-

Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.

Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.

Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew. (with Capt. D.E. Silver as Squadron and Group Leader)

Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.

Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.

Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.

Lt. W.B. Keith and crew.

Strike photos and observations indicated that the target had not been well hit and that, in fact, a poor job of bombing had been done.

Flak was the only type of enemy action encountered but its effectiveness is not to be minimized. Since the first bombing attacks on the installations in this area of France the enemy has greatly strengthened his anti-aircraft defences to the point that at present time flak is encountered almost continually from the time of crossing the enemy coast to the point of leaving it. On this operation it was described as being extremely accurate.

Mission 40

Target: Frankfurt

20 March 1944

Frankfurt, Germany, has, to date, been the object of more attacks by this Group than any other target either in Germany or the occupied territories. Again on March 20th the Group was dispatched to bomb Frankfurt, and

the specific target within the city was the Alfred Teves Works, manufacturing machine parts.

The 401st was the Lead Box of the 94th Combat Wing and the 613th Squadron flew the following crews as the Low Squadron of the Group formation:-

Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.  
Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.  
Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.

About 30 miles inside the enemy coast the formation ran into a solid undercast and overcast and in attempting to climb over it an altitude of 24,500 feet was reached where there was still a solid undercast and overcast. At this point an order was given to turn back, as a consequence the target was not reached and the bombs were brought back.

No enemy air opposition was encountered anywhere on the mission. Some flak was observed at the coast going in but was not at all accurate.

All crews returned safely without incident.

Mission 41

Target: Berlin

22 March 1944

The attacks on Berlin and vicinity continued and on March 22nd the order was to bomb the Heinkel aircraft assembly plant at Oranienburg, Germany, a few miles north of the city of Berlin.

The 401st furnished the High Box in the 94th Combat Wing formation and the 613th Squadron was represented by the following crews who flew in the High Squadron position of the Group formation. An exception to this was Lt. Shotts who with Capt. Stann, the Squadron Operations Officer, flew in the No. 1 position of the Group.

Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.  
Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew. (Group Lead with Capt. Stann.)  
Lt. R.E. Fitchett and crew.  
Lt. J.R. Locher and crew. (Squadron Lead.)  
Lt. D.E. Jones and crew.

Because of 10/10 cloud cover over the primary target bombing was done at the secondary target which was the Friedrichstrasse Station in the heart of Berlin. Bombing was done by Pathfinder and consequently it was impossible to ascertain the results.

Leaflets were also dropped over Berlin.

No enemy air opposition was encountered anywhere on the mission. Right at the target intense flak was encountered but was inaccurate. From the target to the enemy coast on the route out meager flak was encountered.

All crews returned to base.

Mission 42

Target: Ahlen

23 March 1944

On March 23rd the Group was briefed to bomb the airdrome at Gutersloh, Germany. Weather over Gutersloh, however, was 10/10 and the formation had to seek a target of opportunity. The target bombed was Ahlen, Germany.

The 401st flew as the Low Box in the Wing formation and the 613th furnished spares which were as follows:-

Lt. A. Livingstone and crew.

The target hit was important as a rail center and industrial community. Observations and strike photos confirm the fact that the factory was well hit.

No enemy aircraft were encountered but meager flak which was described as being inaccurate was put up in the region around Hamm.

Mission 43

Target: Schweinfurt

24 March 1944

Schweinfurt, Germany, famous as a ball bearing producing center as well as having been the target that caused the loss of 60 crews in October, 1943, was the target on March 24th.

The 401st Group was the Lead Box in the 94th Combat Wing and the 613th Squadron flew as the Lead Squadron of the Group. The following crews flew on this operation:-

1st Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.  
2nd Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
1st Lt. D.E. Jones and crew.  
1st Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.

Because of a solid undercast at the target bombing was done by Pathfinder. And for the same reason no photos or observations were available by which an appraisal of the results could be made.

No enemy aircraft were encountered on this operation and flak was described as being generally poor for deflection and altitude. Pamphlets were dropped on the target. All crews returned from this operation.

Mission 44

Target: Watten

26 March 1944

On March 26th another mission to the Pas de Calais region was made, this time to Watton, France.

The 401st was the High Box in the Wing formation and the crews of the 613th Squadron flew as the Low Squadron in the Group formation. The following crews participated:-

1st Lt. D.E. Jones and crew.  
1st Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.  
1st Lt. J.R. Locher and crew. (Squadron Lead.)  
1st Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.

Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.

Both photos and observations disclosed the bombing to be fair with a good bomb pattern but just right of the MPI.

No enemy aircraft were encountered on this operation but flak was described as being moderate but extremely accurate. All crews returned to base safely.

Mission 45

Target: Tours

27 March 1944

An enemy airdrome at Tours, France was the object of an attack on March 27th.

The 401st Group furnished crews to compose two Boxes; a low Box and a High Box in the 94th Combat Wing. The 613th crews flew as the Low Squadron in the Composite Box and as the High Squadron in the Low Box. The following crews participated:-

Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.  
Lt. A. Livingstone and crew.  
Lt. D.E. Jones and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.  
Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.  
Lt. W. Reigler and crew. (Group and Squadron Lead.)  
Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew.  
Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.

Bombing was described as being fair inasmuch as the bombs of one Box fell short and the bombs of the other Box were only fair.

About four enemy aircraft of the Fw-190 and Me-109 type were encountered. Flak was encountered enroute, however over the target there was none. Flak ranged from meager to moderate and was generally described as being accurate. All aircraft returned safely.

Mission 46

Target: Brunswick

29 March 1944

On March 29th the aircraft components parts plants at Brunswick, Germany were the object of an attack.

The 401st was the Lead Box in the 94th Combat Wing formation and the 613th crew flew as a spare. The following crew participated:-

Lt. C.F. Hess and crew. (with Capt Stann.)

The target was 10/10 overcast and bombing was done by Pathfinder resulting in no visible evidence of bomb damage.

Just a few enemy aircraft were observed and none attacked our formations. Meager to moderate flak was encountered along the route but was only fair for accuracy. The crews returned safely.

Mission 47

Target: Marienburg

9 April 1944

The target on April 9th was the airfield and fighter aircraft assembly

plant located  $3\frac{3}{4}$  miles east of Marienburg, Germany. The 401st Group put up the High Box in the 41st "B" Combat Wing, the 613th Squadron furnished 4 aircraft of the Lead Squadron. The following crews participated in the mission:-

Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.  
Lt. A.R. Livingstone and crew.  
Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.  
Lt. R.E. Fitchett and crew.

Weather over Germany was clear and the target area was clear with a slight ground haze. Bombing results were good to excellent as shown by photographs taken during the attack.

Mission 48

Target: Brussels

10 April 1944

On April 10th the Group flew a mission to Brussels, Belgium. The 401st Group was the Low Box of the 94th Combat Wing and the 613th Squadron flew as the Low Squadron in the Group formation. The following crews participated in this mission:-

Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew.  
Lt. D.C. Pruitt and crew.  
Lt. A.R. Livingstone and crew.  
Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.

Visibility north of the course was CAVU with 7/10 cloud coverage to the south of the course over the continent. There was slight ground haze at the target. Results of bombing were excellent as shown by photos.

Mission 49

Target: Politz

11 April 1944

The target on the 11th April was the important assembly plant for Fw-190's about one mile north of the town of Politz, Germany.

The 401st put up the Lead Box and Low Box of the 94th "A" Combat Wing, the 613th furnished three aircraft of the Low Box and two aircraft of the Lead Box. The following crews participated in the mission:-

Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.  
Lt. E.T. O'Neil and crew.

The primary target was obscured by cloud and the target of opportunity chosen was approximately 4 miles south-east of Politz. It appeared to be an industrial installation or storage plant. Crews observed explosions and reported dense columns of black smoke billowing to 10,000 feet in a very short time, resembling smoke from burning oil or gas storage. Due to cloud coverage strike photos were not obtained.

Mission 50

Target: Schweinfurt

13 April 1944

On April 13th the ball-bearing industry at Schweinfurt was again

the object of an attack.

The 401st flew in the Low Box position of the 94th Wing formation and the 613th Squadron flew in both the Lead and Low Squadrons of the Group in addition to furnishing spares. The following crews participated in the operation:-

Lt. E.T. O'Neil and crew.  
Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.  
Lt. A.E. Vokaty and crew. (MIA)

Lt. Vokaty and crew were lost as the result of an enemy fighter attack at 1400 hours approximately (4948N - 0930E). The crews that witnessed the incident reported seeing the left Tokyo tank on fire. As many as six chutes were seen to come out of the aircraft.

Photographs and crew observations of the bombing were obscured by clouds resulting in no definite appraisal of the results.

Enemy fighter opposition on this operation was both aggressive and persistent with as many as 150 to 200 fighters being encountered throughout the trip. Attacks were made from all clock directions and were pressed as close as 75 yards. Flak was meager and fair for accuracy.

Mission 51

Target: Wittenburg

18 April 1944

On April 18th the Group participated on a mission to Oranienburg, Germany. The 401st Group was the High Box in the 94th Combat Wing formation and the 613th Squadron flew as the Lead Squadron of the Group. The following crews participated:-

Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. D.C. Pruitt and crew.  
Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.  
Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.  
Lt. E.T. O'Neil and crew.

Upon reaching the target it was found to be overcast by a 10/10 cloud cover. For that reason bombing was not done at Oranienburg but was done on a target of opportunity later identified as the Kumarkische - Zellwolle Viscose Fiber factory at Wittenburg, Germany. Bombing was described as excellent.

Much credit for the selection and bombing of this target goes to Lt. Brown, bombardier on Lt. Locher's crew. This crew was flying in the Deputy Lead position and had to take over the Lead position before reaching the target due to mechanical failure on the part of the Lead ship. It was later learned that this target had been declared a plus 1 priority target by the Board of Economic Warfare.

A total of six enemy aircraft were seen throughout the mission but none were encountered. Flak was encountered only at the coastline of Holland. All crews returned from this operation without incident.

Mission 52

Target: Kassel

19 April 1944

On April 19th the Group was briefed for a mission to Kassel, Germany.

The 401st put up a Lead Box and one Squadron of the High Composite Box and the 613th Squadron flew in the Low Squadron position of the Group formation. The following crews participated:-

Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew. (Squadron lead.)  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. D.C. Pruitt and crew.  
Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.  
Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.

There was no enemy air opposition on the operation. Flak was described as being intense and accurate at the target area. All crews returned safely.

Mission 53

Target: Bois Coquerel

20 April 1944

On 20th April another mission to the rocket installations was run, this time to Bois Coquerel, France.

The 401st furnished two twelve ship Boxes and the 613th Squadron furnished the Lead Squadron of one of the Boxes. The following crews participated:-

Lt. D.C. Pruitt and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.  
Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew. (Squadron Lead.)  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. R.L. Stelzer and crew.  
Lt. F.P. Dougherty and crew. (MIA)

Bombing results were described by the crews as being fair.

Flak in the target area was both intense and accurate and accounted for one 613th crew, Lt. Dougherty flying in the No. 6 position. There was no enemy air opposition.

Lt. Dougherty and crew, comparatively new in the Squadron, were lost as a result of flak on this operation. Observations of other crews were that the aircraft was hit over the target, the number 3 engine catching fire. The aircraft went into a dive and exploded. No chutes were seen and the witnessing crews were of the opinion that it would have been impossible for anyone to have gotten out.

Lt. William P. Maher, an original Squadron crew member and former co-pilot with Lt. Shotts, was flying with this crew on this mission.

Mission 54

Target: Hamm

22 April 1944

On 22nd April the railway marshalling yards at Hamm, Germany were the object of an attack.

The 401st Group flew in the Low Box position of the 94th Combat Wing formation and the 613th furnished the spare aircraft. The following crews participated in this mission:-

Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.

Bombing was done visually and the crews reported fair results. The entire target area was covered by smoke and a sheet of flames rising to approximately 1,000 feet was reported.

Meager to moderate flak was encountered which was poor for accuracy. No enemy air opposition was encountered. Both crews returned safely.

Mission 55

Target: Erding

24 April 1944

On 24th April the Group participated in a mission to Erding, Germany, site of a G.A.F. airdrome and air park.

The 401st was the High Box in the 94th Wing formation and the 613th Squadron flew in the Lead position of the Group. The following crews participated:-

Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. E.T. O'Neil and crew.  
Lt. J.R. Locher and crew.

Bombing results were described as being good, several hits being observed on the assigned M.P.I.

Although no flak was encountered at the target, meager to moderate flak, fair for accuracy was experienced throughout the operation.

Approximately 40 enemy aircraft were observed and some attacks were pressed on the Low Squadron of the Group formation. No crews were lost.

Mission 56

Target: Nancy/Essey

25 April 1944

An enemy airdrome and flying school located at Nancy, France was the object of an attack on 25th of April.

The 401st was the Lead Box of the 94th Wing and the 613th Squadron flew in the Low Squadron position. The following crews participated in the operation:-

Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. C.F. Hess and crew. (Low Squadron Lead)  
Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.  
Lt. E.T. O'Neil and crew.  
Lt. P.E. Scharff and crew.  
Lt. B.M. Shotts and crew.

On reaching the target it was found to be covered with a 9/10 overcast and inasmuch as the Group was unprepared to bomb by other than visual methods no bombing was done on the primary target. Conditions were found to be the same at the secondary target, consequently the Group returned without bombing.



No enemy air opposition was encountered but flak was described as being meager to moderate and poor for accuracy.

Lt. Shotts of the 613th, flying in the number 1 position made an observation on the operation that served to answer a question that had for many weeks been current in this theatre of operations; that of whether or not the enemy was manufacturing and using jet propelled aircraft. Prior to this time none had been observed although some ground photographs had revealed what appeared to be a jet aircraft on the ground. This aircraft was seen by Lt. Shotts at approximately (4830 - 0100E) midway on course back from the target at a distance of from 3 to 4 miles. The aircraft was sighted twice within a space of ten minutes. The fuselage was pointed, had a teardrop shape and was smaller than the P-47. The wings were very sharply swept back and almost pointed at the tips, extremely heavy at the roots and had a greater span than the fuselage length. No cockpit could be distinguished and the aircraft appeared to have no tail empenage, nor could armament be seen. The speed was estimated to be from 350 to 400 mph.

The story of this observation later appeared in the May 7th issue of the "Air Intelligence Summary" of the United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe and was interpreted as possibly being the Me-163.

It is of interest to note Lt. Shotts' full crew on this mission. They were:-

Lt. B.M. Shotts  
Lt. Col. B.K. Voorhees  
Lt. W.P. Savage  
Capt. J.F. Egan  
T/Sgt. L.L. Swofford  
Major J. Pickoff  
Sgt. R.L. Reedy  
S/Sgt. H.W. Reiger  
S/Sgt. D.H. Sonichson  
S/Sgt. W.F. Jones Jr.  
Lt. W.J. Murphy

Mission 57

Target: Brunswick

26 April 1944

On April 26th the Group flew in the Low Box of the 94th Wing formation on a mission to Brunswick, Germany. The 613th was the High Squadron in the Group formation. The following crews participated in this mission:-

Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.  
Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.  
Lt. D.E. Butterfoss and crew.  
Lt. R.S. Barnett and crew.

Because of 10/10 undercast over the primary target bombing was done by PFF over the center of the business section of this highly industrial city.

Mission 58

Target: Le Grismont

27 April 1944

The air war reached a peak of intensity when on April 27th the

8th Air Force ran two operations against the enemy.

The first operation was against a rocket installation at Le Gris-mont, France.

The 401st Group flew in the High Box position of the 94th Wing formation and the 613th Squadron furnished spares. However, inasmuch as there was no occasion to fill in none of the crews participated.

Observations of the returning crews were that the target had been well hit.

No enemy aircraft were encountered and flak was described as being moderate and only fair for accuracy.

Mission 59

Target: Nancy/Essey

27 April 1944

Later the same day, at approximately 1600 hours, the Group took off again for another target this time it being an enemy airfield at Nancy, France.

On the operation the Group flew in the Low Box position of the 94th Wing formation and the 613th put up the following crews which flew the Lead Squadron position of the Group formation:-

Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.  
Lt. R.S. Barnett and crew.  
Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.

Incendiary bombs were carried by the Group and the observations of the bombing by the crews placed the results at excellent with hits being observed on the assigned M.P.I.

No enemy aircraft were encountered throughout the mission. Meager to moderate flak was observed but not encountered. All crews returned safely.

Mission 60

Target: Berlin

29 April 1944

On April 29th Berlin was again the target. The 401st Group was the Lead Box of the 94th Combat Wing and the 613th Squadron furnished the following crews which flew in the Low Squadron position of the Group formation:-

Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. D.C. Pruitt and crew.  
Lt. E.T. O'Neil and crew.  
Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.  
Lt. D.E. Butterfoss and crew. (M.I.A.)

Lt. Butterfoss and crew were lost on this operation as a result of flak. At the time they were last seen the number 1 engine was feathered, bomb bay doors were open, and the aircraft seemed to be losing both speed and altitude. During the time that the aircraft was within observation no chutes were seen to come out of the ship.

Because of cloud cover over Berlin bombing was done by pathfinder.

Through breaks in the clouds crews reported seeing bomb hits on buildings in the center of the city. Other than those observations there was no other indication of the results.

Although no enemy aircraft were encountered on this operation, moderate to intense flak being extremely accurate was encountered over the target. Flak bursts were reported to be larger than the usual bursts. With the exception of Lt. Butterfoss and crew all others returned to base without incident.

Mission 61

Target: Lyon/Bron

30 April 1944

The target on April 30th was the airfield at Lyon/Bron, France. The 613th furnished two crews of the High Squadron of the Group formation which flew in the Low Box position of the 94th Combat Wing. The following crews participated:-

Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.

Lt. S. Lew and crew.

Cloud coverage on route to the target was described as 3/10 to 7/10 thin, to an altitude of 30,000 feet. Just before the target the weather cleared to approximately 1/10 and bombing was visual. Strike photos show that 95% of the bombs struck within 2,000 feet of the M.P.I., 60% struck within 1,000 feet, and 18% struck within 500 feet. An extremely large concentration were observed to hit squarely on the assigned M.P.I.

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May 1944

Mission 62

Target: Siracourt

1 May 1944

Operations for the month of May began with a mission to the much discussed and much bombed rocket installations in the Pas de Calais area. Siracourt, France was the site of this particular operation.

The 401st Group flew in the High Box position of the 94th Bomb Wing and the 613th Squadron put up the spare aircraft and crews for this operation. The following crews participated:-

Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.

Lt. W.F. Protz and crew.

Capt. Leon Stann, Squadron Operations Officer, flew as the Group Leader on this mission with Lt. M.J. Christensen's crew of the 612th Squadron.

On reaching the target it was found to be completely covered with cloud resulting in no bombing. S.O.P. for operations into France directs that no bombs will be dropped unless the target can be positively identified. Meager flak was encountered which was fair for accuracy. All crews returned from this operation.

Mission 63

Target: Bergen/Alkmaar

4 May 1944

The primary target for this operation was the German capitol, Berlin. Specifically, the objective was the Friedrichstrasse underground station in the heart of Berlin.

Two wings were put up out of the 94th Combat Wing and the 401st Group put up the Lead and High Boxes in the 94th Combat Wing "A". Crews of the 613th flew in the Lead Squadron position of the High Box. The following crews participated:-

Lt. D.M. Lenkeit and crew.  
Lt. J.J. Connelly and crew.  
Lt. W.F. Protz and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. E.T. O'Neil and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.

Because of weather conditions over the continent the Wings were recalled. Along the route back a search was made for a last resort target and the result was the bombing of an enemy airdrome at Bergen/Alkmaar, Holland. Strike photos and observations made disclose that direct hits were made on hangers situated on the northerly side of the airdrome.

No enemy air opposition was encountered and the only flak put up against the formation was at the enemy coast. It was described as being meager and poor for accuracy both as to altitude and deflection. All crews returned safely from this operation.

Mission 64

Target: Berlin

7 May 1944

Berlin was again the object of an attack on this date with Friedrichstrasse Underground Station being designated as the MPI.

The 401st Group put up two Boxes to fly in the 94th Combat Bomb Wing "B" of which the 613th furnished the following crews:-

Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.  
Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.  
Lt. D.M. Lenkeit and crew.  
Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
Lt. D.C. Pruitt and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.

Because of weather conditions bombing was done by means of PFF. No observations of results were possible. Flak was observed in varying intensity and accuracy along the route. The 613th Squadron suffered no losses although the 612th Squadron lost one plane, reason unknown.

Mission 65

Target: Berlin

8 May 1944

The Group again was briefed for a mission to Berlin. The 401st furnished the Low Box and the High Squadron of the High Box of the 94th Combat Wing "A" formation. The 613th furnished the following crews for the mission:-

Lt. D.A. Lenkeit and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
Lt. R.S. Barnett and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. E.T. O'Neil and crew.

Lt. Lenkeit's plane was lost on this mission. Last reports said the plane received a direct burst of flak just behind the ball turret causing the plane to break in two with the tail floating down and the nose section going into a straight dive.

Because of solid undercast, bombing was done by means of PFF and no observations of results were possible. No enemy aircraft were encountered. Flak was described as moderate although our Squadron lost one ship as a result of it.

Mission 66

Target: Luxembourg

9 May 1944

The 401st Group was briefed for a mission to Luxembourg on this date with the marshalling yards being the MPI. The 401st furnished the Lead Box for the 94th Combat Wing, the 613th furnishing the spares for this Box but all three spares returned without entering enemy territory so the Squadron could not claim this mission.

Mission 67

Target: Karthaus

11 May 1944

The 401st participated in the mission to Kons Karthaus near Trier. The 401st furnished the Low Box of the 1st Combat Bomb Wing "B" formation with the 613th Squadron flying as the Group Lead. The 613th furnished the following crews in this mission:-

Capt. B.M. Shotts and crew.  
Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.  
Lt. D.C. Pruitt and crew.  
Lt. E.T. O'Neil and crew.  
Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
Lt. S.N. Tonti and crew.  
Lt. W.F. Protz and crew.

Crews reported that bombs dropped by the Group demolished railway shops adjacent to the roundhouse which was the MPI. The pattern was excellent and crews of the opinion that this was a perfect mission. The reason for the opinion is that there was no enemy air opposition, no anti-aircraft fire encountered or observed, target hit, and all planes and crews returned safely.

Mission 68

Target: Merseburg

12 May 1944

The primary target for this mission was Merseburg, Germany with the MPI being the synthetic oil plant and ammonia and nitrogen works of the I.G. Farben Industries located just 3 miles south of the center of the city.

The 401st Group led the 1st Division, putting up the Lead and Low Boxes for the 94th Combat Wing. The following crews of the 613th Squadron participated in the mission:-

Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.  
Lt. E.T. O'Neil and crew.  
Lt. D.C. Pruitt and crew.  
Lt. W.F. Protz and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. F.H. Windham and crew.  
Lt. S.N. Tonti and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.

Crews reported results as being good. Observations indicated that hits were scored on the MPI with the Low Group obtaining an excellent pattern. No enemy aircraft attacks were directed against this Bomb Wing on the mission although a few enemy planes were seen operating in the distance. The main reason for there being no enemy aircraft attacks was the fact that our friendly fighter support was so effective. Flak was encountered in varying intensity on route.

All our aircraft returned to base without incident. An exception to this was S/Sgt. Alfred A. Tomkinson who was killed by flak.

Mission 69

Target: Stettin

13 May 1944

The Group was briefed to bomb the target of Politz, Germany but due to cloud coverage proceeded to the target at Stettin and bombed through a break in the clouds.

The 401st Group furnished the High Box for the 94th Combat Wing and the 613th Squadron furnished the following crews to help make up this box:-

Lt. S.N. Tonti and crew. (MIA)  
Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.  
Lt. W.B. Keith and crew.

Lt. Tonti and crew were lost on this mission. The aircraft began lagging behind at the I.P. and was still behind over the target where he fired a red flare, he turned back and it was believed he headed for Sweden. One engine was smoking and he had several P-38's as escort. Chances for survival were considered excellent. Since the war report it was confirmed that this crew landed safely in Sweden and were interned.

Crews stated that bombs fell in the built-up area of Stettin and observations report that results and pattern were excellent. Meager to moderate flak was observed along the route.

Mission 70

Target: Kiel

19 May 1944

The primary target was a familiar one for our Group - the shipbuilding center of Kiel, Germany.

The 401st Group furnished the Lead and Low Box for the 94th Combat Wing on this mission with the 613th Squadron furnishing the following crews:-

Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
Lt. W.M. Hammond and crew.  
Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.  
Capt. B.M. Shotts and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.

Lt. F.H. Windham and crew.  
Lt. W.G. Protz and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. J.C. Sharp and crew.

Bombing was done by means of the Pathfinder through a 4/10 cloud coverage. Bombs were observed to hit the industrial section of the ship-yards along the Kiel Canal.

Unusually accurate meager to moderate flak was encountered in the target area causing the loss of one ship from another Squadron and damaging 24 ships out of the entire Group. No enemy aircraft were encountered by this Group.

All aircraft from our Squadron returned safely and without casualties with the exception of the ship leading the Group with Lt. Col. Brown as Group leader. Capt. Shotts of this aircraft suffered a flak wound in the leg which was serious enough to warrant hospitalization.

Mission 71

Target: Villacoublay

20 May 1944

The target for the 401st Group on the 20th May was a large hangar northwest of the large main runway at the aircraft works and airfield at Villacoublay, France. This target was given such a high priority rating that the order was given that no bombs should be released unless an accurate visual sighting could be made.

The 401st Group furnished 12 aircraft to make up the Low Box of the 94th Combat Wing of which the following crews of the 613th Squadron were used to make up the Group formation:-

Lt. W.M. Hammond and crew.  
Lt. W.G. Protz and crew.

Bombing was done by visual means and observations and photos show that results were generally good. No enemy aircraft were encountered by the Group. Flak was not encountered along the route to and from the target. At the target area flak was moderate to intense and very accurate.

All aircraft returned to base without incident.

Mission 72

Target: Kiel

22 May 1944

Again on May 22nd our Group had the target of the prominent and important warship and submarine shipbuilding yards at Kiel, Germany.

The 401st Group furnished the High Box of the 94th Combat Bomb Wing. The 613th Squadron furnished the following crews to participate on this mission:-

Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.  
Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. W.M. Hammond and crew.

Bombing was done by means of Pathfinder because of the dense clouds and because of the clouds observations were impossible.

Flak was encountered or observed along the route was meager and inaccurate and at the target was meager to moderate but fair for altitude and poor for deflection. Five enemy aircraft were observed at a distance but as far as this Group was concerned enemy aircraft opposition was considered nil. All planes from this Group returned without incident.

Mission 73

Target: Bayon

23 May 1944

On May 23rd the 401st Group flew on a mission to Bayon, France. The Group furnished the Lead and Low Boxes for the 94th "A" Combat Wing and the 613th Squadron put up the following crews which flew in the Low Squadron position of the Lead Box:-

Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
Lt. F.H. Windham and crew.  
Lt. W.M. Hammond and crew.  
Lt. W.F. Protz and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.  
Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.

The assigned primary target for this operation was the marshalling yards at Saarbrucken, Germany. However on arrival at the target it was found to be obscured by clouds resulting in a search for a secondary target. As a consequence Bayon, France was bombed. Bombing was done visually and results were described as fair.

No enemy air opposition was encountered and only meager to moderate flak was encountered in the vicinity of Rheims. All crews returned.

Mission 74

Target: Berlin

24 May 1944

Berlin, Germany was again the object of an attack on this date.

The 401st Group put up the Low Box of the 94th Combat Wing and under a new system of operations by which one squadron is "stood-down" each mission, the 613th Squadron did not have any crews participating in this operation.

Bombing was done by Pathfinder methods on the center of Berlin. Through the breaks in the clouds the crews were able to observe that fires had been started in the city.

No enemy air opposition was encountered throughout the operation and only 3 or 4 enemy aircraft were even seen.

The air war in this theatre of operations has passed through various phases in which certain classes of targets were subjected to attacks by the full striking force of heavy bombardment. At this particular time it was the communications systems of the enemy that were the object of an intensified bombardment. Marshalling yards, bridges, roundhouses and the like were pestered day after day in an effort to paralyse that most important aid to the enemy. Especially did this phase of bombing seem important now that D-Day was obviously near at hand.

As the days lengthened with the advent of summer and double-summer time it became possible for heavy bombardment to carry out two operations in one day, providing of course, that the missions were not too long. On May 25th this Group participated in the execution of two attacks.



Mission 75

Target: Fecamp/Metz

25 May 1944

A coastal gun battery was the target for the first operation on this day and the Group put up 18 crews to form a 94th "C" Wing. The following 613th crews formed the lead squadron of the Wing:-

Lt. W.M. Hammond and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.

Fecamp, France was the location of this gun battery. Something new in bombing techniques was tried out on this operation. Combining the merits of the bomb-site along with the navigational aids of the "Gee" box and the H2X, or Pathfinder, an attempt was made to hit the target right on the nose. Should this have been possible it would have been a lengthy stride on the way to precision bombing of tactical targets in weather that otherwise would prohibit it.

Bombing results were not good, the bombs having fallen north of the site.

Neither air nor ground enemy opposition was experienced and all crews returned to the base.

The second operation was against the marshalling yards at Metz, France. Crews of the 401st Group formed the High Box of the 94th Combat Wing and the 613th Squadron was not required to furnish any crews for this operation.

Photos and crew observations disclosed that the bombing on this target was excellent. No enemy air opposition was encountered. Flak was not encountered at the target area, however, some was put up in the vicinity of Montdidier. No crews were lost as a result of this operation.

Mission 76

Target: Ludwigshaven

27 May 1944

A huge marshalling area and depot site within the city of Ludwigshaven, Germany was the target for this day.

Two 18 ship boxes were furnished by this Group and the 613th Squadron crews flew in the Low Squadron position of one box and in the High Squadron position of the other box. The following were the participating crews:-

Lt. W.B. Keith and crew.  
Lt. S. Lew and crew.  
Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew.  
Lt. W.F. Protz and crew.  
Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.  
Lt. W.M. Hammond and crew.  
Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.

Bombing was good on this operation although the bomb pattern was somewhat to the left and over the assigned MPI some direct hits were observed on the twin roundhouse and the entire marshalling area was disrupted.

Enemy aircraft were present but were not encountered by our formation due to the excellent fighter support afforded. In the distance dog-fights were observed all the way from the enemy coast to the target. At the target area intense flak was encountered which was fair to good for accuracy. No aircraft were lost on this mission.

Mission 77

Target: Dessau

28 May 1944

One of the largest of the Junker's engine works, situated in Dessau, Germany was the target.

The 401st flew the Low Box position of the 94th Wing formation and the 613th Squadron put up the following crews which flew in the High Squadron position:-

Lt. W.F. Protz and crew. \*  
Lt. P.F. Scharff and crew. \*\*  
Lt. W.B. Keith and crew. \*\*\*  
Lt. F.H. Windham and crew. \*\*\*\*  
Lt. W.H. Hammond and crew.  
Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.  
Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.

MIA crews.

- \* No observations or reports were available concerning the loss of this crew.
- \*\* Lt. Scharff and crew were last seen just after the second bomb run over the target. Although there was no visible damage to the plane it was losing altitude rapidly and fell behind out of sight.
- \*\*\* Lt. Keith was one of the Squadron's originals and was lost on this mission as a result of enemy fighter attack. At the time the aircraft was last seen it was out of control. No chutes were seen.
- \*\*\*\* Lt. Windham and crew were last seen after the second bombing run over the target. They were the object of an enemy fighter attack. Two chutes were seen to come out of the ship.

Strong enemy opposition both in the nature of flak and aircraft was experienced in the vicinity of the target. As a consequence of the accurate flak and a running fight with the enemy aircraft the Group suffered the greatest number of losses it had yet experienced on any one mission to date losing six crews of which 4 were 613th.

In spite of the attempts by the enemy to frustrate accurate bombing the crews went on and did an excellent job of hitting the target. Photos showed that the bombs had hit right in the assigned MPI.

Lt. Hammond and crew achieved a feat which was meritorious and for which Lt. Hammond was subsequently awarded the D.F.C. The citation reads as follows:-

"Enroute to the objective, the formation in which Lt. Hammond was flying was subjected to intense fighter attacks. As a result the No. 1 engine was hit and the oil system was damaged, making it necessary to feather the engine immediately. The cowling beneath the feathered engine caused severe vibrations and the aircraft was forced to withdraw from the formation. Skirting all flak areas Lt. Whiting (Navigator) reached the enemy coast where flak damaged the No. 2 engine of his aircraft rendering it inoperative. With great skill Lt. Hammond flew his aircraft back to the English coastal base at a dangerously low altitude where a safe landing

was made. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Lt. Hammond on this occasion reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States."

Mission 78

Target: Sorau

29 May 1944

Sorau, Germany, the site of Focke-Wolfe assembly plants was the target on May 29th. The 401st furnished the High Box of the 94th Wing formation. The 613th Squadron had no crews participating in this operation.

Enemy opposition consisted of between 25 and 40 enemy aircraft. A few individual passes were made at our formation but that situation was quickly remedied by the fighter support. Flak to and from the target was described as being generally meager and fairly accurate. All aircraft returned from this operation.

Mission 79

Target: Oscherslaben

30 May 1944

Oscherslaben, Germany, a familiar target to this Group was the object of the attack on 30th May, 1944. The assembly plant for FW-190's was the MPI.

The 401st Group flew in the Lead Box position of the Wing formation and the 613th Squadron was represented by the following crews flying in the Lead Squadron position:-

Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.  
Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.  
Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.

Bombing was excellent, photos disclosing that not only had the MPI been hit but 50 % of the bomb pattern fell within 500 feet of the MPI.

Between 40 and 60 enemy aircraft were encountered enroute out from the target resulting in the loss of two crews. Meager flak was encountered in the Dummer Lake region which was only fair for accuracy. All 613th crews returned safely.

Mission 80

Target: Luxeuill

31 May 1944

A German airdrome at Luxeuill, France was the target on May 31st. The Low Box position of the Wing was flown by the Group using the new 12 ship formation. The 613th crews flew in the Low Squadron position of the Group formation. The following crews participated:-

Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
Lt. R.M. Fowler and crew.  
Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.  
Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.

The improved bombing record of the Group was bettered by this operation for the bombing was excellent. Besides covering the MPI the pattern measured about 1000 feet by 1200 feet.

No enemy aircraft were observed and there was no flak at the target. All crews returned safely.

PERSONNEL

The first original 613th Squadron crew to finish its tour of duty ( 25 missions ) and be returned to the States was the crew of Captain James R. Locher. This crew, with the exception of the co-pilot, Lt. Dow C. Pruitt, left on May 1st for a 30 day leave in the States after which they will return to the ETO and rejoin the Squadron.

Leaving at the same time as Captain Locher was the crew of Captain Robert R. Stelzer. Capt. Stelzer's crew was the first replacement crew that the Squadron received.

On May 3rd Capt. Barry Meadville, the Squadron Bombardier, went to the 15th Air Force in Italy on D.S. for 30 days. This period of time was spent in the study of and practice of high altitude bombing techniques.

The Squadron Commander, Major Edwin W. Brown, was appointed Lt. Col. on May 4th.

Lt.'s Dow C. Pruitt and Vincent J. Russ, former co-pilots on the crews of Capt. J.R. Locher and Lt. James C. Sharp, respectively, were transferred to the Air Transport command on the completion of their tour of duties where they took up duties as ferry pilots.

Lt. M.L. Dickinson, Squadron Gunnery Officer, was transferred to the 457th Bomb Group as of April 30th.

Capt. Leon Stann, Squadron Operations Officer, was promoted to the rank of Major as of May 1st.

Lt. Kent G. Geier was assigned to the Squadron on May 26th and took up duties with the Group Communications Section.

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REPLACEMENT CREWS. MARCH TO MAY 1944

2nd Lt. R.S. Barnett  
2nd Lt. I. Woliver  
2nd Lt. N. Weiss  
2nd Lt. J.T. Hennessy  
Pvt. A.P. Mahler  
S/Sgt. J.E. Wells  
Sgt. V. D'Agostine  
Sgt. P. Beckowitz  
Sgt. L. Cass  
Sgt. H.E. Barnes

\* 2nd Lt. D.E. Butterfoss  
2nd Lt. R.L. Westfall  
Flt.O. B.J. Bevle  
2nd Lt. R.C. Kerpen  
S/Sgt. R.R. McCauley  
S/Sgt. A.K. Trusslowski  
Sgt. W.H. Lee  
Sgt. E.W. Stanley  
Sgt. J.W. Restes  
Sgt. W. Watkins

2nd Lt. J.J. Connolly  
2nd Lt. J.R. Beggs  
2nd Lt. T.H. Krise  
2nd Lt. E.R. Beller  
S/Sgt. B.J. Hurley  
S/Sgt. C.W. Mills  
Sgt. L.O. Belknap  
Sgt. F.D. Perez  
Sgt. M. Friedman  
Sgt. B. MacGowen Jr.

\* 2nd Lt. F.P. Daugherty  
2nd Lt. W.G. Bright  
2nd Lt. R.F. Arellano  
Flt.O. D.C. Leach  
S/Sgt. J.M. Pavlovski  
S/Sgt. H.L. Jones  
Sgt. P.L. Leffler  
Sgt. W.J. Williams  
S/Sgt. J.W. Nelson  
Sgt. L.W. Skehan

2nd Lt. M.S. Fox  
2nd Lt. R.E. Berg  
Flt.O. W.E. Drake  
S/Sgt. W. Avery  
S/Sgt. J.B. Hill  
Sgt. W.J. Jordan  
Sgt. J.F. Deaton  
Sgt. T.P. Guilley  
Sgt. R.T. Sandura

2nd Lt. W.M. Hammond  
2nd Lt. A.R. Livingstone  
2nd Lt. M.J. Whiting  
2nd Lt. G.R. Lewis  
S/Sgt. M.C. Priest  
T/Sgt. E.C. Munch  
S/Sgt. J. O'Brien  
S/Sgt. J.E. Bahler  
S/Sgt. A.M. Martinelli  
S/Sgt. E.M. Fetzer

2nd Lt. A.L. Hansen  
2nd Lt. H.T. Watson  
2nd Lt. F.A. Croyton  
S/Sgt. D.F. Sears  
Sgt. D.L. Koons  
Sgt. D.C. Mortz  
S/Sgt. H.G. Murray  
Sgt. B.K. Green  
Sgt. L.D. Lyall

2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter  
2nd Lt. R.W. Cain  
Flt.O. H.B. Hirsch  
S/Sgt. L. Sherman  
Sgt. J.J. Baier  
Sgt. R.S. Roberson  
S/Sgt. R.D. Nelson  
Sgt. W.J. Feters  
Sgt. M.F. Knapp

\* Crew Missing in Action.

REPLACEMENT CREWS. MARCH TO MAY 1944

2nd Lt. C.W. Keeling  
2nd Lt. D.F. Frazier  
2nd Lt. W.D. Owens  
Flt.O. G.R. Lewis  
S/Sgt. M. Abraham  
S/Sgt. M.G. Priest  
Sgt. D.C. Larson  
Sgt. A.R. Rice  
Sgt. W.J. Giess  
Sgt. I.A. Parkhurst

2nd Lt. C. Kuta  
2nd Lt. J.W. Charrier  
2nd Lt. R.M. Howard  
2nd Lt. V.H. French  
S/Sgt. R.L. Greenleaf  
Sgt. O.M. Fisher  
S/Sgt. C.L. Kings  
Sgt. R.C. Nicholson  
Sgt. J.H. Pear

2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons  
2nd Lt. R.M. Cottrill  
2nd Lt. S.B. Komaroff  
2nd Lt. C.H. Reiser  
S/Sgt. R.G. Taylor  
S/Sgt. H.R. Mizener  
Sgt. D. Fedynick  
Sgt. F.J. Farrell Jr.  
Sgt. E.B. Piromalli  
Sgt. W.E. Webster

\* 2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon  
2nd Lt. R.F. Gray  
2nd Lt. W.P. Zukunft  
2nd Lt. J.G. Koslowski  
T/Sgt. R.E. Harman  
Sgt. C.E. May  
T/Sgt. J.T. Sharp  
Sgt. F.L. Fletcher  
Sgt. H.J. Hallman  
Sgt. E.D. Hill

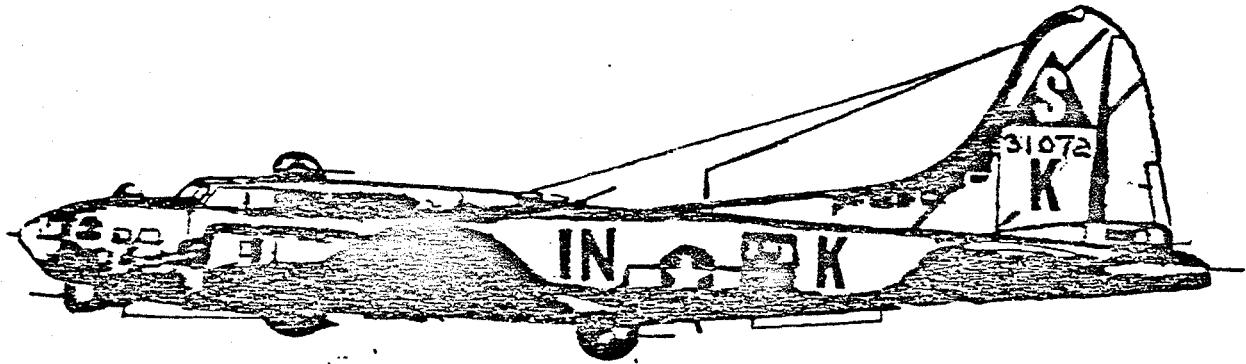
\* 2nd Lt. W.F. Protz  
2nd Lt. J.F. Malony  
Flt.O. A.J. Stieger  
2nd Lt. S.D. Bennett  
S/Sgt. W.W. Wicks  
S/Sgt. J.K. Morrow  
Sgt. J.C. Appleby  
Sgt. A.F. Rheinhardt  
Sgt. G.L. Cliffe  
Sgt. F.E. Bartok

2nd Lt. D.C. Pruitt  
2nd Lt. W.J. Murphy  
2nd Lt. J.B. Priest  
2nd Lt. A.G. Buchanan  
T/Sgt. A.F. Tryba  
T/Sgt. R.V. Martinez  
S/Sgt. D.C. Larson  
S/Sgt. D.N. Hadsell  
S/Sgt. L. Florez  
S/Sgt. C.D. Kashner

2nd Lt. S.M. Tonti  
2nd Lt. R.J. Reese  
2nd Lt. G.K. Evans  
S/Sgt. A.K. Hutchison  
S/Sgt. H.G. Bower  
Sgt. T.H. Smith  
Sgt. J.R. Moultric  
Pvt. M.W. Desso  
Sgt. W.L. Patterson Jr.

\* 2nd Lt. F.H. Windham  
2nd Lt. A.J. Melito  
2nd Lt. D.F. Ferguson  
S/Sgt. D.B. Johnson  
S/Sgt. R.W. Rittmayer  
Sgt. L.A. Mihalich  
Sgt. C.E. Ireland  
Sgt. J.G. Garcia  
Sgt. C.S. Stephens Jr.

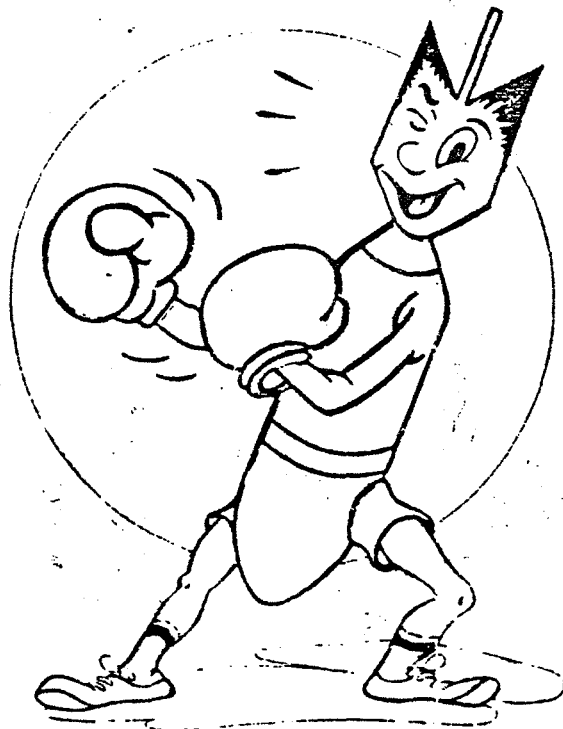
\* Crew Missing in Action



613TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

SQUADRON HISTORY  
PART THREE

JUNE - JULY - AUGUST 1944



June 1944

June of 1944 will probably go down in history as being one of the most eventful months of World War II. Eventful because it witnessed the much planned, much talked about, and much anticipated invasion of Western Europe. To those stationed in England prior to June, there was no questioning the fact that such was to come about; the only questions were when and where. On two occasions there had been a total restriction of military personnel to their stations. June 5th there came about a third restriction and late that afternoon a field order was received which left little uncertainty that D-Day would be June 6th.

The role that the 613th Squadron and the 401st Group played was the bombardment of a gun battery at Ver-Sur-Mer approximately 1000 yards beyond where the assault forces were going ashore. It was a job requiring the utmost precision bombing. Weather conditions were poor but the assigned task was accomplished with great success.

Approximately a week after D-Day the Germans finally launched the much promised secret weapon. Rocket bombs or robots, as they were later termed, began raining on London and Southern England. Being launched from the Pas de Calais area, they were projected into London almost hourly and did considerable damage. At the time of this writing, the bombs had been found to be 2,000 pounders and as yet no completely successful attempt to frustrate this weapon had been found.

And last but not least, the events of June which were so pertinent to the Squadron and Group were the reaching of the 100th Mission mark, a record for 7 months of operations and the fact that the Group attained the highest bombing record in the 8th Air Force.

Mission 81

Target: Equihen

2 June 1944

The mission on June 2nd 1944 was a tactical target consisting of a four gun battery at Equihen, France. The 613th furnished four aircraft in the High Squadron of the High Box of the 94th Combat Bomb Wing. Lt. Col. Edwin E. Brown led the High Box. Weather over the Target was 10/10 undercast. Bombing was by PFF and results were undetermined. The following crews participated:-

Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
Lt. C. Kuta and crew.  
Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.  
Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.

Mission 82

Target: Neufchatel

3 June 1944

The 613th Squadron was on a stand-down.

Mission 83

Target: Massey/Palaiseau

4 June 1944

The target on June 4th was an important railway choke-point at Massey/Palaiseau, France. The 401st Group furnished the 5th, 6th and 7th Boxes of the 94th C.B.W. of eight groups of 12 aircraft each. Lt. Col. Edwin W. Brown led the 401st Group which included six aircraft from the 613th Squadron. Bombing was visual and results were



described as excellent. The following crews participated:-

Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.  
Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.  
Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.  
Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
Lt. R.M. Fowler and crew.

Mission 84

Target: Ver-Sur-Mer

6 June 1944

Another tactical target, a medium coastal battery at Ver-Sur-Mer, France was attacked on June 6th 1944. The 401st furnished a force of four squadrons of six aircraft each. Force "A" Squadron of six aircraft from 613th was led by Lt. L.E. Fitchett. Bombing was by PFF as the weather over the target was 8/10 - 10/10 with cloud coverage approximately 5,000 tops. Bombing results were unobserved. Lt. Col. Alison Brooks, Force Leader, commended crews on the excellent formation maintained and especially the tight formation over the target at the time of the bombing. Crews participating were:-

Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.  
Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.  
Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.  
Lt. C. Kuta and crew.

Mission 85

Target: Caen

6 June 1944

A second effort was made on June 6th 1944, the 401st furnishing a six aircraft squadron for the 94th C.B.W. formation. The target to be attacked was a highway bridge at Caen, France. Weather over the target was 8/10 - 10/10 with cloud coverage 5,000 - 9,000 tops. Target could not be observed and bombs were brought back. The following crew participated in the mission:-

Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.

Mission 86

Target: Falaise

7 June 1944

The 613th Squadron were on a stand-down.

Mission 87

Target: Caen

10 June 1944

On June 10th, 1944, the 401st Group furnished the Lead Box of the 94th C.B.W. assigned to attack an airfield at Caen, France. Five aircraft of the 613th Squadron flew in the Lead Squadron. Due to a combination of weather and operational difficulties bombing of the target was not accomplished and bombs were returned to base. Crews participating in the mission were:-

Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.  
Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.  
Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
Lt. C. Kuta and crew.  
Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.

Mission 88

Target: Bernay/St. Martin

11 June 1944

The assigned target on June 11th 1944 was an airfield at Bernay/St. Martin, France. The 401st furnished the Low Box of 18 aircraft and Major Leon Stann flew as Combat Flight Leader. Visual bombing of the target was expected, but cloud cover made a visual run impossible. Bombs were released on the Gee-H equipment on the second run over the target. No enemy aircraft were observed or flak encountered. The following crews participated in the mission:-

Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.  
Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.  
Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.  
Lt. W.H. Hammond and crew.  
Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.  
Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.

Mission 89

Target: Vitry-en-Artois

12 June 1944

On this date the Group bombed the airfield at Vitry-en-Artois, France.

Three 12 ship boxes were put up by this Group to form a "B" Wing of the 94th C.B.W. The 613th crews flew in the High and Low Squadron position of the High Box. The following crews participated :-

2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
2nd Lt. K.R. Murgatroyd and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.  
2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.  
1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.  
1st Lt. C.F. Hess and crew.

Bombing was described as being excellent. All crews returned to base.

Mission 90

Target: Le Bourget

13 June 1944

The Le Bourget airfield at the edge of Paris, the one which Lindbergh landed after his transatlantic flight in 1927, was the target on this date.

The operation was a maximum effort in every respect, the Group being called upon to furnish one complete Wing and two Boxes of another Wing. The following crews participated in this mission:-

1st Lt. R.M. Fowler and crew. ( With Lt. Col. E.W. Brown.)	
1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.	2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.
2nd Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.	2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.
2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.	2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.
2nd Lt. K.R. Murgatroyd and crew.	2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.
2nd Lt. W.R. Thomason and crew.	2nd Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.
2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.	2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.
2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.	2nd Lt. W.M. Hammond and crew.

The bombing done by the 401st on this target was unquestionably one of the best done by the Group or, for that matter, any Group. Five MPI's had been assigned to the five groups of 401st aircraft and a direct hit was scored on each of the MPI's.

Enemy activity consisted of moderate flak over the target which was fair to good for accuracy and about 12 single-engined aircraft made passes at our aircraft between the IP and the target. All crews from the 613th returned from this operation.

Mission 91

Target: Monchy/Breton

17 June 1944

This operation was directed at an enemy airdrome at Monchy/Breton, France. The 401st flew in the High Box position of the Wing formation. The following crews were put up by the 613th :-

2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.  
2nd Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.

2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.  
2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.

Bombing was done visually through a break in the undercast. results were good. There was no enemy opposition in the form of aircraft, however, flak of a meager nature was encountered. All crews returned to base.

Mission 92

Target: Hamburg

18 June 1944

Hamburg, Germany, a target which had been left practically unmolested for months, was again attacked. The specific target within the city was a large oil refinery.

The 401st put up the Lead and Low boxes of the 94th "A" Combat Wing and the following crews from the 613th participated in the operation:-

1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.  
1st Lt. H.L. Piper and crew.  
1st Lt. W.M. Hammond and crew.  
Capt. W. Riegler and crew. ( with Major D.E. Silver)  
2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.

2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.  
2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.

Cloud cover over the target made it necessary to bomb by PFF and as a result the photos disclosed nothing to confirm the bombing results. However, crews reported seeing columns of smoke raising to 16000 feet and visible 26 to 30 miles away.

No enemy air opposition was encountered and flak was reported as being moderate to intense at the target area. All crews returned from this operation.

Mission 93

Target: Merignac

19 June 1944

The group returned for the second time to the enemy airdrome at Bordeaux/Merignac, France. The previous time that this target was bombed was on December 31st, 1943.

The Lead and Low Box positions of the 94th Combat Wing "B" were put up by the 401st. The 613th furnished the lead element of the

Lead Box and the Low Squadron of the Low Box. The following crews participated in this operation:-

2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.	2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.
Capt. W. Riegler and crew. ( with Major D.E. Silver)	
2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.	1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.
2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.	1st Lt. H.L. Piper and crew.
2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.	2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.

Bombing was good, all Boxes hitting their assigned MPI's. There was no enemy air opposition; flak was described as being moderate but accurate. All 613th crews returned from this operation.

Mission 94

Target: Hamburg

20 June 1944

The Group was again dispatched to bomb Hamburg, Germany on this date, and oil refineries were again the specific object of this operation.

Two Boxes were furnished by the Group each flying in High Box positions of the 94th "A" and "B" Wings. Crews of the 613th flew in the Lead and Low Squadron positions of the "A" Wing and in the Low Squadron position of the "B" Wing. The following crews participated :-

2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.	2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.
1st Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.	2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.
1st Lt. W.M. Hammond and crew.	2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.
2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.	2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.
2nd Lt. K.R. Murgatroyd and crew.	2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.

An excellent job of bombing was done on the target. Strike photos indicated that the bombs of both Boxes fell within 2,000 feet of the assigned MPI's and 80% of the bombs within 1,000 feet of the MPI's.

No enemy aircraft were encountered on the mission. Flak was described as being intense and accurate in the target area. No crews were lost on this operation.

Mission 95

Target: Hazebrouck

20 June 1944

A second operation was carried out on this day in which the Group was briefed to bomb the rocket installations at Watten, France. This was one of the installations from which London and Southern England was being subjected to robot bombing.

The 401st furnished the Lead Box of the 94th Combat Wing and the following two crews represented the 613th:-

2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.	2nd Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.
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On reaching the IP it became obvious that the primary target could not be bombed because of cloud cover, hence the Group sought a target of opportunity the result being the bombing of the railway junction just east of Hazebrouck, France. Crews observing the results of the bombing declared that they looked good. No fighter or flak opposition was seen. Both crews returned from this operation.

Mission 96

Target: Berlin

21 June 1944

One of the greatest operations against Berlin was carried out on this date both from the standpoint of number of aircraft participating and also, as was later verified, from the standpoint of results.

The Group put up 18 aircraft to fly in the High Box position of the 94th Combat Wing "A" and 18 aircraft as a High Box for the 41st Composite "C" Wing in addition to 6 aircraft to fly as the High Squadron of the 94th "B" Wing. The following crews flew on this operation:-

1st Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.	2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.
Capt. W. Riegler and crew. (with Lt. Col. E.W. Brown)	
2nd Lt. K.R. Murgatroyd and crew.	2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.
2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.	2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.
2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.	1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.
2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.	1st Lt. W.H. Hammond and crew.

An excellent bomb pattern was achieved by the High Box of the 94th "A" Wing; the High Squadron of the 94th "B" Wing bombed on the Group Leader and no observations of the results were available. The Box that flew with the 41st Wing bombed by Pathfinder and no photos or observations were available to appraise the results.

No enemy air opposition was encountered throughout the operation. Flak was described as being intense and fairly accurate at the target. All crews returned from this operation.

Mission 97

Target: Frevent

22 June 1944

On this date the assigned target was a railroad choke point located at Frevent, France.

Seven boxes of 12 aircraft each were put up by the 94th Wing. Three of these 12 ship boxes were furnished by the 401st. The following crews from the 613th flew on this operation:-

2nd Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.	
2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.	2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.
2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.	2nd Lt. K.R. Murgatroyd and crew.
2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.	2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.
2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.	2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.

The above crews flew in each of the three boxes and the bombing results were as follows. The Lead Box after turning on the IP found that the primary target was obscured by clouds and consequently picked a target of opportunity which was an enemy airdrome at Furnes, Belgium. Good results were observed on the runways.

The High Box finding the same weather conditions as did the Lead Box also picked a target of opportunity and bombed a railway bridge and underpass at Sainghin, France. Bombs did fall in the target area but other than that no results were observed.

No enemy opposition was encountered, and only meager flak was put up which was described as being fair for accuracy. All crews returned from this operation.

Mission 98

Target: Fienvilliers

23 June 1944

Another of the rocket installations located at Fienvilliers,

France, was the target on this date.

The 401st furnished the Lead Box of the 94th Combat Wing in addition to a 6 aircraft Lead Squadron for the Low Box of the 94th Combat Wing. The following crews from the 613th flew on this operation:-

2nd Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.	1st Lt. W.H. Hammond and crew.
2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.	2nd Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.
2nd Lt. K.R. Murgatroyd and crew.	2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.
2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew	2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.

Bombing was done by a technique known as "Gee-H" by which the merits of the "Gee Box" and PFF are combined. A 10/10 cloud cover was found over the target consequently no observations or photographs of the results were possible.

No enemy air opposition was encountered and flak was described as being meager and inaccurate. All the Squadron's crews returned.

Mission 99

Target: Belloy-Sur-Somme

24 June 1944

Two targets were assigned on this date for two separate forces. Both targets were the sites of rocket installations, one being at Belloy-Sur-Somme, France and the other being at Bachimont, France.

As mentioned above, the Group furnished two forces for this operation consisting of 12 aircraft each. Representing the 613th on this mission were the following crews:-

2nd Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.	2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.
2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.	1st Lt. W.M. Hammond and crew.
2nd Lt. K.R. Murgatroyd and crew.	2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.

Bombing done by the Box on Belloy-Sur-Somme was poor due to a malfunction in the lead aircraft. By the time the situation was remedied it was too late causing the bombs to fall over the assigned MPI.

On the target at Bachimont excellent results were obtained. Neither Box encountered enemy air opposition, however, meager but accurate flak was encountered over the target. No aircraft were lost on this operation.

Mission 100

Target: Montbartier

25 June 1944

A target of slightly different nature was the object of the mission on this date. Two groups of buried oil dumps located in southern France at Montbartier were to be bombed.

Three Boxes to form a 94th "B" Combat Wing were put up by the Group. The following crews of the 613th Squadron flew in the Low Squadron position of the Low Box; and also in the High Squadron position of the Low Box.

1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.	2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.
2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.	2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.
2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.	2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.
2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.	2nd Lt. E.G. Eppers and crew.
2nd Lt. K.R. Murgatroyd and crew.	2nd Lt. W.E. Coleman and crew.

Photographs indicated that direct hits had been scored by all Boxes on the assigned MPI's although the usual explosions and fires were not observed by the crews nor were they visible in the photographs.

No enemy aircraft were observed and the only flak experienced was in the vicinity of the bridgehead around Caen, France. All 613th crews returned safely.

Mission 101

Target: Couvron

28 June 1944

On this date the target was a German airdrome at Laon/ Couvron, France.

The Lead and Low Boxes of the 94th "A" Wing were furnished by the 401st and the 613th put up the following crews flying in the Low Squadron and the Lead Squadron position:-

2nd Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.	2nd Lt. R.G. Eppers and crew.
2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.	2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.
2nd Lt. W.E. Coleman and crew.	2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.
1st Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.	2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.

Both Boxes hit the assigned MPI with excellent results. Meager flak at the target was the only type of enemy opposition encountered. All crews returned to base.

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During the month of June the following new crews were assigned to the Squadron:-

2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason	2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart
Flt./O. H.A. Dobbratz	2nd Lt. R.L. Grilley
2nd Lt. R. Wright	2nd Lt. P.R. Ham
S/Sgt. I.R. Rapez	2nd Lt. J.R. Jardine
S/Sgt. W.R. Lymburn	S/Sgt. O.M. Schlaegel
Sgt. H.E. Michael	S/Sgt. C.E. Pyles
Sgt. H.L. Gunmelt	Sgt. R.E. Miller
Sgt. H.T. Godfrey	Sgt. J.E. Karper
Sgt. H.M. Miszko	Sgt. L.J. Mull
	Sgt. L.C. Million
2nd Lt. K.R. Murgatroyd *	2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix
2nd Lt. J.E. Pennoyer	2nd Lt. W.E. Cox
2nd Lt. O.H. Jorgenson	2nd Lt. W.F. Maloney
2nd Lt. J.K. Elderkin	Flt./O. C. Rostrom
S/Sgt. J.S. Spirodek	S/Sgt. J.F. Thompson
S/Sgt. S. Lesser	S/Sgt. T.R. Stokesberry
Sgt. J.P. Robertson	Sgt. H.J. Eggleston
Sgt. H.N. Magnuson	Sgt. M.C. Ryan
Sgt. H. Rosen Jr.	Sgt. E.R. Scott
Sgt. D.H. Schmidli	Sgt. J.F. Pavlison

\* Missing in Action.

2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert  
2nd Lt. H.E. Kron  
2nd Lt. T.Y. Youmans  
S/Sgt. J.P. Mayer  
S/Sgt. G.L. Pettit  
Sgt. L.A. Ellis  
Sgt. I. Selesky  
Sgt. R.S. Williamson  
Sgt. J.J. La Grasta

2nd Lt. R.G. Eppers  
2nd Lt. I.W. Misenheimer Jr.  
2nd Lt. J.P. Nash Jr.  
2nd Lt. R.A. Andreau  
S/Sgt. E.E. Scoll  
S/Sgt. G.N. Huckins  
Sgt. B. Maes Jr.  
Sgt. F.A. Wood  
Sgt. E.T. McGee  
Sgt. A.M. Farris

1st Lt. W.E. Coleman  
Flt./O. S.L. Wilcox  
2nd Lt. H.E. Guttman  
2nd Lt. E.K. Stout  
S/Sgt. C.A. Carmon  
S/Sgt. A.T. Lindholm  
Sgt. E.W. Meaney  
Sgt. E.W. Anderson  
Sgt. W.L. Miller  
Cpl. W.D. Kidman

Having successfully completed their tours of duty, the following Officer and Enlisted Men were transferred to the 12th RCD pending further assignment which in many cases meant transfer to the Zone of Interior:-

1st Lt. J.J. Kelly  
1st Lt. S. Lew  
1st Lt. J.C. Sharp  
2nd Lt. W.J. Murphy  
1st Lt. C.F. Hess  
1st Lt. R.W. Rowe  
1st Lt. A.S. Buchanan  
T/Sgt. L.L. Swofford

S/Sgt. R.L. Ready  
1st Lt. R.F. Schlieper  
2nd Lt. D.H. Stephens  
2nd Lt. G.S. Priest  
S/Sgt. H.W. Rieger  
S/Sgt. J.R. Iseminger  
S/Sgt. W.F. Jones  
S/Sgt. D.H. Sonichson

1st Lt. H.L. Briarton was transferred during the month to the 614th Bomb Squadron.

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July 1944

The month of July 1944 was characterized by a variety of assignments including not only strategic bombing but tactical support of ground forces as well. Targets in the Munich area were deemed of such importance that four consecutive attacks were made within a period of six days. Photographs subsequently reaching Lt. Gen. Carl Spaatz showed that great damage had been contained in this area including many direct hits on Bayerische Motoren Werks and the Agfa Dye Works. The fact that PFF missions produced such excellent results was a further indication that weather was no longer a serious deterrent in carrying the war to the enemy.

For the excellent job of precision bombing on July 18th of Peenemunde a commendation was received from General Spaatz and General Doolittle. Strike photos indicated full coverage of our MPI's on this mission.



The 613th participated in tactical support of the U.S. First Army in the St. Lo sector on July 24th and July 25th when our Group dropped fragmentation bombs just ahead of advancing troops.

The 401st flew a total of 512 sorties during the month, the 613th flying 124 sorties during this period.

Mission 102

Target: Saumur

4 July 1944

The target to be attacked visually by the 94th C.B.W. on July 4th, was an important railroad bridge at Saumur, France. The 401st Group furnished Lead and Low Boxes of 12 aircraft each, the 613th flying Lead and High Squadrons with Major Leon Stann as Wing Leader. Because of 8/10 - 9/10 cloud coverage a second run was made over the target but bombs could not be dropped due to undercast. Suitable secondary or last resort targets could not be identified on route out and the bombs were brought back.

Meager but inaccurate flak was encountered on the second run over the target. There was no air opposition and all aircraft returned to base. The following crews flew on this mission:-

1st Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew. (with Major Leon Stann)	
2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.	2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.
2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.	1st Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.
2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.	

Mission 103

Target: Rely

6 July 1944

The target assigned on July 6th was a "NOBALL" at Rely, France. The 401st furnished the Lead and High Boxes of 12 aircraft each including 2 PFF to form the 94th "B" C.B.W. Of the 8 aircraft from the 613th, 7 flew in the Lead Box and 1 in the High Box. On the first bomb run smoke and dust obscured the target. A second run was made but the target could not be picked up by the Lead Box and the bombs were brought back. The High Box sighted a target of opportunity near Enguinegatte, France and bombed with results described as good.

"One in a million," was the way crew members described the accident in which 2nd Lt. Joseph C. Kozlowski, Buffalo, New York, bombardier, was killed by a flying piece of metal.

The accident occurred over France when the No. 3 engine on the aircraft piloted by 1st Lt. Marshall S. Fox "threw" a connecting rod which knocked off part of the ring cowling. The piece of metal was thrown into the propeller of Lt. Kozlowski's ship, piloted by Lt. William J. McKeon.

The whirling prop caught it in such a manner that it was thrown with terrific force through the left nose window striking Lt. Kozlowski in the head. Neither flak or enemy aircraft was encountered and all aircraft returned safely. The following crews participated in the mission:-

2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.	1st Lt. W.E. Coleman and crew.
1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.	2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.
2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.	2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.
2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.	2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.
2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.	2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.
2nd Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.	

Mission 104

Target: Renescure

6 July 1944

A second "NOBALL" target was attacked on 6th July, at Renescure, France. The 401st Group furnished 12 aircraft for the "B" Wing of the 94th C.B.W., four aircraft from the 613th flying in the Low Squadron. Weather CAVU and only one run was made on the target. Bomb strike photos showed good results with part of the pattern hitting the assigned MPI. Meager inaccurate flak was encountered at the coast near Dunkirk. No air opposition was reported and all aircraft returned safely. Our four participating crews were :-

2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.  
2nd Lt. J.J. Lippert and crew.

2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.  
2nd Lt. K.R. Murgatroyd and crew

Mission 105

Target: Leipzig

7 July 1944

The target on July 7th was an aero-engine factory approximately 5 miles N.E. of Leipzig. The 401st Group furnished the Lead and Low Boxes of the 94th "B" C.B.W., the 613th flying 12 aircraft in the Lead Box. Lt. John J. Connolly, Deputy Leader, took over Wing Lead when Major Jere W. Maupin aborted and several Air Commanders commented on his excellent job of leading the Wing over the entire route. His navigator Lt. Thomas H. Krise, was also commended for his splendid navigation.

Strike photos indicated excellent bombing results. Flak at the target was described as moderate to intense, fair to good for accuracy. No enemy aircraft were encountered. The following crews participated :-

1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.E. Coleman and crew.  
2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.  
2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.

2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.  
2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.  
2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.  
1st Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.

Mission 106

Target: Mont Louis Ferme

8 July 1944

Stand-down for 613th Squadron.

Mission 107

Target: Munich

11 July 1944

On July 11th the 401st Group furnished the High Boxes of 18 aircraft each for both 94th "A" and "B" C.B.W.'s. Captain William Riegler led the High Box of "B" Wing. The 613th flew 8 aircraft, 5 with Capt. Riegler and 3 with "A" C.B.W. Assigned target was a large aero-engine factory, 7 miles N.W. of Munich, Germany.

The weather over the target was 10/10 and bombing was by PFF, results being unobserved. Flak increased from meager to intense as a second bombing run was made but was inaccurate as far as our Group was concerned. No enemy aircraft were observed or encountered and all aircraft returned to base. The following crews participated:-

2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.  
Capt. W. Riegler and crew.  
2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.C. Lemmons and crew.

2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.  
1st Lt. W.M. Hammond and crew.  
1st Lt. L.E. Fitchett and crew.

Mission 108

Target: Munich

12 July 1944

Another trip was made to Munich on July 12th. Lead and Low Boxes of 18 aircraft each were furnished by the 401st Group. In addition to flying Low Squadron in the Lead Box, the 613th furnished 5 aircraft in the Low Box. Weather again caused bombing to be done by PFF technique and the results were undetermined.

Meager to moderate flak, generally inaccurate, was observed along the route and no enemy opposition was encountered. The following crews participated:-

2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.	2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.
2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.	2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.
1st Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.	2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.
1st Lt. W.M. Hammond and crew.	2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.
2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.	2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.

Mission 109

Target: Munich

13 July 1944

For the third straight day the target was again Munich, Germany. The 401st furnished the Low Box of the 94th C.B.W. - 18 aircraft with 2 spares. The 613th put up 8 aircraft and flew in the High Squadron position. Due to 10/10 cloud coverage the bomb run was made with PFF equipment and the results were obscured. Moderate to intense flak, generally accurate, was encountered over the target. Approximately 15 to 20 enemy aircraft were encountered on route back near Strasbourg and attacks were made on our Group. One B-17 from 615th Squadron was knocked down and the tail gunner of another ship killed. All aircraft of our Squadron returned to base. Crews participating were :-

2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.	2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.
2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.	2nd Lt. K.R. Murgatroyd and crew.
2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.	2nd Lt. R.M. Fowler and crew.
1st Lt. W.H. Hammond and crew.	1st Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.

Mission 110

Target: Munich

16 July 1944

The assigned target on July 16th was again Munich. The 401st Group furnished two 18 aircraft High Boxes, one for the 94th "A" C.B.W. and one for the 94th "B" C.B.W. The 613th flew Lead and High in the "B" Wing. Lt. John J. Connolly, Wing Leader, did an excellent job of leading, avoiding all flak on the way in. Because of weather and the possibility of collision a target of opportunity at Stuttgart was selected and bombs dropped. Results were unobserved. No enemy aircraft were observed and all aircraft returned to base. Crews participating were:-

1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.	2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.
2nd Lt. W.E. Coleman and crew.	2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.
2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.	2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.
2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.	2nd Lt. K.R. Murgatroyd and crew.
2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.	2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.
2nd Lt. R.C. Etters and crew.	

Mission 111

Target: Peenemunde

18 July 1944

The object of our attack on July 18th was the experimental

station at Peenemunde, Germany. Due to the large production of hydrogen peroxide and its subsequent use in starting devices for both jet-propelled aircraft and rocket bombs the target assumed great importance.

The 401st Group furnished Lead and Low Boxes of the 94th "A" C.B.W., the 613th flying 9 aircraft. Weather was described as solid undercast to a point halfway across Denmark and at the target 4/10 undercast with broken clouds. Bombing was visual and strike photos disclosed full coverage of MPI's. No enemy air opposition was encountered and flak was meager to moderate over the target, fair to good for accuracy. The following crews took part in the mission:-

2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.	2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.
2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.	2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.
2nd Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.	2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.
1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.	2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.
1st Lt. W.M. Hammond and crew.	

Lt. Howard flew with 614th Squadron.

The following commendation was received by teletype after completion of this mission:-

"Attack of 18 July on Peenemunde was one of the finest examples of precision bombing I have seen. The concentrated bombing on eight (8) separate, small aiming points within the target area was made possible by the fine organization and training of Eighth Air Force units and the determination of commanders and combat crews alike. This demonstration reflects great credit on the Eighth Air Force and the United States Army Air Forces. SPAATZ.

It is very gratifying for me to transmit to you and your command this commendation from General Spaatz, for a job well done, and I wish to add my personal appreciation and congratulations thereto. DOOLITTLE.

On this vital operation the 1st Division again demonstrated its ability to destroy the assigned objective regardless of its location or enemy opposition. Successful operations of this nature are only possible to a smoothly running organization when every individual both ground and air plays his part. Keep it up. WILLIAMS."

Mission 112

Target: Augsburg

19 July 1944

The Messerschmitt Assembly Plant at Augsburg, Germany was attacked on July 19th. The 401st Group furnished the entire 94th "A" C.B.W. comprising three boxes of 12 aircraft each. The 613th put up 9 aircraft.

Bombing was visual and strike photos disclosed the area was well covered. Lt. William J. McKeon and crew flying No. 3, 2nd element Low Squadron, Lead Box was lost near Stuttgart as a result of flak. When last observed, two engines were out, prop feathered, still under control but losing altitude rapidly. Crews taking part in this mission were:-

2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew	2nd Lt. W.J. McKeon and crew.
2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.	2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.
2nd Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.	1st Lt. W.H. Hammond and crew.
2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.	2nd Lt. W.H. Coleman and crew.
2nd Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.	Capt. H.D. Wood & 1st Lt. S. Fine with 615th Squadron.

Mission 113

Target: Leipzig

20 July 1944

The ball bearing works at Leipzig, Germany was the assigned target on July 20th. The 401st Group furnished the Lead and Low Boxes of 12 aircraft each for the 94th "A" CBW, the 613th flying 8 ships. The Lead Box bombed the primary and the Low Box the secondary at Harborn, Germany. Moderate to intense flak was encountered in the Leipzig area, exceedingly accurate, principally continuously pointed type of fire.

Lt. Kenneth M. Murgatroyd and crew, flying No. 2 aircraft of the Lead Squadron, Low Box was lost as a result of flak just past Leipzig. When last observed No. 2 engine and fuselage were on fire. He stayed in formation for about ten minutes. Two chutes were observed to come out, then he peeled off to the left and two more chutes came out. It made a wide 360 degree pattern losing altitude, the the tail fell off and the ship crashed. Crews participating were:-

2nd Lt. W.E. Coleman and crew.	2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.
2nd Lt. R.C. Etters and crew.	2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.
2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.	2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.
2nd Lt. K.R. Murgatroyd and crew .	1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.

Mission 114

Target: Schweinfurt

21 July 1944

The ball bearing works at Schweinfurt, Germany was the object of our attack on July 21st. Its importance was well known and although it had been hit previously reconnaissance indicated that it was not seriously damaged. The 401st furnished the Lead and Low Boxes of 12 aircraft each for the 94th "B" CBW. The weather over the target was clear and strike photos indicated that the MPI and target area were blanket-ed. No air opposition was encountered and flak was moderate and fairly good for accuracy. Crews of the 613th participating were:-

2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.	2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.
1st Lt. W.H. Hammond and crew.	2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.
1st Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.	2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.

Mission 115

Target: St. Lo

24 July 1944

Tactical support of advancing ground forces in the St. Lo, France area was our assignment on July 24th. The 401st Group furnished the Lead, the High and the Low 12 aircraft Boxes for the 94th "A" CBW and in addition 4 aircraft for the Composite Low Squadron, High Box, of the 94th "B" CBW. Major Leon Stann was Wing Leader of the "A" CBW. Poor visibility and haze over the target was encountered and a recall from the 1st Division was received. Bombs were returned as ordered.

At a point approximately 39 miles S.S.W. of Portland Bill on the return to base the ship of Lt. Edward W. Coleman caught fire in the left wing near the No. 2 engine. The crew bailed out and their position in the Channel was indicated by at least three B-17's that circled overhead. Lt. William C. Mannix brought his ship down near the water and released his dinghy close to the men in the water. When questioned as to how low they came the ball turret gunner, S/Sgt. Edward R. Scott replied, "Well, the water was slapping the ball turret."

About 5 or 6 P-38's made sweeps over the area until two Walruses and a Wellington from Air Sea Rescue arrived. The crew were separated

in the water but at no time was Flt O. Stewart L. Wilcox, co-pilot observed by the rest of the crew although Lt. Eldridge K. Stout, Bombardier, reports he definitely bailed out of the ship. (Flt. O. Wilcox was never found and his name is on the Wall of the Missing at the American Cemetery, Madingley, Cambridgeshire.) Seven of the crew were picked up by one Walrus and Lt. Stout by the second Walrus all within a period of approximately two hours after hitting the water. Crews participating were :-

2nd Lt. R.M. Fowler and crew.	2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.
2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.	2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.
2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.	2nd Lt. W.E. Coleman and crew.
2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.	2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.
2nd Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.	

Mission 116

Target: St. Lo

25 July 1944

The mission on July 25th was a repeat performance of what was planned for the preceding day - tactical support of ground forces in the St. Lo sector. The military importance of successful precision bombing was indicated by the fact that 5 minutes later assault troops of the 1st US Army were to advance into the target area. The 401st again put up the Lead, High and Low Boxes of 12 aircraft each with Major Leon Stann as Wing Leader. Fragmentation bombs were dropped instead of ground-cratering high explosives. Strike photos indicated MPI's were well covered. Crews participating were:-

2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.	2nd Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.
2nd Lt. C. Kuts and crew.	2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.
2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.	2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.
2nd Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.	2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.
1st Lt. W.H. Hammond and crew.	1st Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.

Mission 117

Target: Merseburg

28 July 1944

The synthetic oil and ammonia plant at Merseburg, Germany was attacked on July 28th. Three 12 aircraft Boxes for the 94th "A" CBW were furnished by the 401st Group with Colonel H.W. Bowman as Division Leader. Lt. J.J. Connolly was Low Box Leader.

Weather over the target was such that PFF bombing was employed and results were unobserved. Flak was ineffective due in all probability to the fact that the Wings ahead of us released considerable "chaff". No air opposition was encountered and all aircraft returned to base. The following crews took part:-

2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.	2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.
2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.	2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.
2nd Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.	2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.
1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.	

Mission 118

Target: Merseburg

29 July 1944

Although optimistic about the work of the preceding day the plant at Merseburg was considered worth another effort on July 29th. The 401st Group again furnished three 12 aircraft Boxes to comprise 94th "C" CBW. The High Box in which four 613th aircraft flew returned from the assembly point, the weather preventing assembly. Weather over the target permitted visual bombing and strike photos disclosed immense

columns of black smoke which crews reported rising to 20,000 feet after leaving the target area. Flak over the target was accurate and although considerable battle damage was suffered all aircraft returned to base. The following crews participated:-

2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.                      2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.                      2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.

Mission 119                      Target: Munich                      31 July 1944

On the last day of July the target was again Munich, Germany. The 401st furnished the 94th "B" CBW of three 12 aircraft Boxes, the 613th flying ten aircraft. Weather over the target was such that PFF bombing was employed and the results were unobserved. Flak was moderate to intense and fairly accurate. No enemy aircraft were encountered although crews reported contrails several thousand feet above the formation, resembling those reported to be left by jet-propelled aircraft. Crews participating were:-

2nd Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.                      2nd Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.  
2nd Lt. C. Kuta and crew.                      2nd Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.                      2nd Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.R. Lipert and crew.                      2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.                      1st Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.

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During the month of July the following crews were assigned to the Squadron:-

2nd Lt. W.A. Shackelford	2nd Lt. W.W. Jennings
2nd Lt. J.M. Rush	Flt.O. F.M. Garton
2nd Lt. G.R. Shullo	2nd Lt. W.M. Folks
2nd Lt. W.M. Scanlon	2nd Lt. I. Schkloven
S/Sgt. M. Luchfeld	S/Sgt. J.W. Curtis
S/Sgt. R.C. Knox	S/Sgt. R.R. Rowe
Sgt. L.C. Kenagy	Sgt. D.L. Ewen
Sgt. W.W. Moore	Sgt. R.F. Forman Jr.
Sgt. S.A. Papazion	Sgt. K.C. Oliver
Sgt. R. Truxell	Sgt. T.R. Selzle
2nd Lt. C.R. Budd	2nd Lt. M.M. Cain
2nd Lt. R.L. McLeod	2nd Lt. J.M. Pettus
2nd Lt. B.L. Klotz	2nd Lt. R.E. Henderson
S/Sgt. F.C. Skala	S/Sgt. E.M. Spencer
S/Sgt. J.D. Kissach	S/Sgt. P.E. Jameson
Sgt. E.S. Oliver	Sgt. R.E. Barron
Sgt. D.R. Murray	Sgt. W.W. Strong
Sgt. A.L. Destroismaison	
Sgt. H.J. Roger	
2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson ✓	Cpl. J.T. Dorris ✓
2nd Lt. E.W. Nevois ✓	Cpl. B.D. Anderson ✓
2nd Lt. J.S. Kulezyaki ✓	Cpl. J.J. McCarthy ✓
2nd Lt. B.B. Wilcox ✓	Cpl. C.C. Newby
	Cpl. F.R. Majeski ✓

2nd Lt. F. Carson	Cpl. W.C. Matthies
2nd Lt. H.E. Lawless	Cpl. W.R. Lee
2nd Lt. M.E. Moe	Cpl. H. Quist
2nd Lt. W. Bucher	Cpl. J.J. Geraldi
	Sgt. R.E. McGehee
	Cpl. L. James

Having completed their tour of duty the following officers have been transferred pending further assignment, which, in many cases, meant transfer to the Zone of Interior:-

1st Lt. A. Livingstone	1st Lt. M.J. Whiting
1st Lt. D.C. Gober	1st Lt. L.E. Fitchett

Promotions during the month were:-

2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.		
Boller	Campbell	Frazier
Horton	Lemmons	Lockhart
Fitchett	McKeon	Thomason
Krise	Mannix	Hanson
Kuta	Lippert	Jetter
Whiting	Berg	Lewis
Woliver	French	Chartier

1st Lt. to Captain.  
C.E. Hess

The crews of Capt. Locher and Capt. Stelzer returned from 30 - day leave in the States on 24th July 1944.

Capt. J.R. Locher	Capt. R.L. Stelzer
1st Lt. F.D. Duquette	1st Lt. R. Warren
1st Lt. J.F. Brown	1st Lt. H.L. Hobbs
T/Sgt. G.L. Kennedy	
S/Sgt. Finnie	
S/Sgt. J.C. Klimek	
S/Sgt. F.G. DeWitt	
S/Sgt. C.G. Merrill	
S/Sgt. H.H. Domm	

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August 1944

During the month of August 1944 the 401st Group flew 18 missions bringing to 137 the total missions completed to date. The 613th flew 146 sorties out of the 564 sorties flown by the Group. Determined fighter opposition was encountered on the mission to Weimar, August 24th, and of the 5 - 4 - 9 claims allowed 4 - 2 - 5 were accounted for by the 613th gunners.

Operations

Mission 120

Target: Chartres

1 August 1944

The target was an aerodrome which the Germans were believed to be anticipating utilizing for the operation of jet-propelled aircraft.



Lt. J.R. Irwin led the Low Box of the 94th "A" CBW of five 12 aircraft Boxes, the 613th flying 9 aircraft in the Lead and High Squadron positions. Bombing results of the Low Box was fair, the MPI being to the left of the aiming point. Weather was 2/10 to 3/10ths in the target area, tops at 2,500 to 4,000 ft. Boxes returned individually. There was no air opposition and flak encountered was meager and inaccurate and at the target area only. Crews participating were:-

2nd Lt. W.A. Shackelford and crew.	2nd Lt. W.W. Jennings and crew.
1st Lt. C. Kuta and crew.	1st Lt. M.S. Fox and crew.
1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.	1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.
1st Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.	1st Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.
1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.	

Mission 121

Target: Strasbourg

3 August 1944

A large marshalling yard lying to the North of Strasbourg, forming a nucleus of radiating lines to the industrial sections in France and Germany was the object of our attack on August 3rd. The 401st furnished three 12 aircraft Boxes to comprise the 94th "B" CBW. Lt. J. J. Connolly led the High Box, the 613th flying 10 aircraft in the Lead and Low Squadron positions. The weather over the continent was 2/10 to 6/10ths, tops at 18,000 to 20,000 feet. Bombing results were good to excellent for the Group. There was no enemy air opposition, and flak was ineffective and all aircraft returned safely to base. Crews participating were:-

2nd Lt. W.A. Shackelford and crew.	2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.
2nd Lt. W.W. Jennings and crew.	1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.
1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.	1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.
2nd Lt. F. Carson Jr. and crew.	2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.
1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.	1st Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.

Mission 122

Target: Anklam

4 August 1944

The 401st furnished three 12 aircraft Boxes to comprise the 94th "A" CBW and the target attacked was an airfield at Anklam. Col. H.E. Rogner was Division Leader with Capt. H.H. Wood Lead Navigator and Capt. H.W. Meadville Lead Bombardier. Results were excellent, 90% of the Lead and High Box bombs striking within 1,000 ft. of the assigned MPI. No enemy opposition or flak was encountered and all aircraft returned to base. Crews participating were:-

1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.	1st Lt. C. Kuta and crew.
1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.	1st Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.
2nd Lt. W.A. Shackelford and crew.	1st Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.
2nd Lt. W.W. Jennings and crew.	2nd Lt. F. Carson Jr. and crew.

Major Leon Stann flew with 615th Squadron.

Mission 123

Target: Nienburg

5 August 1944

An underground oil storage depot at Nienburg was attacked on August 5th by the 401st Group which put up Three 12 aircraft Boxes for the 94th "C" CBW. Lt. John J. Connolly led the High Box, the 613th flying 9 aircraft in the Lead and High Squadron positions. Weather over the continent was nil to 3/10ths, visibility excellent. Bombing results were excellent for the Lead, good to excellent for the High and good for the Low Box. No enemy opposition or flak was encountered and all aircraft returned to base. Crews on the mission were:-

2nd Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.	2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.
1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.	1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.
2nd Lt. F. Carson Jr. and crew.	2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.
1st Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.	1st Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.
1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.	

Mission 124

Target: Genshagen

6 August 1944

The 401st Group furnished three 12 aircraft Boxes to comprise the 94th "C" CBW with Lt Col E.W. Brown as Wing Leader. The target was the aero-engine works at Genshagen engaged in the production of jet engines. Bombing was visual and results were excellent. Meager to intense flak, accurate and of both barrage and tracking type was encountered at the target area. Weather was CAVU over the target, no air opposition was encountered and all aircraft of this Squadron returned to base. Crews participating were:-

2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.	1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.
1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.	1st Lt. C. Kuta and crew.
1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.	2nd Lt. W.A. Shackelford and crew.
2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.	1st Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.

Mission 125

Target: Hautmesnil

8 August 1944

The removal or Neutralization of large enemy forces near Hautmesnil, France to allow passage of friendly troops was our assignment on August 8th. Three 12 aircraft Boxes were put up by the 401st Group with Major W.C. Garland as Wing Leader. The 613th furnished 10 aircraft flying in the Low Box with Lt. J.J. Connolly as Box Leader. There was no air opposition. The Lead Ship of the High Box caught a direct burst of flak near Caen; no other flak was encountered. The Lead Box did not drop bombs due to smoke and dust covering the entire target area, making it unsafe to drop. High Box bombs hit east of Caen, on the east bank of the Orne River. Bombs of the Low Box were observed to hit on the eastern edge of the target. Crews participating were:-

2nd Lt. W.M. Jennings and crew.	1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.
1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.	1st Lt. R.C. Etters and crew.
2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.	2nd Lt. F. Carson and crew.
1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.	1st Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.
2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.	2nd Lt. M.M. Cain and crew.

Mission 126

Target: Luxembourg

9 August 1944

Due to weather conditions over the continent a recall was received before the briefed target at Munich was reached. The target of opportunity selected by the Wing Leader, Lt Col W.E. Seawell was the marshalling yards at Luxembourg. The Lead and Low 12 aircraft Boxes of the 94th CBW were furnished by the 401st Group, and they bombed with excellent results. no air opposition was encountered and the flak at the target was nil. Only meager to moderate Flak was encountered along the route and all aircraft returned safely. Crews participating were :-

2nd Lt. W.A. Shackelford and crew.	1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.
1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew	1st Lt. C. Kuta and crew.
1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.	1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.
2nd Lt. M.M. Cain and crew.	

Mission 127

Target: Brest

11 August 1944

The target on August 11th was the fortification positions on the

Brest Peninsula. Five hundred pound SAP bombs were dropped with results described as excellent. Strike photos indicated that the bombs of the lead Box were directly on the MPI - 90% within 1000 ft and 100% within 2000 ft. The Low Box covered the selected MPI with a well concentrated pattern. The Wing Leader was Lt Col E.W. Brown; Lead Navigator, 1st Lt. T.H. Krise, and Lead Bombardier 1st Lt. E.E. Boller. The 401st furnished the Lead and Low 12 aircraft Boxes of the 94th "C" CBW. No air opposition was encountered and flak over Brest was described as meager and of fair accuracy. Crews on the mission were :-

1st Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.	2nd Lt. W.W. Jennings and crew.
1st Lt. J.J. Connelly and crew.	1st Lt. C. Kuta and crew.
1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.	

Mission 128

Target: Elbeuf

13 August 1944

Another tactical mission in support of ground troops near Elbeuf, France was flown on August 13th. The 401st furnished three 12 aircraft Boxes of which 10 were from the 613th.

Weather enroute was 2/10 ths to CAVU with slight Haze. Fragmentation Bombs were dropped and results were described as fair, bombs striking to the left of the assigned MPI's. Crews participating were:-

2nd Lt. W.W. Jennings and crew.	1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.
1st Lt. J.J. Connolly and crew.	1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.
1st Lt. C. Kuta and crew.	2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.
1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.	1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.
1st Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.	1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.

Mission 129

Target: Hagenau

14 August 1944

Due to cloud coverage over the assigned target near Stuttgart, the secondary target, an airfield at Hagenau, Germany, was attacked. The 401st furnished three 12 aircraft Boxes, the 613th putting up 9 aircraft in the High Box with Lt. J.R. Irwin as Box Leader. Bombing results of the High Box were excellent, the bombfall covering the MPI. Crews participating were:-

2nd Lt. W.A. Shackelford and crew.	1st Lt. E.W. Coleman and crew.
1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.	1st Lt. C. Kuta and crew.
1st Lt. R.C. Etter and crew.	2nd Lt. F. Carson and crew.
2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.	1st Lt. J.R. Irwin and crew.
2nd Lt. M.M. Cain and crew.	

Mission 130

Target: Schkenditz

16 August 1944

The target on August 16th was an airfield at Schkenditz, Germany, near Leipzig and was believed to contain the main assembly plant for Ju88's. The enemy attached great importance to it judging by the determined resistance encountered from the flak while in the target area. Of 36 aircraft put up by the 401st Group, 31 sustained battle damage.

Lt. Col. E.W. Brown was Low Box Leader and in spite of intense and accurate flak bombs were dropped on the assigned MPI, 90% within 1000ft. The High Boxed bombed with results described as fair. The Lead Box Leader was unable to drop on the primary because of flak damage to the bomb-rack and the Deputy selected a target of opportunity, an air depot at Halberstadt, Germany. Bombing results were excellent.

Lt. George R. Shullo, co-pilot of B-17 42-97344, was hit in the

face by flak and a piece came out the back of his head. He was rendered first aid by the crew, worked on for nearly an hour but never regained consciousness and died before reaching base. Crews taking part in this mission were :-

2nd Lt. W.A. Shackelford and crew.	2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.
2nd Lt. F. Carson and crew.	2nd Lt. M.W. Fish and crew.
2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.	1st Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.
1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.	1st Lt. R.M. Fowler and crew.
1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.	1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.

Mission 131

Target: Yvoir

18 August 1944

A railroad bridge, four spans and 385 feet long over the River Meuse near Yvoir, Belgium was the tactical target on August 18th. The fact that other Wings were attacking in this general area was indicative of how the Western Front was shifting.

The 401st Group furnished three 12 Aircraft Boxes to comprise the 94th "C" CBW. The High Box was led by Capt. J.R. Locher and was the only Box to hit the bridge, the results of the Lead and Low Boxes being poor. Weather was 3/10th's over the target with visibility fair to Good away from the sun. No appreciable flak was encountered and all aircraft returned to base. Crews participating were:-

1st Lt. E.W. Coleman and crew.	1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.
1st Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.	1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.
2nd Lt. M.M. Cain and crew.	1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.
1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.	2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.
2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.	2nd Lt. F. Carter and crew.

Mission 132

Target: Weimar

24 August 1944

On August 24th the 401st Group furnished a complete 36 aircraft Wing, including 2 PFF aircraft, for the Lead Box. Capt. Locher led the Low Box and 9 aircraft from the 613th flew in the High and Low Box positions. The target attacked was a plant located at Weimar, Germany about 4½ miles N.W. of the center of the town, and was reported to be engaged in the production of V-1 and also V-2 rocket weapons.

Bombing was visual and the results of the Lead and High Boxes were good. Smoke obscured the results of the Low Box bombing. Determined fighter opposition was encountered in the Ulzen - Salzwedel area and also near Magdeburg. Crews commented on the suicidal and persistent nature of the fighter attacks in both areas. Lt. Fish and crew flying No 5 in the Low Squadron, Low Box, and Lt. Cain flying No 6 Low Squadron, Low Box were both lost due to Fighter action.

Out of 5 - 4 - 9 claims allowed our gunners, 4 - 2 - 5 were scored by gunners from the 613th Squadron. Crews participating were :-

2nd Lt. W.A. Shackelford and crew.	1st Lt. E.W. Coleman and crew.
2nd Lt. W.M. Jennings and crew.	1st Lt. C. Kuta and crew.
2nd Lt. L.S. Fish and crew.	1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.
2nd Lt. F. Carson and crew.	1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.
2nd Lt. M.M. Cain and crew.	1st Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.
2nd Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.	

Mission 133

Target: Peenemunde

25 August 1944

The 401st Group furnished three 12 aircraft Boxes to comprise the 94th "C" CBW. The target was again the experimental station at Peenemunde with our MPI's a comparatively undamaged portion of the target. Lt. Col. Brown was Wing Leader with Captain Wood as Lead Navigator and Captain Meadville as Lead Bombardier. Bombing was visual with results of all three Boxes described as good. No air opposition was encountered but the flak at the target was moderate to intense and accurate. All aircraft returned to Base. Crews from the 613th participating were:-

Capt. J.R. Locher and crew.	1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.
1st Lt. A.C. Hanson and crew.	1st Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.
2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.	1st Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.
2nd Lt. W.M. Jennings and crew.	

Mission 134

Target: Henin-Lietard

25 August 1944

A second effort was made on August 25th, the 401st furnishing two 6 aircraft sections for the 94th Wing. The target was an oxygen plant at Henin-Lietard, France. Lt W.C. Mannix was Low Section Leader, Lt. C.R. Budd also flying in the Low Section.

Weather was described as 4/10th's to 5/10 th's undercast over the continent to 6,000 ft with haze and smoke at the target. Bombing was visual and results looked fair. There was no air opposition or flak encountered and all aircraft returned to base. The two crews from the 613th participating were:-

1st Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.	2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.
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Mission 135

Target: La Louviere-Terte

26 August 1944

Assigned targets for Force "A" and "B" of 12 aircraft each were the chemical works at La Louviere and the synthetic ammonia and benzol extraction plant at Terte, Belgium. Cloud cover was 6/10 th's to 10/10 th's variable and due to poor visability and inability to positively identify the targets both Forces returned with their bombs. Crews from the 613th participating were:-

1st Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.	1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.
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Mission 136

Target: Berlin

27 August 1944

Bad weather encountered upon reaching Denmark was responsible for a recall of the mission to the Henschel assembly plant at Berlin. The 94th "A" CBW composed of 26 aircraft from the 401st returned to base safely with bomb loads. Crews from the 613th on the mission were :-

1st Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.	1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.
2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.	1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.
1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.	1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.
2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.	1st Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.
1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.	1st Lt. C.G. Lemmons and crew.

Mission 137

Target: Coubronne

30 August 1944

A "NOBALL" at Coubronne, France was the target on August 30th for the 94th CBW composed of 36 aircraft from the 401st, including one Gee-H

aircraft for each Box.

The target was one of the remaining sites still launching flying bombs. Lt. Fowler was leader of the Low Box in which six 613th aircraft flew, another flying with the Lead Box.

Weather was 9/10 th's to 10/10 th's with clouds solid between 21,000 to 26,000 ft. The Lead of the High Box dropped on a good Gee-H fix but clouds prevented the other aircraft in the Box from dropping on him although three aircraft did drop on their own Gee-H fixes. The balance of the aircraft in the Wing returned their bombs to base. Crews from the 613th participating were :-

1st Lt. E.W. Coleman and crew.  
1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.  
1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.  
2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.A. Baker and crew.

1st Lt. C. Kuta and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.  
1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.

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PERSONNEL

During the month of August the following new crews were assigned to the Squadron:-

2nd Lt. M.S. Fish	2nd Lt. K.A. Baker
2nd Lt. K.D. Lucas	2nd Lt. J.N. Donaldson
2nd Lt. L.H. Huse	2nd Lt. H. Kovetsky
2nd Lt. E.F. Cramer	2nd Lt. C.R. Moore
Sgt. M.J. Warren	S/Sgt. F.P. Yorio
Sgt. W.G. Smith	S/Sgt. G.B. Bacchus
Cpl. D.C. Byers	Sgt. S.E. Cloyd
Cpl. J.W. Hanchak	Sgt. E.W. Seeley
Cpl. W.R. Cook	Sgt. J.L. Morrison
Cpl. J.W. Huff	Sgt. H.H. Slater
2nd Lt. L.A. Douglas	2nd Lt. R.B. Campbell
2nd Lt. R.H. Little	2nd Lt. R.W. Randle
2nd Lt. E.F. Harran	2nd Lt. J.D. Hurley
2nd Lt. W.L. Garman Jr.	2nd Lt. L.B. Isham
Cpl. J.H. Sheetz	S/Sgt. V.M. Chalupczynski
Cpl. B.D. Chance	Cpl. J.J. Harlen
Cpl. L.J. Carro	Cpl. A.I. Bostain
Cpl. T.A. Agliata	Cpl. J.A. Smith
Cpl. R.G. Lewis	Cpl. A.C. Justice
Sgt. L.A. McCrary	Cpl. J.A. Hardway
2nd Lt. R.A. Annis	2nd Lt. R.H. Hillestead
2nd Lt. F.E. Clark	2nd Lt. J.H. Emch
2nd Lt. B.J. Hadden	2nd Lt. F.L. Campbell
2nd Lt. J.B. Jensen	S/Sgt. H. Fishbein
Cpl. L.L. Walker	Cpl. P.C. Di Cicco
Cpl. J.M. Corliss	Cpl. C.A. Montoya
Cpl. F.C. Kot	Cpl. R.E. Kris
Cpl. G.E. Brooks	Cpl. J.B. Dryden Jr.
Cpl. L.C. Johnson	Pfc. R.H. Andrews
Cpl. L.R. Michell	
2nd Lt. C.W. Hopley	
2nd Lt. F.V. Goetz	
2nd Lt. R.E. MacDonald	
Cpl. C.R. Dunning	
Cpl. R.G. Van Pelt	
Cpl. W.A. Hardin	
Cpl. W.L. Anderson	
Sgt. J.R. Jacobs	
Cpl. J.S. Merriman	

After completing their operational tour the following Officers and EM were transferred pending further assignment :-

1st Lt. T.H. Krise	S/Sgt. L. Florez
1st Lt. C.W. Bryant	S/Sgt. A.E. Hibbs
1st Lt. R.E. Berg	S/Sgt. J.J. Sederis
2nd Lt. J.R. Beggs	S/Sgt. R.T. Tobine
1st Lt. E.R. Beller	S/Sgt. Meredith
1st Lt. W.H. Hammond	S/Sgt. R.E. Moschke
1st Lt. L.B. Grate	S/Sgt. P.H. Franklin
1st Lt. M.S. Fox	S/Sgt. J.J. McCarthy
1st Lt. L.T. Sanchez	T/Sgt. Urmson
1st Lt. T.S. Horton	T/Sgt. N. Schoenberger
T/Sgt. A.A. Johnson	S/Sgt. R.V. Kerr
T/Sgt. D.A. Hecker	S/Sgt. Hannsbury
T/Sgt. A.F. Tryba	

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Promotions during the month:-

Flight Officer to 2nd Lt. :-

H.B. Hirsch

W.E. Drake

2nd Lt. to 1st Lt. :-

R.M. Cottrill

R.L. Grilley

W.F. Maloney

Koon

S.B. Komaroff

R.G. Etters

Watson

H.E. Guttman

R.W. Cain

J.P. Nash

W.E. Drake

R. Wright

W.A. Shackelford

1st Lt. to Captain :-

Groutt

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Returned from Rest and Recuperation leave:-

1st Lt. E.T. O'Neil

D.S. to rest and recuperation :-

3rd August 1944

10th August 1944

T/Sgt. L.W. Click

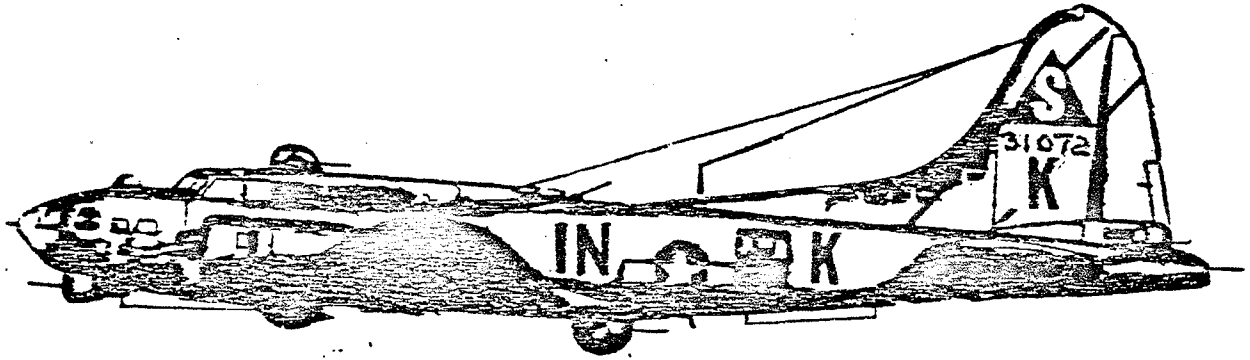
Major Leon Stann

S/Sgt. Malloy

S/Sgt. J.C. Jack

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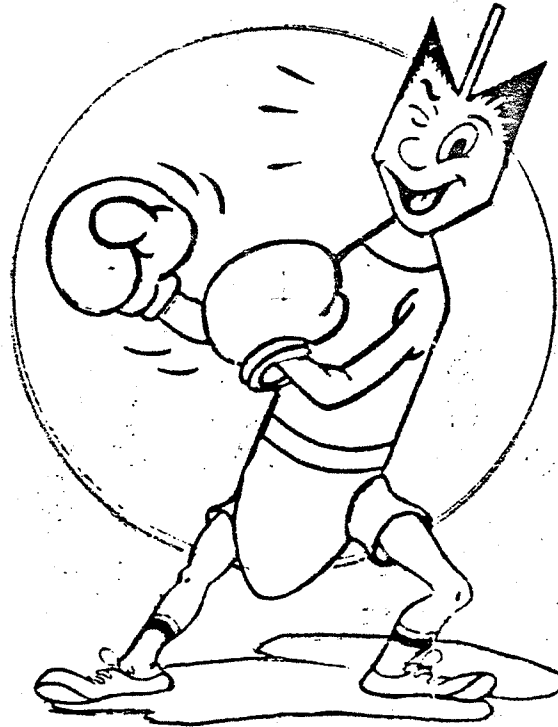


613TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

SQUADRON HISTORY

PART FOUR

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 1944



September 1944

During September 1944 the 401st flew 14 missions completing Mission No. 151 on September 30th. On ten of the 14 missions bombing was done by means of PFF equipment, an indication of the weather conditions prevailing over the continent during this period. The 613th flew 115 sorties of the 514 flown by the Group during the month.

Operations

Mission 138

Target: Ludwigshaven

3 September 1944

The I.G. Farbenindustrie A.G. was again our target on September 3rd when the 401st furnished three 12 aircraft Boxes including 3 PFF aircraft to comprise the 94th "A" CBW with Col Bowman as Division Leader. Capt Wood was Lead Navigator, Lt Fine, Mickey Operator and Capt Meadville Lead Bombardier. Nine aircraft from the 613th flew and were distributed between Lead, High and Low Boxes.

Cloud cover at the target area was about 9/10 ths and bombing was by PFF in Wing formation. Results were unobserved but the PFF operators were satisfied with the run. H2X photographs indicated that our bombs had struck within the target area. Subsequent PRU coverage showed that a portion of the target had been hit.

No enemy air opposition was encountered but the flak at the target was described as moderate to intense and accurate, twentyfour aircraft sustaining battle damage, five of which were in the major category. All aircraft returned to base. Crews from the 613th Squadron were:-

1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.	2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.
1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.	1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.
1st Lt. E.W. Coleman and crew.	1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.
1st Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.	2nd Lt. W.M. Jennings and crew.
Capt. J.R. Locher and crew, with Col Bowman.	

Mission 139

Target: Ludwigshaven

5 September 1944

A return trip to Ludwigshaven was made on September 5th. The Field Order received stated that results of the last two attacks were at present unknown but that the target had a high priority and another attack was deemed advisable. The 401st furnished three 12 aircraft Boxes including 3 PFF aircraft to form the 94th "B" CBW with Major Maupin as Wing Leader.

Broken and scattered clouds were encountered all the way in from the coast over the I.P. and to the target itself. The "Buckeye" weather ship advised a PFF run on the target. Bombs were dropped with PFF and the results observed through the broken clouds were described as good.

Meager flak at the I.P. increased to intense and accurate at the target. Twentyfive of our aircraft received battle damage. No enemy air opposition was encountered and all aircraft returned to base. Crews

participating were :-

1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.  
1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.  
1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
2nd Lt. R. B. Campbell and crew.  
2nd Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.

2nd Lt. W.M. Jennings and crew.  
1st Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.

Mission 140

Target: Mannheim

9 September 1944

Another chemical works of the I.G. Farbenindustrie , a synthetic oil plant at Mannheim, was attacked on September 9th. The 401st furnished a CBW of 36 aircraft including 2 PFF aircraft which flew in the Lead Box. Col. Brown was High Box Leader with Lt H.E. Kron, Lead Navigator and Lt E.K. Stout, Lead Bombardier.

Because of 9/10 ths clouds over the target bombs were dropped on the PFF lead and results were unobserved. No enemy air opposition was encountered but the flak over the target was moderate to intense and accurate. Our eight crews which flew in the High Box and returned to base were:

1st Lt E.W. Coleman and crew.  
1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.  
1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.  
2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.

1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.  
1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.

Mission 141

Target: Gaggenau

10 September 1944

On September 10th a large plant of the Daimler-Benz (Me - 109) combine located at Gaggenau was our target. This plant was reported to employ approximately 12,000 workmen producing 5 - ton lorries with caterpillar tracks, diesel engines, shells, torpedo mechanisms and aero-engines. Other CBW's in the 1st Bomb Division were assigned two of the other three works in the combine. Col. Brown was the Wing Leader of the "C" CBW of 36 aircraft furnished by the 401st Group with Lt. H.E. Kron, Lead Navigator and Capt. H.W. Meadville, Lead Bombardier. Bombing was visual and the assigned MPI's were well covered.

Meager to moderate flak was encountered intermittently from the from the vicinity of Strasbourg to Karlsruhe ranging from fair to good for accuracy. Over the target flak was moderate but extremely accurate. Crews Reported being in and out of flak for about 25 minutes. No enemy air opposition was encountered and our nine crews returned safely; they were:

Capt. J.R. Locher and crew.  
1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.  
2nd Lt. W.M. Jennings and crew.  
1st Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.  
2nd Lt. L.N. Douglas and crew.

1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.  
1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.H. Hillestad and crew.

Mission 142

Target: Merseburg

11 September 1944

For the fourth time this month an I.G. Farbenindustrie plant was our target. This one at Merseburg was reported to produce mainly synthetic oil, ammonia and nitrogen. The 401st furnished the 94th "B" CBW of 36 aircraft including 2 PFF aircraft in the Lead Box. Eight crews from the 613th were distributed between the Lead, High and Low Boxes. Because of the weather over the target the Lead and High Boxes bombed on PFF. The Low Box

was unable to bomb the primary and dropped on Eisenach, the secondary target with results described as excellent.

South of Coblenz along the Rhine river flak was encountered which was moderate and accurate and appeared to come from barges on the river. Flak at the target was moderate, and fair to good for accuracy. No enemy air opposition was encountered by our Group although other Wings reported combat with approximately 125 enemy aircraft. Our fighters engaged an estimated 400 enemy fighters over wide areas in central Germany and despite weather conditions the Luftwaffe put forth a maximum effort against today's attacks. Strength of enemy aircraft attacks were indicated by the fact that of the 52 bombers lost, 20 fell to enemy aircraft.

Our crews participating in today's mission and returning safely to base were:

1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.  
1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
2nd Lt. F. Carson and crew.

1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.E. Annis and crew.

Mission 143

Target: Merseburg

13 September 1944

A return trip to Merseburg was made on September 13th as intelligence information stated there was no indication of this target being effectively hit recently. The 401st put up the 94th "B" CBW of 36 aircraft with Major Maupin as Wing Leader. Lt. W.C. Mannix led the High Box in which 10 aircraft from the 613th Squadron flew. Bombing was visual and the results of the High and Low Boxes were fair to good. The Lead Box results were unobserved. Meager flak was encountered south of Coblenz and moderate flak over the target, accurate and of the tracking and barrage type. No enemy air opposition was encountered except by Lt. Annis and his crew who left the formation at the I.P. due to No. 4 turbo being out and returned alone. As he headed south towards France four Me - 109's attacked and two returned for a second pass. They were driven off by our gunners and one fighter was reported hit. Our aircraft had over 100 holes in it and the right horizontal stabilizer was nearly cut off. About 25 miles south of Saarbrücken light ground flak was encountered and during evasive Sgt. Frank C. Kot, Ball Turret Gunner and Sgt. Leonard R. Mitchell, Waist Gunner, bailed out at approximately 8,000 feet and chutes were observed to open almost immediately. Shortly before bailing out Sgt. Kot had been slightly wounded in the chest by flak and this wound had been dressed by Lt. Madden, Navigator. Other crews of the 613th Squadron participating without incident and returning were:

1st Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.  
2nd Lt. L.N. Douglas and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.

1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.  
1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.

Mission 144

Target: Groesbeek

17 September 1944

The elimination of enemy tanks and guns along the edges of the Reich Wald Forest near Groesbeek, Holland was our assigned target for September 17th. Eight separate MPI's were assigned and the four 12 aircraft forces from the 401st, comprising the 94th "A" Wing, bombed by 6 aircraft squadrons. Col. Brown was the Force No. 2 Leader in which 12

613th aircraft flew. Lt. Kron was Lead Navigator and Lt. Stout, Lead Bombardier. Strike photos showed that all MPI's were well covered. Only one burst of flak was encountered and that between the I.P. and the target. All aircraft returned to base. Those participating from the 613th were:

1st Lt. E.W. Coleman and crew.	1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.
2nd Lt. R.A. Baker and crew.	1st Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.
1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.	2nd Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.
1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.	2nd Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.
2nd Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.	2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.
1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.	
2nd Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.	

Mission 145

Target: Hamm

19 September 1944

All targets assigned to the 1st Bombardment Division on September 19th were connected with the supply of enemy forces opposing our airborne operations in Holland. Our assigned primary target was the large marshalling yard at Soest the main supplementary marshalling yard dealing with the traffic to and from eastern Germany. The secondary target was the large marshalling yards at Hamm, at present another link in the supply system connected with German opposition to airborne operations.

The 401st furnished the 94th "C" CBW of 36 aircraft with Lt. Col. Brown as Wing Leader. Lead Navigator was Lt. H.E. Kron and Lead Bombardier was Capt. H.W. Meadville. Col. Brown and Capt. Meadville were flying their 25th mission.

Because of 10/10 ths overcast to 30,000 feet, the primary target was not attacked and bombing was done as follows:- 9 aircraft of the Lead Box bombed Wesel, Germany, strikes being observed in the city through a cloud break. 3 aircraft of the Lead Box bombed Dulmen, Germany. The High Box bombed Hamm, briefed as the secondary, by means of PFF. Because of gas shortage the Low Box bombed an unknown target of opportunity.

A diversion was received while over France sending the 401st to North Pickenham. Twenty-four aircraft landed there and others at scattered fields - all returning to base the following day. Crews participating were:

1st Lt. E.W. Coleman and crew.	2nd Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.
1st Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.	1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.
1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.	1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.
2nd Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.	1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.
2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.	

Mission 146

Target: Kassel

22 September 1944

The 401st furnished the 94th "B" CBW of 36 aircraft including 2 PFF aircraft for the mission to Kassel, Germany on September 22nd. The assigned primary was the ordnance depot but because of 10/10 ths cloud coverage the secondary target, a large engineering plant was bombed by PFF, the results being unobserved. No enemy air opposition was reported and flak was encountered by the High Box only at the target area, and it was moderate and fair to good for accuracy. The nine crews from the 613th participating were:

1st Lt. W.W. Jennings and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.  
1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.

1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.  
1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.

Mission 147

Target: Frankfurt

25 September 1944

On September 25th the 401st furnished 36 aircraft including 4 PFF to comprise the 94th "C" CBW. Our target was the center of the great industrial city of Frankfurt. The bomb load was made up of parcels of leaflets and Braddock Projects F/C Incendiary Fillers. The Braddock Bomb was being dropped for the first time and were for use by the "friendly workers" within enemy territory. They contained instructions in eleven different languages as to the proper method of use in starting incendiary fires in factories, plants, storage depots etc. Because of cloud cover bombing was done by PFF and the results were unobserved. No enemy aircraft opposition was encountered and the flak directed at our Group was inaccurate, no battle damage being sustained.

Lt. R.M. Fowler was the High Box Leader in which 9 aircraft from the 613th Squadron flew. They were:

1st Lt. W.W. Jennings and crew.  
1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
2nd Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.

1st Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.N. Hillested and crew.  
1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.A. Baker and crew.

Mission 148

Target: Osnabruck

26 September 1944

The 401st put up three 12 aircraft squadrons for the Division Lead with Col. Rogner as Division and Group Leader. Capt. Locher was High Squadron Leader. Use of standard terminology as outlined in 8th Air Force Memo No. 56 - 7, dated 22nd September, 1944 was stressed in the field order received and involved the following:-

- A Group consists of 2 or 3 Squadrons.
- A Squadron consists of 12 aircraft.
- A Section consists of 6 aircraft.
- A Flight consists of 3 Aircraft.

Bombing was done visually with results described as fair, later substantiated by strike photos. No enemy air opposition was encountered and flak at the target was described as being meager to moderate, fair to good for accuracy. Nine crews from the 613th Squadron flying in the High Box were:

1st Lt. E.W. Coleman and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
1st Lt. R.C. Etters and crew.  
1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.

1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.R. Hillested and crew.  
1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.

Mission 149

Target: Cologne

27 September 1944

An Army request target was attacked on September 27th at Cologne. The plant was located on the west side of the town and was engaged in the production of portable gas-producers for wood and mineral fuels. The fact

that the Germans were being forced to use such fuels was an indication of the seriousness of their fuel condition.

The 401st furnished three 12 aircraft squadrons comprising the 94th "B" Group. Weather was described as 8/10 - 10/10ths enroute and at the target 9/10ths to 10/10ths, although cumulus necessitated bombing by means of PFF. Crews reported observing a river immediately after bombs away, DR fix disclosing that bombs fell on a briefed PFF target. No enemy air opposition was encountered. In an effort to reduce the effectiveness of flak, squadrons and sections were "stacked" going over the target area and squadron leaders believed this an effective method of reducing flak damage. Only five aircraft suffered battle damage, all minor. Crews participating from the 613th were:

2nd Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.	1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.
1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.	2nd Lt. R.R. Hillested and crew.
1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.	1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.
2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.	1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.

Mission 150

Target: Magdeburg

28 September 1944

Because of cloud cover over the target, the secondary (PFF) target was bombed by means of PFF on 28th September. Glimpses of Magdeburg obtained through cloud breaks disclosed that bombing results on the marshalling yard were very good. The 401st furnished three 12 aircraft squadrons comprising the 94th "A" Group. Two PFF aircraft were included in the Lead Squadron and one PFF in the High Squadron.

Capt J.R. Locher was Wing and Group Leader. Nine aircraft from the 613th flew in the Lead Squadron. No enemy air opposition was encountered although flak at the target area was moderate to intense and accurate and accounted for two of our aircraft going down. Our nine crews which participated and returned to base safely were:

2nd Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.	1st Lt. W.W. Jennings and crew.
2nd Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.	1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.
2nd Lt. R.A. Baker and crew.	1st Lt. W.H. Thomason and crew.
1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.	1st Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.
2nd Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.	

Mission 151

Target: Munster

30 September 1944

On the last day of September the 401st furnished three 12 aircraft squadrons comprising the 94th "A" Group to attack rail yards at Munster. In spite of 6/10ths - 8/10ths cumulus clouds over the primary target bombing was done visually with results described as good to excellent. Lt. Fowler was High Squadron Leader and Major de Jonckheere Low Squadron Leader. Nine aircraft from the 613th flew on the mission and returned safely. No enemy air opposition was encountered and the flak at the target while moderate was accurate. Two aircraft from our Group were lost to flak. Our crews were:

2nd Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.	2nd Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.
1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.	1st Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.
2nd Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.	1st Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.
2nd Lt. R.L. Kech and crew.	1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.
1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.	

Weather Ship on Mission 151:

Crew - Capt.	J.R. Locher	Pilot
2nd Lt.	E. Clark	Co-pilot
2nd Lt.	B.J. Madden	Navigator
Sgt.	L.L. Walker	Radio

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Personnel

On 4th Sept. 1944 the following Officers were transferred to Cas Pool, 8th AFRD:-

Lt. Hobbs	Lt. Cattrill	Lt. Frazier
Lt. Brown	Lt. Woliver	Lt. Chartier
Lt. O'Neil	Lt. Warren	Lt. Lemmons
	Lt. Duquette	

On 5th Sept. 1944 the following Officers and Enlisted Men were assigned to the Squadron:-

2nd Lt.	R.J. Keck	Cpl.	E. Fialowski
F/O	H.W. Freeman Jr.	Cpl.	F.C. Nachtigal
F/O	L.A. Istel	Cpl.	L.V. Stoeger
F/O	S. Shepard	Cpl.	W.T. Metcalf
Cpl.	R.H. Engler	Cpl.	E.W. Norr

On 6th Sept. 1944 the following men were transferred to Cas Pool, 8th AFRD:-

S/Sgt. Klimik	S/Sgt. Guilfooy	S/Sgt. Hadsell
T/Sgt. DeWitt	T/Sgt. Fahnstock	T/Sgt. Musser
T/Sgt. Kennedy	S/Sgt. Belknap	T/Sgt. Harp
T/Sgt. Mills	S/Sgt. Domm	S/Sgt. Friedman
S/Sgt. Stout	S/Sgt. Merrill	S/Sgt. Jordan
T/Sgt. Green	T/Sgt. Finnie	T/Sgt. Novak
S/Sgt. Webster	T/Sgt. Hurley	T/Sgt. Meziner
T/Sgt. Beogener	S/Sgt. Gregory	S/Sgt. Pear
S/Sgt. Fetzer	T/Sgt. Charnes	T/Sgt. Parsloe
S/Sgt. Martinelli	S/Sgt. Fedynich	T/Sgt. Avery
T/Sgt. Hill	S/Sgt. Kleiber	S/Sgt. O'Brien
S/Sgt. Dalton	S/Sgt. Kelson	S/Sgt. Lasse
	T/Sgt. Minch	

Promotions during the month were as follows:-

1st Lt. Connolly appointed Captain on 5th Sept. 44.  
1st Lt. Irwin appointed Captain on 6th Sept. 44.  
2nd Lt. Nelson appointed 1st Lt. on 6th Sept. 44.  
2nd Lt. Carson appointed 1st Lt. on 7th Sept. 44.

On the 8th Sept. 44, the following Officers and EM were assigned to the Squadron:-

1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick	2nd Lt. L.G. Lewis
2nd Lt. H.C. Miller	Cpl. G.L. Beck



The following men were assigned to the Squadron on 16th Sept. 1944 (completing the crew of 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick).

Cpl. R.C. Luca	Cpl. J.R. Lindsay
Cpl. J.R. Sheldon	Cpl. R.B. Ledger
Cpl. J.F. Grumann	

T/Sgt. Holland discharged to accept Commission 6th Sept. 44, appointed 2nd Lt. 7th Sept. 44.

Other promotions during the month of September were as follows:-

2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

Lt. Craytor	Lt. Hide	Lt. Hirsch
Lt. Stout	Lt. Andreu	Lt. Jennings
	Lt. Cox	

Flight Officer Rostrom discharged to accept commission 11th September 1944, appointed 2nd Lt. 12th September 1944.

Flight Officer Dobbratz discharged to accept commission 7th September 1944, appointed 2nd Lt. 8th September 1944.

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October 1944

The 401st completed Mission 163 on October 30th. Of 12 targets attacked during the month, 3 were bombed visually and the balance by means of PFF equipment. Three trips were made to Cologne and two to Munster with the marshalling yards as the assigned target. Disruption of communications and transport centers were the objectives as supplies to the German Western Front were being funneled through these centers.

The 613th Squadron flew 112 sorties of the 442 flown by the Group during the month.

Mission 152

Target: Nurnberg

3 October 1944

On October 3rd the 401st furnished three 12 aircraft Squadrons including 1 PFF aircraft for each Squadron to comprise the 94th "B" Group. The target assigned was a factory at Nurnberg, Germany engaged in the production of heavy engines, trucks, motor vehicles and heavy tanks. Because of 9/10ths undercast over the primary target, the secondary (PFF) target was bombed by PFF. Glimpses of the target city on the bombing run enabled operators and bombardiers to coordinate very well and although the undercast prevented observations of the results, bombing was thought to be good by all three Squadrons.

Major E. de Jonckheere was the Leader of the High Squadron in which 9 crews from the 613th flew in the Lead and Low Sections. They were:

1st Lt. R.R. Lockhart and crew.	2nd Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.
1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.	1st Lt. J.R. Lippert and crew.
1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.	2nd Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.

2nd Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.  
1st Lt. R.A. Baker and crew.

1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.

Mission 153

Target: Stargard

6 October 1944

Because of 10/10ths cloud coverage over the primary target on October 6th, the 401st Group of 36 aircraft comprising the 94th Wing "C" Group bombed the secondary target (Stargard airfield) by visual means. Results were excellent. 75% of the Lead and High Squadron's strikes were within 2,000 feet of the MPI, 35 to 40% within 1,000 feet of the MPI, 100% of the Low Squadron's within 1,000 feet of the MPI; direct hits were observed on the headquarters and the school area.

A moderate barrage was observed over Stettin and no flak was encountered over Stargard. No enemy air opposition was encountered and all aircraft returned to base. Crews from the 613th participating were:

1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.  
1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.

2nd Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.  
2nd Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.

Mission 154

Target: Politz

7 October 1944

On October 7th the 401st furnished three 12 aircraft Squadrons comprising the 94th "C" Group. One PFF aircraft was included in each of the four Squadrons. The target attacked was the synthetic oil plant at Politz. The MPI assigned to our Group was the compressor houses, the three other Groups concentrating on other buildings in the area. Lt. Col. Seawell was Group Leader. Major E. de Jonckheere led the High Squadron with Lt. Kron, Lead Navigator and Lt. Stout, Lead Bombardier.

The weather over the primary target was clear with the exception of smoke generated by an exceptionally effective smoke screen in operation over the synthetic oil plant at Politz. Bombing was done by visual means and lead bombardiers had considerable difficulty synchronizing on assigned MPI's because of the smoke cover. Strike photos indicated bombs fell within the target area.

Moderate but very accurate flak was encountered at Stettin and Politz for a period of 9 to 14 minutes during which time five aircraft were lost, three sustaining major battle damage and 40 minor battle damage. Included in the 5 aircraft lost was Lt. A.J. Nelson and his crew. According to eyewitness reports his aircraft received a direct burst of flak in the vicinity of the nose directly over Politz. Most of the nose was reported blown off and the aircraft went down in a vertical dive, hit the ground and exploded. One to four chutes were reported to come out during the dive, no other observations concerning particulars of the jumps.

Crews from the 613th which participated were:

1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.  
1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.  
1st Lt. W.W. Jennings and crew.  
2nd Lt. A.J. Nelson and crew.  
1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.

2nd Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.  
1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
2nd Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
1st Lt. E.W. Coleman and crew.

Mission 155

Target: Cologne

14 October 1944

The Rhine industrial city of Cologne, supplying German forces along the Siegfried Line was our objective on October 14th. The specific target assigned was the sidings and marshalling yards on the east side of the city, through which traffic was being funneled to Aachen, only 40 miles to the west.

The 401st furnished three 12 aircraft squadrons including three PFF aircraft to comprise the 94th Wing "A" Group. 10/10ths coverage over the target prevented visual bombing. The bombs were dropped by means of PFF equipment, results being unobserved.

Scattered flak was observed over Coblenz and Trier but was ineffective against the Group. Flak at the target was moderate, generally of the barrage type but inaccurate. No enemy air opposition was encountered and all aircraft returned to base. Nine crews from the 613th flew on this mission and were:

2nd Lt. R.E. Annis and crew.	2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.
2nd Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.	1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.
1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.	1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.
2nd Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.	2nd Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.
2nd Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.	

Mission 156

Target: Cologne

15 October 1944

Another trip to the commercial centre of Cologne was made again on October 15th. The target was the marshalling yards 4 miles S.E. of the city within approximately 600 yards of the Rhine river. Colonel Bowman was Division and Group Leader. The 401st furnished three 12 aircraft squadrons to comprise the 94th Wing "A" Group. Lt. W.C. Mannix led the Low Squadron in which 8 crews from the 613th flew. At the target 9/10ths Cumulus clouds were encountered. The Lead and Low Squadrons bombed by PFF. The results of the Lead Squadron were unobserved but the Low Squadron hit well inside the built up area just over the Rhine. The High Squadron did not drop due to the malfunction of the bomb rack in the lead aircraft and the bombs were brought back.

The meager, inaccurate flak was encountered enroute to the target and the flak at the target was reported accurate for only the first few bursts. No enemy air opposition was encountered and all aircraft returned to base. The 613th crews participating were:

1st Lt. C.F. Keeling and crew.	1st Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.
2nd Lt. R.E. Annis and crew.	2nd Lt. P.R. Ham and crew.
1st Lt. A.L. Hanson and crew.	2nd Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.
2nd Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.	1st Lt. R.A. Baker and crew.

Mission 157

Target: Cologne

17 October 1944

For the third consecutive time Cologne was again the target. The intelligence annex to the field order indicated that although considerable damage was inflicted on the built up area of the city, little damage had been done to the marshalling yards. Our specific MPI's were three marshalling yards, each squadron to individually bomb a separate marshalling yard. The importance of disrupting transportation facilities at Cologne was indicated by the fact that four other Groups from the 1st Bomb Division were attacking the same targets assigned for our Group.

The 94th "B" Group was comprised of three 12 aircraft squadrons from the 401st. Lt. Fowler led the Low Squadron and ten crews from the 613th participated. Because of 10/10ths cloud coverage bombing was done by PFF, results being unobserved. The flak was ineffective at the target and crews reported that stacking groups and ganging up over the target certainly split the flak coverage. Formations flown on this mission were reported the best the Group has flown in a good many missions.

Crews from the 613th on this mission were:

2nd Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.	2nd Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.
1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.	1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.
2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.	1st Lt. A.C. Jetterson and crew.
1st Lt. C.F. Keeling and crew.	1st Lt. R.A. Baker and crew.
1st Lt. T.R. Cushman and crew.	1st Lt. P.R. Ham and crew.

Mission 158

Target: Mannheim

19 October 1944

The target for October 19th was the main works of Henrich Lanz in Mannheim, manufacturing various types of transport armoured force vehicles, gun tractors, etc. The PFF MPI was the center of the factory area. Major McCree was Group Leader and Lt. T.R. Cushman led the High Squadron in which 9 of the 613th crews flew.

The weather over the continent was 8/10 to 10/10ths with the same conditions prevailing over the target. The Squadrons made individual runs and the results were thought to be good for the Lead and Low Squadrons. The High Squadron made an individual visual run on a target of opportunity at Karlsruhe. Crews reported a good concentration of hits in the built up area of the city.

The flak over Mannheim was meager and ineffective although the High Squadron encountered accurate tracking fire over Karlsruhe.

No enemy air opposition was encountered and all aircraft returned to base. Crews from the 613th participating were:

2nd Lt. R.E. Annis and crew.	1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.
2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.	2nd Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.
1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.	1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.
1st Lt. C.F. Keeling and crew.	1st Lt. T.R. Cushman and crew.
1st Lt. P.R. Ham and crew.	

Mission 159

Target: Hanover

22 October 1944

A manufacturing industry at Hanover engaged in the production of medium calibre guns, gun carriages, artillery tractors and components for aircraft and heavy shells was attacked on October 22nd. Major McCree was Group Leader and Lt. Anderson Lead Navigator. Captain D.W. Fesmire was Lead Bombardier.

Because of 10/10ths undercast over the primary target, bombing was by PFF and although results were unobserved it is thought that the bombs hit well within the target limits.

The flak was meager and inaccurate over the target and no enemy air opposition was encountered. Crews from the 613th participating in this mission were:

1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.  
1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.  
1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.  
1st Lt. T.R. Cushman and crew.

1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
1st Lt. R.A. Baker and crew.  
1st Lt. P.R. Ham and crew.

Mission 160

Target: Hamburg

25 October 1944

The dock area and oil storage facilities at Hamburg were attacked on October 25th, bombing being by PFF due to 10/10ths undercast over the target. Captain F.A. Kalinski was Leader of the 94th "A" Group and the crews reported observing black smoke bulging through the clouds at 10,000 feet as they were leaving the target area. The flak at the target was moderate to intense but ineffective. No enemy fighters were encountered and all aircraft returned safely to base. Crews from the 613th flying were:

1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.  
1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.  
1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
1st Lt. A.C. Jetter and crew.

1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
1st Lt. R.E. Annis and crew.  
1st Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.

Mission 161

Target: Bielfeld

26 October 1944

The visual and PFF target for October 26th was the branch ordnance depots, 2 miles S.E. of the center of Bielfeld, supplying the German Front with tanks, guns, track vehicles, etc. The 401st furnished the 94th "C" Group with Major D.G. McCree as Group Leader. Lt. W.C. Mannix was the Low Squadron Leader in which 10 crews from the 613th flew. Because of 10/10ths cloud cover over the primary target, bombing was done by PFF with unobserved results.

Flak was not encountered and the flak observed enroute and over the target was meager. No battle damage was sustained and enemy air opposition was encountered, and all aircraft returned to base. Crews from the 613th participating were:

1st Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.  
1st Lt. R.E. Annis and crew.  
1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
1st Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.

1st Lt. C.F. Keeling and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.  
1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.

Mission 162

Target: Munster

28 October 1944

Another trip to Munster marshalling yards was made on October 28th by the 401st which comprised the 94th "B" Group with Major E. de Jonckheere as Group leader. The weather over the target was described as 5/10 to 7/10ths and although PFF runs were made bombing was done visually through breaks in the clouds. Results were unobserved but thought to be good. The flak was inaccurate to accurate with no air opposition encountered. All our aircraft returned to base. The crews from the 613th were:

1st Lt. E.W. Cloeman and crew.  
2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.  
1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.  
1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.

1st Lt. R.E. Annis and crew.  
1st Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.  
1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
1st Lt. R.A. Baker and crew.

Mission 163

Target: Munster

30 October 1944

Although the assigned target for October 30th was the oil plants at Gelsenkirchen 10/10ths cloud cover prevented visual bombing and the secondary target at Munster marshalling yards was bombed by PFF. Results were unobserved. The flak enroute and over the target was ineffective, only four aircraft suffering battle damage.

Major McCree was Group Leader of the 94th "A" Group and Lt. Mannix led the Low Squadron in which 9 crews from the 613th flew, they were:

1st Lt. R.C. Eppers and crew.	1st Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.
1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.	1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.
1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.	1st Lt. R.E. Annis and crew.
1st Lt. C.F. Keeling and crew.	1st Lt. W.R. Jennings and crew.
1st Lt. W.C. Mannix and crew.	

Weather Ship

Crew:-  
Captain J.R. Locher  
Major E.T. de Jonckheere  
1st Lt. W.B. Anderson  
T/Sgt. V.M. Chalupzynski

PERSONNEL

The following crews were assigned to 613th Squadron on 26th October, 1944:-

Flt/Off. H.P. Cox	2nd Lt. D.R. Scheller	2nd Lt. R.L. Steele
Flt/Off. K.M. Sceper	2nd Lt. W.W. Wicks	2nd Lt. D.F. Walker
Flt/Off. M.W. Shaw	2nd Lt. R.C. Houston	2nd Lt. R.R. Zemon
Cpl. T.E. Lowell	Flt/O. J.E. Kollar	Flt/O. L. White
Cpl. L. Norris	Cpl. R.D. Black	Sgt. F. Stachura
Cpl. A. Tanazevich	Cpl. W.Q. Harty	Sgt. L.B. Lutz
Cpl. L.C. Stewart	Cpl. R.M. Trudeau	Cpl. C.A. Wowak
Cpl. L.E. Locke	Cpl. J. Giannini	Sgt. A. Stromberg
Cpl. L.W. Raymond	Cpl. N.A. Severson	Cpl. R. Valdez
		Sgt. E.A. Myers

The following two crews were assigned to the 613th Squadron on 28th October, 1944 :-

2nd Lt. H. Tausig	2nd Lt. E.E. Curran
2nd Lt. D.W. Camper	2nd Lt. D.J. Reilly
2nd Lt. D.F. Walker	2nd Lt. J.J. Bantz
2nd Lt. E.E. Lawson	2nd Lt. B.F. Jones
Sgt. J.J. Fitzsimmons	Cpl. G.J. Glesken
Cpl. W.B. Johnson	Cpl. E.E. Johnson
Cpl. A.S. Katz	Cpl. J.R. Clifton
Cpl. E. Bucksbaum	Cpl. R. Hardin
Cpl. D.C. Johnson	Cpl. H.M. Zenor

Promotions during the month were:-

1st Lt. to Captain

1st Lt. Fine

1st Lt. Pfeiffer

1st Lt. Lockhart

2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

2nd Lt. Baker	2nd Lt. Rostrum	2nd Lt. Annis
2nd Lt. Ham	2nd Lt. Jardine	2nd Lt. Douglas
2nd Lt. Hillested	2nd Lt. Youmans	2nd Lt. Campbell
2nd Lt. Dobratz	2nd Lt. Conway	2nd Lt. Strong
2nd Lt. Hopley	2nd Lt. Sheghan	2nd Lt. Bech

Flight Officer to 2nd Lt.

Flight Officer Garton

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November 1944

During November the 613th Squadron as part of the 401st Group completed the first operational year, on November 26th to be exact.

Bad weather was encountered throughout the month and with the exception of the month's last mission, No. 175, to Bohlen, Germany, all were PFF or GH blind bombing. Germany's synthetic oil industry was attacked over and over again including missions to Merseburg, Harburg, Misburg and Bohlen. Two tactical missions were run during the month, one against strong points in the Metz area which preceded the 3rd U.S. Army's smashing and successful attack to open the road to Cologne. On both missions the 8th A.F. received commendations for a job well done. Except for one mission to Merseburg no attacks were suffered from the Luftwaffe, and then only one Me-109, which was shot down. Flak on the other hand was plentiful and increasingly accurate accounting for two of our aircraft and crews failing to return, Lt. Hillested and Lt. Keck.

The 401st flew a total of 426 sorties during the month, the 613th flying 100 sorties during this period.

Operations

Mission 164

Target: Merseburg

2 November 1944

The first target for November was the synthetic oil, ammonia and nitrogen works at Merseburg. Nine 613th crews flew in the 94th "A" Group furnished by the 401st and led by Capt. A.H. Chapman. Bombing was by PFF and due to almost complete undercast results were unobserved. Flak at the target was intense and accurate, 27 aircraft suffering battle damage, one being shot down at the target. Shortly after leaving the target between 10 - 20 Me-109's were encountered and made individual passes at the low section of the High Squadron. Four jet aircraft were observed. Enemy fighters were violently intent on attacking the Group following the 401st, none of our aircraft incurring any damage from the fighters. Crews from the 613th participating and returning safely were:

43-38160	1st Lt. W.R. Jennings and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.
43-38187	1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.
43-37736	1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.

44-6132 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.  
44-6104 2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.  
43-38565 ( 614th a/c ) 1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
42-97931 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
42-102009 1st Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.

Mission 165

Target: Harburg

4 November 1944

One of the largest crude oil refineries in Germany located at Harburg in the Hamburg area was attacked on November 4th. The 94th "A" Group was led by Lt Col B.K. Voorhees. Bombing was by means of PFF and no observations of results was possible because of solid undercast. Flak was ineffective and all aircraft returned to base. Crews from the 613th were:

43-37706 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
43-38187 1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
44-6113 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
42-38267 2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.  
44-6313 1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
42-97931 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
42-102947 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.

Weather Ship - 42-31072. Crew:      Capt. J.R. Locher      Pilot  
   1st Lt. C.P. Keeling      Co-pilot  
   2nd Lt. J.M. Rush      Navigator  
   T/Sgt R.G. Knox      Radio

Mission 166

Target: Frankfurt

5 November 1944

The marshalling yards at Frankfurt was the target on November 5th. Bombing was done by means of PFF, with some visual assistance through a cloud break. Strike photos disclosed that the majority of the bombs hit over and to the right of the assigned MPI. Flak over the target was moderate and generally accurate. Upon the return, a front was encountered over the vicinity of the base, making it necessary to divert the aircraft which returned to the station a few hours later. Crews from the 613th flying in the 94th "C" Group led by Major E.T. de Jonckheere were:

43-37706 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
44-6104 2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
44-6313 1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
42-97931 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
43-37736 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
42-102009 1st Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.  
44-6132 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.  
44-8258 ( 615th PFF ship) 1st Lt. T.R. Cushman and crew.  
42-97636( 615th PFF ship) 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.

To fly with 614th Squadron - 1st Lt. Guttman, Navigator.

Mission 167

Target: Harburg

6 November 1944

The 401st flying as the 94th "B" Group again attacked oil refineries at Harburg on November 6th. Bombing was by PFF with a visual assist. Although strike photos disclosed few bursts, bombs were observed to fall



in the target area. The flak over the target was moderate to intense and fairly accurate. Aircraft 42-107009 ( LADY JANE, IN-P ), piloted by Lt. R.H. Hillested, was evidently hit by flak over the target. It gradually lagged behind until last observed near Cuxhaven at about 21,000 ft. An SOS was later transmitted over the North Sea and he is thought to have attempted to ditch. No further word was received from him or his crew or from Air Sea Rescue. In addition to Lt. Hillested other crew members were:

2nd Lt. J.H. Emch	S/Sgt. J.B. Drylen
2nd Lt. F.L. Campbell	S/Sgt. R.M. Andren
S/Sgt. C.A. Montoya	S/Sgt. H. Fishbein
S/Sgt. R.E. Kriz	S/Sgt. P.C. Di Cicco

Lt. E.W. Coleman, Low Squadron Leader and eight other crews from 613th returned safely to base, they were:

42-39012 (614th ship) 1st Lt. C.P. Keeling and crew.  
44-6313 1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
42-97980 (614th Ship) 1st Lt. E.W. Coleman and crew.  
43-38187 1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
43-37736 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
42-107009 1st Lt. R.H. Hillested and crew.  
44-6104 2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.  
44-6132 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.

Mission 168

Target: Merseburg

8 November 1944

Led by Major L. Stann the 94th "A" Group (401st. B.G.) attacked the Leuna oil works at Merseburg on November 8th. Bombing was by PFF and the results were unobserved. The flak was moderate over the target but accurate. Aircraft 43-37736 ( LITTLE PEDRO, IN-T ) piloted by 2nd Lt. R.L. Steele was hit just before bombs away and was forced to make an emergency landing in Belgium. The experience of Lt. Steele and his crew was the subject of a public relations story as follows:

AN EIGHTH AIR FORCE BOMBER STATION, ENGLAND. 2nd Lt. Richard L. Steele, Lincoln, Nebr., took his Fortress crew on their first mission the other day and came home after an emergency landing in Belgium, with the definite opinion that the ETO is still a "rough theater" for heavy bombardment operations.

Arriving in the target area, which was Merseburg, and before bombs away, Lt. Steele had two engines hit by flak and found himself with two runaway propellers at the same time. Engine No. 4 had its oil pressure system shot out and the prop could not be feathered and the prop controls and supercharger of No. 3 were hit --- all this at 26,000 ft in tight formation.

The propeller of No. 4 engine finally twisted off its white-hot bearings and "froze" in one position and No. 3 propeller, out of control, became steady at 2,250 revolutions per minute which gave the pilot some power to hold formation.

The bombs were dropped on Merseburg --- and the Fortress began to steadily lose altitude, straggling at 15,000 Ft, the aircraft was about to be attacked by Nazi fighters when nine Mustangs swooped in from out of the sun and chased them away.

"The last I saw of the Jerries they were diving into a cloud bank with our fighters hot on their tail," said Lt. Steele. "It was a beautiful sight. A short time later a few more P - 51's picked us up and stuck with us until we got over friendly territory."

The crew struck more flak from its vulnerable altitude and the hydraulics system was shot out, automatically knocking out the brakes. Over Belgium and in the vicinity of Brussels, Lt. Steele saw an RAF base and decided to go in for a landing. But his trouble was not yet over.

As he was about to let down, a fire started in the cockpit and while the crew stood ready to bail out, it was extinguished by the Engineer, Sgt. Frederick Stachura. The fire had so damaged the radio equipment that Lt. Steele could not call the control tower and tell them he was going to make an emergency landing, and without brakes.

"A formation was just coming in," said Lt. Steele "and I could'nt get the green light. Something had to be done so I came on in anyway and when they knew I was going to land they gave me the all clear to land."

On landing the crew counted 30 flak holes in addition to the damaged engines - only excellent evasive action by the pilot prevented more damage when the second flak was encountered -- one, Flight Officer D.J. Munt, the Navigator, had a slight flak wound on his face.

The crew spent a couple of days at the base and then were flown to England, glad to get away from "buzz bomb alley."

All members of the crew were on their first mission except 2nd Lt. R.H. Little acting as co-pilot in breaking in the new crew. He has been on 20 missions and his experience acted as a stabilizing influence on other members who were in their praise of his work and judgment during the critical moments.

Other crews from the 613th were:

43-38160	1st Lt. W.R. Jennings and crew.
44-6313	1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.
42-38267	1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.
43-37736	2nd Lt. R.L. Steele and crew.
44-6104	2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.
43-38187	1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.
42-97931	1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.

Flying with 615th Squadron: Major L. Stann  
1st Lt. R.M. Fowler

Mission 169

Target: Metz

9 November 1944

Close support of Allied troops advancing in the Metz area was the assignment on November 9th. The 613th flew 9 crews in the 94th "A" Group put up by the 401st B.G. Because of 7/10ths clouds over the primary, bombing was done by means of Gee-H. Precautionary measures to insure dropping of bombs clear of the front line troops included safety line markers utilizing friendly flak bursts and localizer beams. Strike photos indicated our bombs fell approximately 2 miles NE of the assigned MPI in the vicinity of Villers - Laquenexy. Flak was practically nil and no fighters were encountered. Crews participating were:

43-37706 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
42-97931 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
43-38160 2nd Lt. R.J. Keck and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
44-6113 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
42-38267 2nd Lt. D.R. Scheller and crew.  
42-31076 1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
43-38646 Flt.O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
43-38187 1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.

Mission 170

Target: Eschweiler

16 November 1944

The knocking out of enemy gun positions about 3 miles from our front line near Eschweiler was the assignment for November 16th. Major de Jonckheere led the 401st - the 94th "C" Group - with Lt. W.B. Anderson, Lead Navigator and Captain D.W. Fesmire, Lead Bombardier. Precautionary measures to insure bombing clear of our positions were again set up and included panels, balloon barrage, flak barrage, continental bunchers and Localizer beams. Because of 9/10 - 10/10 ths coverage over the target bombing was by Gee-H. Although the bombfall was unobserved, from all indications they fell within the assigned area. Flak was nil and no fighters were encountered. Crews from the 613th were:

43-38160 2nd Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
43-37706 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
44-6313 1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
42-102947 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. D.R. Scheller and crew.  
42-38267 Flt. O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
44-6104 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
42-97947 ( 612th Ship ) 1st Lt. T.R. Cushman and crew.

Mission 171

Target: Merseburg

21 November 1944

In the face of determined opposition the Leuna oil works at Merseburg was bombed by PFF on November 21st by the 94th "B" Group in which eight crews from the 613th Squadron flew. The flak at the target was intense and accurate resulting in the loss of three aircraft including Lt. R.J. Keck and his crew. When last observed their No. 2 engine was on fire with flames trailing behind the tail. It flew for about four or five minutes after being hit and then it started to straggle and at this point it was attacked by an Me-109 causing the aircraft to explode at about 10,000 ft after rolling over in a steep dive. Four of the crew bailed out according to reports, one chute opening, the other three men disappearing into clouds.

Crews of the 613th participating were:

43-38160 2nd Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
42-102947 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
43-37706 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
44-6104 1st Lt. R.J. Keck and crew. (MIA)  
43-38187 1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
44-2606 ( wrong No. ? ) Capt. E.W. Coleman and crew.  
44-6313 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.  
42-38267 Flt. O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.

Mission 172

Target: Merseburg

25 November 1944

The synthetic oil works at Merseburg was again the target on November 25th. The 401st furnished 94th "B" Group in which 10 crews from the 613th flew. Bombing was by PFF and no observations of the results were obtainable. Due to bad weather on return to base it became necessary to land seven of the ships at other bases. They later returned safely to base. Crews participating were:

43-37706 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
44-6313 1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
42-38267 Flt. O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
43-38187 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
42-97931 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
42-102947 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
44-6132 2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley Jr. and crew.  
42-31891 (612th a/c) 1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
42-31077 (615th a/c) 1st Lt. W.R. Jennings and crew.

Mission 173

Target: Misburg

26 November 1944

Another oil refinery target at Misburg near Hanover, was attacked on November 26th. Although the weather at the target was clear, an exceedingly effective smoke screen obscured visual identification and PFF bombing was employed. The flak was described over Hanover as moderate and fairly accurate. Photos disclosed that the target area was blanketed. All the aircraft of the 94th "A" Group returned safely. Crews from the 613th Squadron flying on this mission were:

44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
42-107039 (612th a/c) 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
44-6506 (612th a/c) Flt. O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
42-31591 2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley Jr. and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
42-31072 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.  
44-6508 2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso Jr. and crew.  
43-37706 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
43-38160 2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.

42-40001 Weather Ship. Crew: Capt. J.R. Locher Pilot  
1st Lt. C.W. Keeling Co-pilot  
1st Lt. J.M. Rush Navigator  
T/Sgt. R.C. Knox Radio

Mission 174

Target: Misburg

29 November 1944

The oil refinery, located at Misburg, near Hanover, was again bombed by means of PFF on November 29th. Nine crews from the 613th Squadron flew with the 94th "C" Group led by Capt. J.R. Locher. The formation was good throughout and very good on the bombing run. The target was believed to have been well hit. Flak was generally inaccurate, and no fighter opposition was encountered although German fighters were expected to come up. All crews returned safely to base. Those participating were:

42-31591 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
44-6132 1st Lt. C.R. Budd and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
43-37706 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.

44-6313 2nd Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
 42-97931 ( Spare a/c ) 2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
 43-38862 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
 42-31072 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
 44-8033 ( PFF a/c ) 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.  
 44-6454 ( PFF a/c ) 1st Lt. T.R. Cushman and crew.  
 Flying with 615th Squadron : 1st Lt. R.M. Fowler.

Mission 175

Target: Bohlen

30 November 1944

Last but not least can very well describe the target on the last day of the month. It was the synthetic oil plant at Bohlen about 11 miles south of the center of the city of Leipzig. The enemy met the attack with a furious barrage of flak inflicting damage on 35 of our 36 ships in the 94th "C" Group led by Major Silver. Two aircraft were abandoned on the continent as a result of flak damage including the aircraft flown by Lt. F. Carson. The crew returned safely to base the following day. The results of the bombing were unobserved due to smoke and haze. Crews that participated were:

44-6132 2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
 42-31072 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
 43-38862 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
 43-38077 ( 615th a/c ) 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.  
 44-6313 Flt. o. H.P. Cox and crew.  
 42-97931 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
 43-38160 2nd Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
 43-38187 1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
 43-37706 2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
 43-38607 Capt. E.W. Coleman and crew.

PERSONNEL

During the month of November the following new crew members were assigned to the Squadron:

30th October '44

S/Sgt. T.H. Moller

9th November '44

2nd Lt. J.J. Finnell  
 M/Sgt. J.F. Magnum  
 Cpl. N.E. Difebough  
 Cpl. J.B. Kemp  
  
 2nd Lt. J.R. Frew  
 Cpl. M.D. Fisher  
 Cpl. C.C. Jones  
 Cpl. D.E. Smith

2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso  
 2nd Lt. A.B. Tonne  
 Flt. O. W.R. Haggard  
 Cpl. J. Little  
 Cpl. K.D. Morrison

6th November '44

2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley Jr.  
 2nd Lt. A.J. Gold  
 S/Sgt. J.A. Bowers  
 Cpl. H. Klins  
 Cpl. W.W. Mattock  
  
 2nd Lt. C.F. Carey  
 2nd Lt. W.I. Johnston  
 Cpl. L.M. Flynn  
 Cpl. H.T. Odom  
 Cpl. J.L. Stitt  
  
 Sgt. J.T. Harper  
 Cpl. N.P. Meyers  
 Cpl. G. Toomos

9th November '44

Cpl. J.D. Bond

20th November '44

Cpl. F.L. Leonard

Cpl. D. Blane

After completing their Operational tour, the following Officers and E.M. were transferred pending further assignment:-

1st Lt. G.R. Lewis	1st Lt. R.A. Andrew
Capt. Pfeiffer	1st Lt. Mesinheimer
T/Sgt. J.F. Thompson	Capt. R.R. Lockhart
1st Lt. H.E. Kron	T/Sgt. T.R. Stokesbury
1st Lt. J.P. Nash	S/Sgt. A.H. Carpenter
1st Lt. H. Hirsh	1st Lt. W.F. Maloney
S/Sgt. B.B. Mais	1st Lt. R.G. Eppers
1st Lt. A.C. Jetter	

Promotions during the month were:-

<u>F/O to 2nd Lt.</u>	<u>2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.</u>	<u>1st Lt. to Capt.</u>
F/O H.W. Freeman	2nd Lt. McLeod	1st Lt. Mannix
F/O S. Shepard	2nd Lt. Moe	1st Lt. Anderson
	2nd Lt. Lawless	1st Lt. Coleman
	2nd Lt. Bucher	
	2nd Lt. Gorman	
	2nd Lt. Garton	
	2nd Lt. Goetz	
	2nd Lt. Havran	

Major Leon Stann was transferred to the 457th Bomb Group (H) on 17th. November, 1944.

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December 1944

The first half of the month saw our Group attacking oil and industrial centers of Germany including Merseburg, Kassel and Berlin. During the latter part a real switch - over to semi-tactical bombing was made. Many marshalling yards, bridges, road junctions etc. in the Rhineland were bombed in the close support of the American 1st Army. With the clearing of the weather all air forces, tactical and strategic made an all out effort to sever communication lines leading to Von Runstedt's forces. As a result the initiative in this sector has passed to our forces. During the last five days of the year we flew five missions. On December 24th we were part of the 2,000 bombers despatched to attack the enemy and considerable damage was inflicted.

Thirteen missions were flown during the month making 188 flown to date. 477 sorties were flown by the Group during December, the 613th flying 116.

Operations

Mission 176

Target: Kassel

4 December 1944

The marshalling yards at Kassel with a capacity of 2,300 wagons every 24 hours was the target on December 4th. Capt. Coleman was the Squadron Leader in the 94th "A" Group furnished by the 401st B.G. Because of undercast bombing was done by means of PFF and no observations concerning

results were possible. Flak was described as meager and inaccurate and no fighter opposition was encountered. All aircraft returned safely to base. Those from the 613th participating in the mission were:

44-2607 Capt. E.W. Coleman and crew.  
44-6313 2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
44-6132 1st Lt. W.R. Jennings and crew.  
43-38680 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
43-38160 2nd Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
43-37706 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
42-97931 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
43-38791 2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
42-31072 (Spare) 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.

Mission 177

Target: Berlin

5 December 1944

Berlin, with the Rheinmetal Bersig A.C. plant our assigned MPI, was the target as take-off was made in the darkness before dawn. The Low Squadron Leader was Lt. Fowler and 9 crews from the 613th participated.

The weather was described as 9/10ths undercast through Belgium becoming 9/10 - 10/10ths over the target. Bombing was by PFF and the results were unobserved. The flak was only meager to moderate and generally inaccurate. No fighter opposition was encountered and what could have been an exceptionally dangerous mission turned out to be a fairly easy one. Crews from the 613th on this mission were:

43-38160 2nd Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
42-102947 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
44-6113 1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
43-38791 2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
44-6313 2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
43-38680 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.

Mission 178

Target: Merseburg

6 December 1944

Flying Division Lead with Lt. Col. B.K. Voorhees as Division and Group Leader the 401st bombed the Merseburg oil refinery by PFF on December 6th. Captain J.R. Locher led a screening force of 12 aircraft that discharged Chaff at the extreme edge of the envelope of fire at the target area. Crews reported that the Chaff seemed to be effective and it was not until the formation was leaving the target area that the flak became intense and accurate. No fighter opposition was encountered and all crews returned safely to base. Those crews participating were:

44-8454 1st Lt. T.R. Cushman and crew.  
44-8449 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.  
44-6313 2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
43-31072 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
42-102947 (Spare) 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
44-6132 2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
43-37706 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
44-6588 1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.

43-38791 2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
44-2607 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. H. Tausig and crew.

Flying with 614th Sqdn. : Capt. J.R. Locher, S/Sgt. H.J. Rocen, S/Sgt. D.R. Murray, S/Sgt. H. Quist and S/Sgt. L.A. McCrarey.

Mission 179

Target: Frankfurt

11 December 1944

The marshalling yards at Frankfurt were bombed by PFF on December 11th and no strike photos or observations were obtained. The crews from the 613th flew in the Low Squadron and were led by Lt. Keeling and all returned to base without incident. Those flying were:

44-2607 1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
44-6132 1st Lt. W.R. Jennings and crew.  
44-6313 2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
44-6588 1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.F. Curran and crew.  
43-38791 2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
42-102947 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
43-37706 Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.

Flying with 615th Sqdn.: S/Sgt. J.D. Klesach, T/Sgt. G.N. Hochins, S/Sgt. W.J. Guess.

Mission 180

Target: Merseburg

12 December 1944

Just as dawn was breaking the 94th "B" Group with Major R.J. White as Group Leader took off and headed for Merseburg - the oil refineries being the target. Due to solid overcast bombing was done by means of PFF and the results were unobserved. No air opposition was encountered and the flak over the target was inaccurate. Visibility over the base was bad and one ship landed away but the remaining aircraft landed safely. Crews from the 613th that participated were:

44-8449 1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and crew.  
44-6313 2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
44-6588 1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
43-38160 Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
43-37706 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
42-102947 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.F. Curran and crew.  
42-31891 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew. (612th aircraft)

Flying with 615th Sqdn.: T/Sgt. C.N. Hockins and S/Sgt. W.J. Guess.

Mission 181

Target: Kassel

15 December 1944

In spite of the bad weather conditions take-off of the 94th "C" Group was accomplished in the semi-dark conditions. The target was the Marshalling yards at Kassel, but due to 10/10ths cloud cover the bombing was made by PFF. Because of poor visibility over the base the Group was diverted to Old Buckingham. (This was the home of a B-24 Group - the 453rd)



The aircraft piloted by Lt Tausig lost an engine near the I.P. and made an emergency landing in Belgium. Crew members returned to base via ATC. No enemy aircraft were encountered and the flak was meager and inaccurate. Crews from the 613th on this mission were:

42-97931 2nd Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
42-102947 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew. (aborted)  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.F. Curran and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
43-37706 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
44-6388 1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
44-6313 Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
43-38791 2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
44-8454 1st Lt. T.R. Cushman and crew. (PFF aircraft)

Flying with 615th Sqdn.: 1st Lt. R.N. Fowler and S/Sgt. W.J. Guess.

Mission 182

Target: Koblenz/Schleiden

19 December 1944

The 401st furnished the 94th "A" Group on December 19th with Lt. Col. Brown as Group Leader. The assigned target was Schleiden but due to bad weather the High and Low Squadrons became separated from the Lead. The High Squadron bombed Schleiden by Gee-H, the Lead, Koblenz by PFF and the Low, a target of opportunity at Stadtkyll. No flak or enemy air opposition was encountered. All the aircraft on return were diverted to other fields, landing safely and without casualties. The crews from the 613th on this mission were:

44-8449 1st Lt. T.R. Cushman and crew.  
44-6313 2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.N. Curran and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
824 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew. (Gee-H aircraft from another Group)  
44-6132 2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
44-2607 Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
43-38160 2nd Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
43-37706 2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.

Weather Ship Crew: (a/c 42-40001)  
Capt. J.R. Locher  
1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick  
2nd Lt. L.G. Lewis  
S/Sgt. G.L. Beck

Mission 183

Target: Koblenz

24 December 1944

In accordance with Field Order instructions to fly all aircraft available on this effort the 401st Group furnished 50 aircraft as part of the 1,989 put up by the 8th A.F. for the day. Our target was the marshalling yards at Koblenz. The Lead and High Squadrons bombed visually in spite of intense and accurate flak. Strikes were seen in the target area. The Low Squadron dropped approximately a minute late Due to mechanical difficulties. A diversion message was received over the Channel and 35 aircraft landed at Lavenham safely. (Home of the 487th Group) Fifteen aircraft flew the High Squadron with the 452nd B.G. of the 3rd Air Division and

bombed Damstadt marshalling yards. These aircraft were also diverted to other bases. Crews from the 613th were:

43-38160 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
42-39993 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew. (612th aircraft)  
44-6588 1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.N. Curran and crew.  
44-6313 2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew. (no sortie)  
43-38680 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew. (612th aircraft)  
44-8371 1st Lt. C.W. Keeling and Crew. (615th aircraft)  
43-38941 1st Lt. W.R. Jennings and crew.  
44-6132 2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew. (no sortie)

Mission 184

Target: Gerolstein

27 December 1944

A marshalling yard at Gerolstein through which heavy traffic was flowing in support of enemy ground forces was the target on December 27th. The weather for a change was good and visual bombing was accomplished by the Lead and Low Squadrons with excellent results. The High Squadron bombed a selected target at Sy Vith with excellent results. Captain Coleman was the Low Squadron Leader in which nine crews from the 613th flew. They were:

44-3449 Capt. E.W. Coleman and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.N. Curran and crew.  
44-2607 2nd Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
44-6132 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
43-38738 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew. (614th aircraft)  
44-38941 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
42-102947 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
42-31591 2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew. (spare)

Mission 185

Target: Rheinbach

28 December 1944

On December 28th the 94th "A" Group attacked another marshalling yard at Rheinbach. Major E. de Jonckheere led the High Squadron with Capt. Anderson as Navigator and Capt. Fesmire as Bombardier. Solid cloud cover necessitated instrument bombing and Gee-H was used. No results could be observed. Flak was practically nil and no enemy air opposition was encountered. All crews returned safely. Those flying were:

44-6132 2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
43-37790 2nd Lt. H. Tausig and crew. (612th aircraft)  
44-6313 2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. D.R. Scheller and crew.  
42-102947 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
42-39012 1st Lt. W.R. Jennings and crew. (614th aircraft)  
42-31591 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
43-38941 1st Lt. F. Carson and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.N. Curran and crew. (spare)  
44-8454 1st Lt. T.R. Cushman and crew. (PFF aircraft)

Flying with 615th Sqdn.: Captain R.L. Stelzer.

Mission 186

Target: Bingen

29 December 1944

Another rail center, located at Bingen, was attacked on December 29th in a further effort to cripple enemy supply facilities. The 401st furnished the 94th "A" Group with Major E. de Jonckheere as Group Leader. Captain Anderson was Lead Navigator and Captain Fesmire, Lead Bombardier. Bombing was visual and the MPI was well covered. The flak was meager to moderate and accurate. All aircraft returned safely to base. Crews from the 613th were:

43-38791 2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
43-37706 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
44-6132 2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
44-6588 2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.  
42-102947 2nd Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
44-6313 2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
44-2607 Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
44-8454 1st Lt. T.R. Cushman and crew.

Flying with 615th Sqdn.: 1st Lt. R.M. Fowler.

Mission 187

Target: Kaiserlautern

30 December 1944

Continuing the attack of transportation facilities the 94th "A" Group bombed a rail overpass at Kaiserlautern on December 30th. Because of solid undercast bombing was by Gee-H and no results were observed. No flak or air opposition was encountered and all aircraft returned safely to base. Crews from the 613th were:

43-38791 2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
43-37706 1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.  
42-31591 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.  
44-8259 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew. (PFF aircraft)  
44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
44-6313 FLT./O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
44-6132 2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew. (spare)  
44-6588 2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.

Mission 188

Target: Krefeld

31 December 1944

A marshalling yard at Krefeld controlling important traffic was the target for the 94th "B" Group on December 31st. Cloud cover resulted in bombing by means of Gee-H. Breaks in the clouds permitted photos and they disclosed strikes to the right of the assigned MPI. Flak was generally inaccurate and all aircraft returned to base. Captain Coleman led the Low Squadron with the following crews of the 613th:

43-38941 Capt. E.W. Coleman and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.  
44-6113 Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
43-38160 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
42-97780 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew. (612th aircraft)  
44-6588 2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.  
43-38791 2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
43-37706 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.

Flying with 615th Sqdn.: 2nd Lt. P.D. Mackin, co-pilot, S/Sgt. W.R. Lex, Ball Turret Gunner, S/Sgt. W.J. Guess, Waist Gunner.

Personnel

During the month of December the following new crews were assigned to the Squadron:

2nd Lt. J.H. May	2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd
2nd Lt. E.B. Collins	2nd Lt. S. Blank
2nd Lt. W.R. Anders	2nd Lt. T.J. Skiffington
Cpl. J.F. Fogleman	Cpl. R.F. Allis
Cpl. W.J. McKee	Cpl. A.L. Davis
Cpl. C.J. Smith	Cpl. W.E. Karre
Cpl. W.K. Benson	Cpl. M.A. Margolies
Cpl. J.A. Krozel	Cpl. J.F. Collins
Cpl. A.R. Paulk	Cpl. D.E. Herrold
2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson	2nd Lt. J.B. Hart
2nd Lt. H.C. Tummelson	2nd Lt. R.W. Taylor
2nd Lt. J.A. Thomas	2nd Lt. M.H. Andrews
Cpl. C.E. Evans	Cpl. V. Knight
Cpl. F.S. Stepka	Cpl. R.L. Raney
Cpl. A.J. Vignetti	Cpl. M.M. Smukler
Cpl. A.R. DePra	Cpl. W.H. Carmichael
Cpl. E. Harrowe	Cpl. E. Pickering
Cpl. F.G. Swindle	Cpl. H. Reiss

Also the following crewmen:

2nd Lt. H.M. Eaton  
T/Sgt. R.D. Merritt  
Cpl. C.R. Chester  
Cpl. A.W. Arm

During the month the following members of the 613th Squadron were transferred pending further assignment:

70th Rep. Dep.

T/Sgt. F.C. Skale	1st Lt. C.R. Budd	1st Lt. M.E. Moe
S/Sgt. D.R. Murray	1st Lt. H.E. Lawless	1st Lt. B.L. Klatz
S/Sgt. E.R. Scott	S/Sgt. D.C. Larson	1st Lt. R.L. McLeod
S/Sgt. J.D. Kissack	S/Sgt. H.J. Roger	

615th Bomb Sqdn.

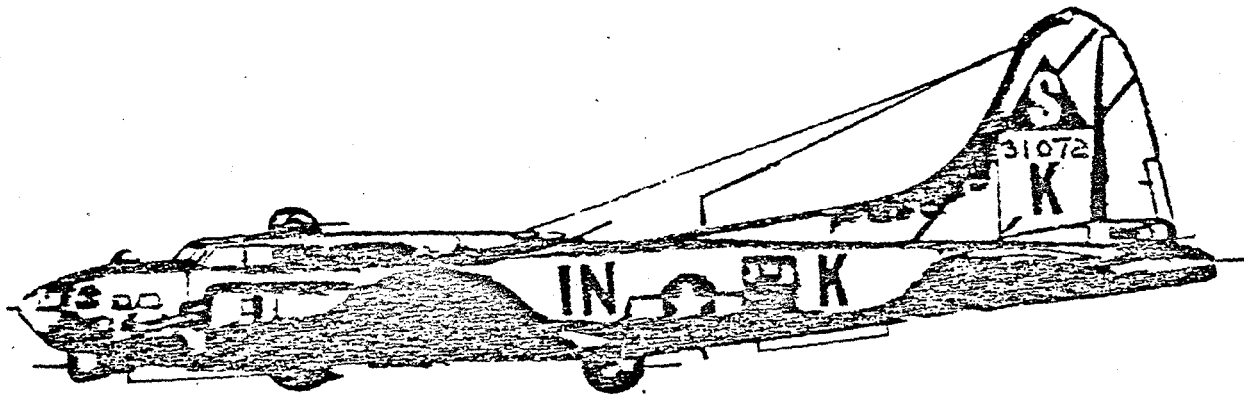
T/Sgt. M. Luchfield      T/Sgt. R.R. Rowe

Capt. Mannix to detached service to 15th Air Force, Italy.

Lt. Col. Brown assumed command 401st Bomb Group and AAF Station 128 as from 7th December 1944.

Lt. Col. Brown relieved from command and assignment 15th December 1944 and assigned H.Q. 401st Bomb Group.

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613TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

SQUADRON HISTORY

PART FIVE



January 1945

During January 13 missions were completed as against 8 in January 1944. Only 3 were visual, 2 were visual assisted and the balance by Gee-H or PFF. This is an indication in itself of the poor weather and bombing conditions encountered over the continent of Europe. Rail and communication centers were the targets during the month in our effort to aid ground forces to the fullest extent.

The Squadron flew 106 sorties during the month, the 200th mission by the Group being flown on January 28th, 1945, to Cologne, Germany.

Operations

Mission 189

Target: Kassel

1 January 1945

Because of Complete overcast the PFF target of Kassel was bombed by the High and Low Squadrons of the 94th "C" Group. The Lead Squadron dropped on a marshalling yard at Elz. Capt. Coleman led the High Squadron and was forced to land his aircraft on the continent due to a flak wound in his leg but it was not thought to be serious. The ten crews from the 613th who flew this mission were:

43-38160	1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew.
44-8454	Capt. E.W. Coleman and crew.
43-37706	1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew
42-31591	1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.
44-6588	2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.
44-6113	2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.
43-38607	Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew.
42-31072	2nd Lt. E.N. Curran and crew.
43-38862	1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.
44-6313	1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.

Mission 190

Target: Hermulheim

3 January 1945

Another rail target at Hermulheim, Germany was attacked on January 3rd by the 94th "A" Group. Solid cloud cover over the primary necessitated bombing by means of Gee-H. No enemy air opposition was encountered and only meager scattered flak in the Cologne area. All aircraft returned safely to base. Crews from the 613th participating were:

43-37706	1st Lt. R.A. Annis and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.
44-6313	1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.
42-102947	2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.
42-31072	2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.
43-38791	Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew.
44-6132	2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.
43-38862	1st Lt. C.W. Hopley and crew.
44-6585	2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.

Flying with 615th Squadron: 1st Lt. R.M. Fowler, co-pilot.

Mission 191

Target: Coblenz

5 January 1945

In spite of severe weather conditions the 94th "A" Group took off successfully on January 5th, together with a screening force of 12 aircraft. Solid overcast was again encountered over the primary target and the secondary target at Coblenz, a marshalling yard, was bombed by PFF. No results were observed because of the cloud cover. Flak was meager and generally inaccurate. Two Me-109's were observed before reaching the target but broke away from the formation after coming to within 1,000 to 1,500 yards. Captain Locher was Group Leader and twelve crews from the 613th Participated. They were:

43-38160	1st Lt. F.M. Garton and crew.
43-38791	1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.
44-6313	2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.
44-6113	2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.
43-38565	Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew.
43-37706	2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.
44-6132	2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.
43-38862	1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.
44-6588	2nd Lt. K.V. Nielson and crew.
44-3449	1st Lt. T.R. Cushman and crew.
016	1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew. (not a 401st a/c)

Mission 192

Target: Kempernich

6 January 1945

The target for January 6th was a communications center at Kempernich and was requested by the ground forces. Air Commander of the 94th "A" Group was Lt. Col. D.E. Silver. The primary target was obscured by solid overcast and was bombed by means of Gee-H. No air opposition or flak was encountered and all aircraft returned safely to base. The crews from the 613th were:

43-37706	2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.
43-38941	1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.
42-102947	2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.
44-6113	2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew. (Spare)
43-38733	Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew. (612th a/c)
42-31072	2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.
44-6313	1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.
44-6588	2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.

Mission 193

Target: Bitburg

7 January 1945

Further co-operation with the ground forces by attacking the supply Routes of the enemy was evident in the selection of the target for January 7th - another transportation center at Bitburg. Solid undercast prevented the 94th "C" Group from bombing visually and the Box run was made. Neither flak or fighters was encountered and all aircraft returned safely to base. Crews from the 613th on the mission were:

43-38791	2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. L.A. Douglas and crew.
42-102947	Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew. (Spare)
43-38862	2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.
44-6588	2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.
43-38941	1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew.

44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
43-37706 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.

Mission 194

Target: Euskirchen

10 January 1945

An airfield at Euskirchen from which enemy aircraft were supporting their ground forces was attacked on January 10th. Undercast again necessitated bombing by instruments and the results were unobserved. The flak was meager and inaccurate. Crews from the 613th on the mission were:

43-38791 2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
42-102947 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
44-6313 Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
43-38862 2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
44-6588 2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.  
43-37706 2nd Lt. J.E. Hart and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.

Mission 195

Target: Maximilianeau

13 January 1945

An important bridge spanning the Rhine at Maximilianeau (near Munich) was bombed visually by the 94th "B" Group on January 13th. Strike photos showed direct hits by the Low Squadron and excellent bombing by the High Squadron - - some 95% of the bombs were within 1,000 ft of the MPI. Group Leader was Captain R.L. Stelzer with Lt. Col. Brown as Deputy. No air opposition was encountered but flak was meager to moderate and accurate. Crews from the 613th were:

44-6313 1st Lt. F.M. Garton and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
44-6132 1st Lt. R.B. Campbell and crew.  
44-8550 1st Lt. T.R. Cushman and crew.  
43-38791 2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
43-38607 Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew.  
43-38862 2nd Lt. C.F. Carey and crew.  
44-6588 2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.  
8211 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew. (Grafton Underwood Gee-H a/c)

Mission 196

Target: Cologne

14 January 1945

Only 12 aircraft flying as the High Squadron of the 94th "B" Composite Group was furnished by the 401st on January 14th. The target was a bridge at Cologne which was bombed visually. Strike photos showed that some 98% of the bombs of the High Squadron hit within 1,000 ft of the MPI. Two crews from the 613th flying were:

42-102947 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
43-38941 Flt./O. H.P. Cox and crew.

Mission 197

Target: Paderborn

17 January 1945

The 94th "A" Group bombed the PFF target, a rail yard at Paderborn on January 17th. because solid undercast obscured the primary target. No results were observed, no enemy aircraft were encountered, and flak was nil. All aircraft returned safely to base. Those flying from



the 613th were:

43-38791 2nd Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
44-6132 1st Lt. J.N. Donaldson and crew.  
42-102947 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
44-6588 2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.  
43-38941 1st Lt. W.R. Jennings and crew.  
43-37706 2nd Lt. J.E. Hart and crew. (Spare)  
44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
43-38862 2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
44-8550 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.

Mission 198

Target: Aschaffenburg

21 January 1945

Another PFF mission was run to a marshalling yard at Aschaffenburg on January 21st. No observations of results was possible due to 10/10 ths weather over the target. Flak and air opposition was nil and all the aircraft returned safely to base. Crews from the 613th participating were:

43-38791 1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
43-37706 2nd Lt. J.B. Hart and crew.  
44-6113 2nd Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
43-38862 2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
42-31591 2nd Lt. J.H. May and crew.  
43-38458 1st Lt. J.N. Donaldson and crew.  
42-102947 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
44-6588 2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.

Mission 199

Target: Sterkrade

22 January 1945

The 401st furnished two Squadrons of 12 aircraft each on January 22nd to comprise the Lead and Low Squadrons of the 94th "A" Group. Group Leader was Major Eric de Jonckheere and the target was a synthetic oil installation at Sterkrade, Germany. Bombing was by Gee-H with visual aids. Strike photos showed the majority of bombs hit well within the target area. Moderate to intense accurate flak was met in the target area. No air opposition was encountered. The crews from the 613th taking part in the mission were:

44-8550 1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
42-102947 2nd Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
43-38862 2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
008 Capt. T.R. Cushman and crew. (Gee-H a/c from another Group)  
43-37706 1st Lt. J.N. Donaldson and crew.  
43-38791 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew. (Spare)  
44-6132 2nd Lt. J.H. May and crew.

The crew of the Lead ship was:

Capt. T.R. Cushman	1st Lt. W.W. Strong
Major E. de Jonckheere	S/Sgt. T.M. Mollar
Capt. W.R. Anderson	T/Sgt. K.W. Seeley
Capt. D.W. Fesmire	2nd Lt. P.D. Mackin (Observer)
1st Lt. J.M. Rush (extra Navigator)	S/Sgt. W. Hope

Mission 200

Target: Cologne

28 January 1945

Marshalling yards at Cologne were bombed on January 28th with good results. This was the 200th mission of the 401st and considerable interest was in evidence as to the target and crews participating. Major Garland was Group Leader of the 94th "B" Group and Capt. Stelzer led the Low Squadron. Nine crews from the 613th flew and they were:

43-38941	1st Lt. W.R. Jennings and crew.	
42-102947	1st Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.	
42-31072	2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.	
44-8550	1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.	
43-38862	2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.	
43-37706	2nd Lt. J.B. Hart and crew.	
44-6113	1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.	
44-6588	2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.	
43-38187	2nd Lt. J.H. May and crew.	(Spare)

Mission 201

Target: Bad Kreuznach

29 January 1945

With Lt. Col. Vohees as Group and Division Leader the 94th "A" Group was forced to bomb a target of opportunity at Bad Kreuznach owing to the target area being completely overcast and Gee-H equipment being inoperative. Results were unobserved as bombs were dropped by PFF. No flak or air opposition was encountered and all aircraft returned to base. Major E. de Jonckheere led the High Squadron and the crews from the 613th flying were:

43-38941	1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew.	
43-38458	2nd Lt. J.E. Hart and crew.	
43-38791	1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.	
42-31072	2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.	
43-38862	2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.	
44-6132	2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.	(Spare)
42-31591	1st Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.	
43-38607	2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.	
43-38187	2nd Lt. J.H. May and crew.	
44-3449	Capt. W. Riegler and crew.	

Weather Ship Crew:

Capt. J.R. Locher  
2nd Lt. J.B. Shepherd  
Capt. H.D. Wood  
Sgt. W.C. Sitton

Personnel

During the month of January the following new crews were assigned to the Squadron:

2nd Lt. K.D. Speer	Sgt. D. Yohay
2nd Lt. J.J. Kelly	Sgt. G.G. Cupp
2nd Lt. R.M. Simon	Sgt. W.D. Cross
Sgt. E.J. Butlin	Sgt. L.E. Thompson
Sgt. J.C. Averett	



J.R. Locher was Group Leader with Captain Wood and Captain Meadville as Navigator and Bombardier respectively. Bombing was visual and our MFI was well hit, a rail bridge connecting portions of Tempelhof marshalling yards. Crews participating were:

44-6113	1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.	
42-37706	2nd Lt. J.E. Hart and crew.	
43-38791	1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.	
43-38607	2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.	
42-31072	2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.	
43-38862	2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.	
44-8850	1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew.	(PFF+GH a/c)
44-6588	2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.	(Spare a/c)
44-8449	Capt. W. Riegler and crew.	(PFF+GH a/c)
44-6132	2nd Lt. K.D. Speer and crew.	

Mission 204

Target: Giessen/ Einfeld

6 February 1945

On February 6th the 401st furnished the 94th "A" Group and also 12 aircraft for the High Squadron of the 94th "B" Group. Lt. Col. Seawell was Group Leader with Lt. J.W. McGoldrick leader of the High Squadron. A night take-off was made and the weather throughout the mission was just plain soup. Ten crews landed elsewhere on the return and two landed on the continent, including Lt. H. Tausig, Deputy High Squadron Leader. Bombing results on both Giessen and Einfeld were unobserved. Crews flying were:

43-38458	1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.	
42-31072	1st Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.	
44-6113	2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.	
44-6132	2nd Lt. K.D. Speer and crew.	
44-6588	2nd Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.	
43-38941	1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew.	
44-6313	2nd Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.	
43-38187	2nd Lt. J.H. May and crew.	
44-8648	1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.	(PFF a/c)
42-31591	2nd Lt. M. Maharick and crew.	
42-102947	1st Lt. R.R. Steele and crew.	
42-102468	2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.	

Mission 205

Target: Lutzkendorf/ Eisenach    9 February 1945

Oil production facilities at Lutzkendorf were bombed on February 9th with good results by the Lead and Low Squadrons. The High Squadron hit a target of opportunity at Eisenach with results believed to be good. The Low Squadron Leader was Lt. J.W. McGoldrick. Crews flying were:

44-8648	1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew.	(PFF a/c)
43-38791	2nd Lt. M. Maharick and crew.	
44-6313	1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.	
42-102947	1st Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.	
44-6113	1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.	
42-31072	1st Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.	
43-38862	1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.	(Spare a/c)
43-38187	2nd Lt. J.H. May and crew.	
44-6588	1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.	
43-38941	1st Lt. W.W. Jennings and crew.	

Mission 206

Target: Dulmen

10 February 1945

The German Air Force fuel facilities at Dulmen were bombed by Gee-H on February 10th. No strike photos or observations of results were obtained. The 613th flew 6 crews in the 401st 94th "C" Group. Crews were:

44-6313 1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
42-102947 1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
42-31072 1st Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
43-38607 2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.  
42-31591 2nd Lt. M. Maharick and crew.  
43-31187 1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
44-6132 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.  
43-37706 2nd Lt. J.H. May and crew. (Abort)

Mission 207

Target: Dresden

14 February 1945

The 401st, flying as the 94th "A" Group, with Lt. Col. E.W. Brown as Group Leader, attacked marshalling yards at Dresden, located in the center of the town. Instrument bombing with a visual assist was completed and results were believed to be good. Captain Wood was Lead Navigator and Captain Meadville Lead Bombardier. All aircraft returned safely to base. Crews flying were:

44-6313 1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
43-38607 2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.  
43-38458 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.  
42-31072 1st Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
44-8449 Capt. W. Riegler and crew. (PFF + GH a/c)  
43-31187 2nd Lt. J.H. May and crew.  
44-6588 1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.  
44-8648 1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew. (PFF a/c)  
43-38791 2nd Lt. T.M. Gerin and crew.  
44-6132 2nd Lt. M. Maharick and crew.

Weather Ship Crew: ( 42-40001, IW-L, PARIS EXPRESS)

Capt. J.R. Locher  
2nd Lt. C.S. Young  
2nd Lt. F.R. Smavey  
2nd Lt. H.C. Van Eck  
S/Sgt. W.C. Sition

Mission 208

Target: Dresden

15 February 1945

Although briefed to bomb oil facilities at Bohlen, cloud coverage necessitated instrument bombing of the secondary target, the marshalling yards at Dresden. No observations of results were possible. Lt. J.W. McGoldrick was Low Squadron Leader with Lt. E.W. Lewis, Lead Navigator, and Lt. G.W. Peek, Lead Bombardier. Crews from the 613th were:

43-38607 2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.  
43-37706 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew. (Abort)  
43-31187 2nd Lt. J.R. May and crew.  
42-31591 2nd Lt. M. Maharick and crew.  
43-38941 1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
42-102947 1st Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.

44-6588 1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.  
42-31072 1st Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
44-8449 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew. (PFF+GH a/c)

Mission 209

Target: Gelsenkirchen

16 February 1945

The mission to Gelsenkirchen and the oil facilities there proved costly to the 401st on February 16th. Smoke from the preceding Groups together with haze at the target prevented observations of bombing results. The flak however was intense and accurate resulting in three aircraft being lost, one blowing up over the target, one observed going down out of control and the third piloted by Lt. J.N. Donaldson proceeding towards Brussels calling for fighter support. When last observed he was under control and at about 2,500 feet with no apparent serious damage. The 613th crews flying were:

43-38607 2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.  
42-31591 2nd Lt. M. Maharick and crew. (Abort)  
42-31072 1st Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
44-6313 1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
43-38941 1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
42-102947 1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
43-38187 1st Lt. J.N. Donaldson and crew.  
44-6132 2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.

Mission 210

Target: Nuremburg

20 February 1945

The mission to Nuremburg marshalling yard on February 20th marked the beginning of an all out effort to completely disrupt enemy communication installations. Although bombing was by PFF some crews observed strikes in the city through breaks in the clouds. The flak was moderate, inaccurate and all aircraft returned safely to base. Crews from the 613th were:

43-38791 1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
44-6132 2nd Lt. K.D. Speer and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.  
43-38330 1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
43-38607 2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.  
42-31072 1st Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
43-27706 1st Lt. C.F. Carey and crew.  
42-97931 2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.  
43-38458 2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.

Mission 211

Target: Nuremburg

21 February 1945

Major Eric de Jonckheere led the 94th "B" Group, with Captain Wood and Captain Meadville Lead Navigator and Lead Bombardier on a return trip to Nuremburg on February 21st. Bombing was by PFF and results were observed to be good. All aircraft returned safely. Crews from the 613th were:

42-31591 1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
44-8648 1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew. (PFF a/c)  
43-38458 2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.  
43-38791 1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.  
44-6313 1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.

42-102947 1st Lt. R.R. Steele and crew.  
43-38607 2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.  
44-6132 2nd Lt. J.R. May and crew.  
44-6588 1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.  
44-8449 Capt. W. Riegler and crew (PFF+GH a/c)

Mission 212

Target: Ludwigshist

22 February 1945

A rail point on a main line railway just outside Ludwigshist was hit by all three Squadrons of the 401st - the 94th "A" Group - on February 22nd. Lt. J.W. McGoldrick led the Low Squadron, 100% of the bombs hitting within 2,000 feet of the MPI with 80% within 1,000 feet. Lt. L.G. Lewis was Lead Navigator and Lt. G.W. Peek Lead Bombardier. The 613th crews participating were:

43-38791 1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
43-38941 1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.  
44-6313 1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
43-37706 2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.  
42-31072 2nd Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
43-37602 2nd Lt. J.H. May and crew. (614th a/c)  
44-8449 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew. (PFF+GH a/c)  
44-6588 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.  
42-102947 2nd Lt. W.G. McKenny and crew.

Mission 213

Target: Ottingen

23 February 1945

Cloud coverage prevented visual bombing of a rail junction at Bamberg on February 23rd and a road and rail bridge at Ottingen was hit with good results. Lt. J.W. McGoldrick led the High Squadron with Lt. Lewis as Navigator and Lt. Peek as Bombardier. Crews participating were:

43-38791 1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
44-8449 1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew. (PFF+GH a/c)  
44-6313 1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
42-102947 1st Lt. R.R. Steele and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
44-6588 1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.  
44-8550 1st Lt. J.W. McGoldrick and crew. (PFF+GH a/c)  
42-31072 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.  
43-38458 2nd Lt. W.G. McKenny and crew.  
44-6132 2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.

Mission 214

Target: Harburg

24 February 1945

The large crude oil refineries at Harburg were the target on February 24th. Although bombing was by PFF crews reported observing black smoke bubbling up through the clouds as the formation left the target area and results were believed to be good. The Division Leader was Lt. Col. Seawell, and Captain W. Riegler led the Low Squadron. Crews flying on this mission were:

44-6313 2nd Lt. J.H. May and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
43-38791 1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.  
43-38607 2nd Lt. K.D. Speer and crew.

42-102398 1st Lt. R.R. Steele and crew. (612th a/c flying with 615th)  
42-102947 2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.  
42-31072 1st Lt. E.E. Curran and crew. (Abort)  
44-8580 Capt. W. Riegler and crew. (PFF+GH a/c)

Mission 215

Target: Munich

25 February 1945

An early take-off was made on February 25th, destination, Munich and the marshalling yards located there. The 401st furnished the 94th "B" Group and bombing was visual with good results. Although enemy fighters were observed en route no attacks were directed against the 401st. All aircraft returned safely to base. Crews participating were:

43-38791 1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
43-38458 2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.  
42-31591 2nd Lt. J.H. May and crew.  
44-6313 1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
43-37706 2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.  
42-102947 1st Lt. R.R. Steele and crew.  
44-6588 1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.  
43-38941 1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.

Mission 216

Target: Berlin

26 February 1945

The 401st furnished a 12 aircraft 94th "C" Group Screening Force formation on February 26th, preceding the bomber stream to Berlin. The Screening Force leader was Captain W. Riegler with Captain E.D. Wood as Lead Navigator. Crews flying were:

43-38791 1st Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
42-31591 2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.  
42-102947 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.  
44-8648 1st Lt. H. Tausig and crew. (PFF a/c)  
44-8449 Capt. W. Riegler and crew. (PFF+GH a/c)

Mission 217

Target: Leipzig

27 February 1945

The 401st furnished 6 aircraft to comprise the Low Section of the High Squadron of the 94th "B" Group on February 27th. The target was the marshalling yards at Leipzig. Bombing was by PFF and no observations of results were possible. The three crews from the 613th flying were:

44-6313 1st Lt. R.R. Steele and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
43-38458 2nd Lt. J.H. May and crew.

Mission 218

Target: Soest

28 February 1945

Captain J.R. Locher flying his last mission on a second tour was Group Leader of the 94th "B" Group that bombed the marshalling yards at Soest on February 28 by Gee-H. No observations of results were possible. No flak or enemy air opposition was encountered and all aircraft returned safely to base. Those participating were:

43-38791 1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
43-38458 2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew. (Spare a/c)  
42-31591 1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.  
43-37706 2nd Lt. F.I. Elgin and crew.



44-6313	1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.	
43-38607	2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.	
44-6506	2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.	(612th a/c)
43-38160	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.	(615th a/c from 28 Feb.)
43-38862	2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew	(Abort)
42-102398	1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.	(612th a/c)
44-6132	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.	

To fly with 615th Squadron:

Capt.	J.R. Locher
2nd Lt.	A. Gold
1st Lt.	H.W. Miller

### Personnel

New crews assigned during February 1945:-

2nd Lt. T.M. Geren	2nd Lt. C.B. Young
2nd Lt. C.R. Wilson	2nd Lt. P.B. Funk
2nd Lt. W.W. Jeffers	2nd Lt. F.R. Seavey
Cpl. J.E. Harrington	2nd Lt. H.C. Van Eck
Cpl. A.D. Sherick	Cpl. J.F. Bramble
Cpl. R. Summers	Cpl. C.J. Hennig
Cpl. M. Gagton	Cpl. J.W. Peters
Cpl. G.S. Havery	Cpl. G.E. Esham
Cpl. W.O. Stowster	Cpl. C. Johnson
2nd Lt. W.J. McKenny	2nd Lt. M. Levy
2nd Lt. R. Burdick	2nd Lt. V. South
2nd Lt. H.R. Levin	2nd Lt. C.T. Hunt
Cpl. J.W. Holland	Cpl. R.J. Foley
Cpl. J.W. O'Brien	Cpl. D.M. Lesner
Cpl. R.A. Sunderlin	Cpl. C.A. Crossley
Cpl. I.D. Franzelau	Pvt. M.S. Nicholas
Cpl. R.L. Johannes	Cpl. J.W. Hudson
Cpl. A.A. Siegel	Cpl. W.C. Lauderdale

2nd Lt. D. Vermeer
2nd Lt. J.J. Thompson
2nd Lt. E.E. Holley
S/Sgt. R.C. Luca
Sgt. H.L. Babcock
Cpl. H.E. Churchill
Cpl. R.A. Williams
Cpl. W. Basara
Cpl. F.A. Gerhardt

Also the following crew spares:-

2nd Lt. L.S. Baker
Cpl. B.W. Spear
Pvt. M. Belliford
T/Sgt. W. Woodward
Cpl. T,R, Lloyd
Cpl. W. Csida

During the month of February the following members of the 613th Squadron were transferred pending further assignment:-

### 70th Repl. Dep.

Capt.	Fowler
1st Lt.	J.B. Jenson
1st Lt.	L.B. Isham
Capt.	D.W. Fesmire
Capt.	W.E. Anderson

Capt.	T.R. Cushman
Sgt.	W.J. Feters
T/Sgt.	G.N. Buckins

To 303rd Station Hospital (For treatment):-

Sgt. J.J. Murin  
Cpl. A.R. Bucciero  
Cpl. F.L. Monti

To 5th Emer. Rescue Station 365:-

S/Sgt. W.J. Guess  
Cpl. E.E. Scoll

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March 1945

Operations

Mission 219

Target: Heilbron

1 March 1945

The 401st furnished the 94th "A" Group and the 613th put up the Low Squadron led by Lt. J.W. McGoldrick.

Cloud cover was 6/10 - 8/10th's but an attempt was made to bomb by Squadrons with visual assists. As a result the High Squadron went in first and made a Gee-H drop on the marshalling yards at Heilbron. The Lead Squadron then went in and made a total PFF drop, followed by the Low Squadron also making a PFF drop.

No visible results were possible and the only indication of the results was the fact that all instrument runs were excellent.

There was no enemy opposition either from the ground or the air and all participating aircraft returned to base. Crews were:

42-102947	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.	
43-38758	2nd Lt. F.I. Eglin and crew.	(Former 615th a/c)
44-6313	1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.	
43-38607	2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.	
43-38862	1st Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.	
43-37706	1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.	
43-38160	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.	
44-6588	1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.	
43-38458	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.	
44-6132	2nd Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.	

Mission 220

Target: Chemnitz

2 March 1945

No aircraft or crews of the 613th Squadron on this mission.

Mission 221

Target: Chemnitz

3 March 1945

The 401st furnished the 94th "B" Group in the Wing and the 613th Squadron put up the crews and aircraft to form the High Squadron.

Ruhland oil refinery was the briefed primary target, however weather did not permit bombing that target so the formation proceeded to the secondary target of Chemnitz to bomb the marshalling yard in the center of the city. Cloud cover was 10/10th's and a straight PFF run was made.

There was no enemy air opposition nor was there any flak over the target. All crews returned safely to base. Crews on the mission were:

42-102947 Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
43-38758 2nd Lt. F.I. Eglin and crew.  
43-38862 2nd Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.  
44-6588 1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.  
43-38607 2nd Lt. H.P. Cox and crew.  
42-31072 1st Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.  
43-38160 2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.  
44-6146 2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.  
43-38791 1st Lt. R. Jones and crew.  
44-6132 2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.

Mission 222

Target: Schwabmuchen

4 March 1945

For this operation the "A" Group of the 94th Wing was furnished by the 401st Group, and the 613th Squadron put up the Lead Squadron of the Group Formation.

The weather being 10/10th's a Gee-H run was made on the target, a Messerschmidt plant, by Squadrons. The High Squadron had an inoperative Gee-H set so they had to bomb on the smoke markers of the Lead Squadron. Otherwise individual runs were made by the Squadrons. No enemy air or ground opposition was experienced and all crews returned safely to base. Being an instrument run there was no evidence of results. 613th crews were:

42-31730 1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
44-6146 2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.  
42-31891 2nd Lt. M. Maharick and crew. (615th a/c)  
44-6313 1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.  
42-102947 2nd Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
43-38160 2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.  
44-6588 1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.  
44-6132 1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.  
43-38758 2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.  
43-37706 1st Lt. G.K. Cracraft and crew.

Mission 223

Target: Siegen

7 March 1945

The 401st Group furnished the 94th "B" Group on this mission. Two Gee-H aircraft were borrowed from the 379th Bomb Group for the Lead and Deputy Lead positions. The 613th Squadron put up the crews and aircraft for the High Squadron of the formation, although the Lead Crew of the Lead Squadron was Captain W. Riegler of the 613th.

Dortmund, in the heart of the Ruhr was the briefed primary target and was to be attacked either visually or by PFF. However, enroute to the target, both Gee-H sets became inoperative and the Group proceeded to the secondary target, the marshalling yards at Siegen, where bombing was done by H2X in Group formation. No observations of the results was possible because of 10/10th's cloud cover. No enemy air or ground opposition was encountered. All crews returned to base and were:

43-38758 2nd Lt. F.I. Eglin and crew.  
110 Capt. W. Riegler and crew. (379th Gee-H a/c)  
42-102947 1st Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.  
44-6313 1st Lt. E.E. Curran and crew.

43-38862	1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.	
43-38160	2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.	
43-38607	2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.	
44-6588	1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.	
44-8648	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.	(PFF a/c)
42-31730	2nd Lt. D.E. Vermeer and crew.	
44-6132	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.	

Crew of Lead Ship:-

Capt.	W.	Riegler
Lt. Col.	D.E.	Silver
Capt.	H.	Wood
2nd Lt.	C.W.	Hamilton
Capt.	H.W.	Meadville
1st Lt.	G.W.	Peterson
2nd Lt.	D.S.	Carr
T/Sgt.	T.H.	McLean
T/Sgt.	K.W.	Seely
2nd Lt.	M.W.	Shaw
S/Sgt.	L.C.	Kenacy

Mission 224

Target: Essen

8 March 1945

The crews and aircraft for the 6th Group of the 94th Wing was put up by the 401st Group and the 613th Squadron furnished the High Squadron of the formation.

An oil refinery was the briefed primary target for this operation and was to be bombed by visual methods only. Cloud cover of 10/10th's existed over the primary so the formation proceeded to the No. 4 priority target which was the marshalling yards at Essen.

Bombing was done by H2X in Group formation. Results were unobserved. No air or ground opposition was met on the operation, and all crews returned to base. The 613th crews on this mission were:

43-38607	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.
42-31730	2nd Lt. D.E. Vermeer and crew.
43-38458	1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.
43-37706	1st Lt. G.K. Cracraft and crew.
44-6588	1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.
42-102947	1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.
44-6313	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
43-38862	1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.
44-6146	2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.
42-31591	2nd Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
44-6132	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.

Mission 225

Target: Hagen

10 March 1945

The "A" Group of the 94th Wing was furnished by the 401st Group and the 613th Squadron put up the Lead Squadron of the group formation.

10/10th's conditions existed over the target making it necessary to bomb by the Gee-H method, the target being the marshalling yards at Hagen. The run was good but it was impossible to observe any results. All crews returned safely to base. The 613th crews on this mission were:

44-8767	2nd Lt. D.E. Vermeer and crew.
44-6146	2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.

43-39125	1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.
44-6132	1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.
44-6132	1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.
42-102947	1st Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.
43-38862	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.
43-38758	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
44-6588	1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.
43-38458	2nd Lt. I.N. Shepherd and crew.
42-31730	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.

Mission 226

Target: Bremen

11 March 1945

On this operation the 401st put up the crews and aircraft to form the 94th "B" Group of the Wing, the 613th furnishing the Low Squadron of the Group formation.

Individual Squadron runs were made by PFF on the target, the naval armaments and submarine installations at Bremen. There was 10/10th's cloud cover over the target and no observations of the results were possible. Enemy opposition was absent from this mission and all the crews returned to base. The crews on this mission were:

44-6213	1st Lt. K.A. Baker and crew.	
43-38458	2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.	
43-39125	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.	
44-6132	1st Lt. R.H. Steele and crew.	
42-31730	2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.	
43-38160	1st Lt. G.K. Cracraft and crew.	
43-38565	1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.	
43-37706	2nd Lt. F.I. Eglin and crew.	
44-6146	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.	
	1st Lt. R.S. Jones and crew.	(aircraft No. not given on the Loading List.)

Mission 227

Target: Swindemunde

12 March 1945

The 401st furnished the 94th "C" Group of the Wing formation and the 613th Squadron put up the Lead Squadron of the group formation.

Squadrons made individual bomb runs by H2X on the target, the naval docks and installations at Swindemunde. All of the runs were excellent instrument runs and there was every reason to believe that good results were obtained. This type of target, being located on a coastline was one that is particularly suited to H2X bombing.

There was no enemy air or ground opposition of any kind on this operation and all the crews returned safely to base. The following 613th crews took part on this mission:

44-6313	1st Lt. G.K. Cracraft and crew.
43-38788	2nd Lt. F.I. Eglin and crew.
43-38458	1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.
43-38607	2nd Lt. D.E. Vermeer and crew.
42-102947	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.
43-38862	2nd Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.
44-6588	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
44-6132	2nd Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.
42-31730	2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.
43-38425	2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.
43-38160	1st Lt. R.S. Jones and crew.

Mission 228

Target: Lohne

14 March 1945

The "A" Group of the 94th Wing formation was furnished by the 401st Group and the 613th Squadron put up the Lead Squadron of the Formation. The Squadron Commander, Major Eric de Jonckheere, was the Air Commander.

Individual Squadrons runs were made on the target, the marshalling yards at Lohne. The runs began by instrument and late on during the run visual assistance was given. Results were good. No enemy opposition was encountered and all of the crews returned safely, they were:

43-38758	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
44-6132	2nd Lt. S.R. Smith and crew.
43-38458	2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.
42-102947	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
43-37706	2nd Lt. F.I. Eglin and crew.
42-31730	2nd Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.
44-6842	1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.
43-39125	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.
44-6146	2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.
369	Capt. W. Riegler and crew. (Kimbolton Gee-H a/c)
44-6588	1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.
44-8767	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.

Mission 229

Target: Zossen/Wundsford

15 March 1945

The 401st furnished the "B" Group of the 94th Wing formation, and the 613th Squadron put up the Low Squadron in the Group formation.

Good weather conditions existed at the target resulting in a visual run and drop on the German Staff Headquarters at Zossen/Wundsford. This was in the city area of Berlin. However, smoke and haze over the target area prevented visual observations of the results. Later camera evidence showed all the bomb patterns to be short of the assigned MPI's.

In spite of the fact that the target was located in the suburban area of Berlin, there was no enemy opposition either from the ground or the air. No crews were lost on this mission. The 613th crews were:

42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.
44-6146	1st Lt. G.K. Cracraft and crew.
43-37706	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
44-6132	2nd Lt. S.R. Smith and crew.
43-38862	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.
44-6842	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
43-38758	2nd Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.
42-31730	2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.
44-6588	1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.
43-38160	1st Lt. R.S. Jones and crew.

Flying as RCM operator with Lt. Nielson's crew: S/Sgt. P.L. Sparkman.  
Flying as RCM operator with Lt. Geren's crew : S/Sgt. G. Toombs.  
Flying with the 615th Squadron : S/Sgt. S. Cloyd.

Mission 230

Target: Molbis

17 March 1945

Another deep penetration followed on 17th March when the 401st sent 36 aircraft to attack flak installations in the Leipzig area. This was near the primary target for the rest of the Division, the power and oil plant at

Molbis. The usual 10/10th's clouds obscured the flak guns and the formation proceeded to bomb by Squadrons by the PFF method. The Mickey Operators reported good bomb runs but no observations of the results were possible.

Some meager flak was encountered at the target area but no other opposition was met. All aircraft returned safely to base. The 613th crews on this mission were:

42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.
44-6842	1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.
42-31983	1st Lt. G.K. Cracraft and crew.
43-38758	2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.
43-37706	2nd Lt. F.I. Eglin and crew.
43-38758	1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.
43-38862	1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.
44-6132	2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.
44-6588	1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.
44-8767	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.
43-38160	1st Lt. R.S. Jones and crew.

Mission 231

Target: Berlin

18 March 1945

The 401st, as the 94th "C" Group, went back to Berlin on the 18th March to bomb one of the remaining marshalling yards that was still capable of handling traffic. The 613th flew as the Lead Squadron of the Group formation of 36 aircraft. The target was the Schleischer marshalling yards.

The bomb run proved to be most difficult with 3/10th's to 5/10th's clouds and very heavy contrails with smoke obscuring the target. The bomb run was on PFF until 20 to 30 seconds from the point of bombs away when the lead bombardiers took over. The assigned target could not be found so the bombs were dropped on other aiming points with some hits seen in one of the marshalling yards.

Then, for the first time in months, the group was attacked by fighters. Up to 8 Me-262 type jets attacked the Group between the IP and the target, coming in from all positions and knocking down the aircraft piloted by Lt. D.E. Vermeer, a 613th crew. The gunners found great difficulty in tracking the jets as they made their approach through the very dense contrails until about a 100 yards from the bombers. Flak was also encountered at two points and proved to be extremely accurate, adding to the damage. The 613th loading list was as follows:

44-6842	1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.
44-6132	2nd Lt. S.R. Smith and crew.
44-6146	2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
43-37706	2nd Lt. F.I. Eglin and crew.
42-31983	2nd Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.
44-6313	1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.
42-31730	2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.
44-6588	1st Lt. R.S. Jones and crew.
44-8767	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.
43-38607	2nd Lt. D.E. Vermeer and crew.

Mission 232

Target: Plauen

19 March 1945

For the third day in a row the 401st went deep into Germany. The target was the Molbis power and benzol plant with Plauen being the secondary

target with its cellulose production. Flying as the 94th "B" Group the 401st despatched 36 aircraft, the 613th providing the Low Squadron of the formation.

The briefed primary target was Molbis, however weather conditions made it necessary for the Group to proceed to the secondary target at Plauen. An H2X run was made on Plauen in Group formation and a slight break in the clouds afforded a brief look at the target and several crews saw hits in the built-up area which photos confirmed. Unlike the previous day the crews encountered no enemy opposition and all crews and aircraft returned unharmed. The 613th crews were:

42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.
44-6842	1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.
42-31983	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
43-38160	2nd Lt. S.R. Smith and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
43-39125	2nd Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.
43-38558	1st Lt. R.R. Scheller and crew.
43-38862	1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.
44-6313	1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.
43-37706	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.

Mission 233

Target: Hopsten

21 March 1945

The Group had a day of rest on the 20th March, but went out on a shorter mission on the 21st March. The primary target was an arms dump at Hopsten, Germany and the 401st dispatched 36 aircraft, the 613th putting up the Lead Squadron of the Group formation.

The weather was excellent and allowed the Group to bomb visually by Squadrons. All three Squadron Lead Bombardiers accomplished good to excellent bombing on their assigned aiming points. There was no enemy opposition on this mission and it made it one of the most ideal missions the Group had run. The crew loading list was as follows:

42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.
44-6842	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
44-6313	1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.
44-6113	2nd Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.
43-38862	1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.
44-8707	Capt. W. Riegler and crew. ( a 615th PFF+GH a/c. )
42-31730	2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.
43-39125	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.
44-6146	2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.
44-6588	1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.
43-38160	1st Lt. R.S. Jones and crew.

Mission 234

Target: Barmingholten

22 March 1945

This mission was a continuation of the tactical offensive against the airfields suitable for the Luftwaffe to fly tactical work from, and any other German Army installations requested by the Allied Command. On this day the target was a barracks area just across the Rhine at the Ground Forces request. The 401st put up 36 aircraft with the 613th crews making up the Low Squadron of the Group formation.



The clear weather ensured a visual and excellent bomb run by the Lead Bombardiers with only one Squadron just failing to get 100% of the bombs within the 1,000 ft radius of the assigned aiming point. The only opposition was some meager flak over the target. The following 613th crews flew on this mission:

42-102947 Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.  
44-6842 1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
44-6588 2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.  
44-6132 2nd Lt. S.R. Smith and crew.  
43-38458 2nd Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.  
42-31730 2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.  
43-39125 1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.  
44-6313 2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.  
43-38160 1st Lt. R.S. Jones and crew.  
44-8767 2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.

Mission 235

Target: Gladbeck

23 March 1945

The tactical offensive continued on this day with the attack on the railway sidings and depots at Gladbeck, Germany. The 401st Group made up the "C" Group of the 94th Bomb Wing with the 613th aircraft forming the High Squadron.

It turned out to be a lovely clear day with the Lead bombardiers doing another good job, their bombs all falling within the 2,000 feet radius of the assigned aiming point.

Some of the other Squadrons were hit by meager flak on the bomb run causing damage to 12 aircraft. No other enemy opposition was seen. The 613th crews were:

42-102947 Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.  
44-6842 1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.  
43-39125 2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.  
44-6132 2nd Lt. S.R. Smith and crew.  
44-8767 2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.  
43-38458 2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.  
42-31591 1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.  
43-38862 1st Lt. K.F. Carey and crew.  
43-38758 2nd Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.  
42-31985 1st Lt. G.K. Cracraft and crew.  
44-6588 1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.

Mission 236

Target: Rheine

24 March 1945

For the first time this year two operations were run in the same day. It was the fourth straight day that the 401st was doing tactical work along with all Air Forces in the ETO, and was to help the established as well as the impending bridgeheads across the Rhine. The 36 aircraft of the 401st formed the 94th "B" Group with the 613th making up the Lead squadron of the Group formation.

It was also another clear day for bombing and some good bombing results were obtained. All the three Squadrons put their bombs within the assigned area keeping up the 401st's record for good bombing.

Very accurate flak met the formation on the bomb run and

eighteen of the aircraft of the 401st sustained damage, one, the "I'LL BE SEEING YOU", crashing in England with the loss of seven of the crew. The loading list for the 613th on this mission was:

44-6842	1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.
44-6132	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
43-38458	2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
44-6313	1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.
43-37706	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.
44-6146	2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.
44-6588	1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.
43-38160	1st Lt. R.S. Jones and crew.
448767	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.

Mission 237

Target: Twente/Enschede

24 March 1945

A second mission was completed on 24th March with 12 401st crews flying as the High Squadron to attack the airfield at Twente Enschede in Holland. The 613th Squadron did not participate on this mission.

Mission 238

Target: Berlin

28 March 1945

With bad weather setting in it was the 28th March before another mission could be run. Flying as the 94th "C" Group the 401st put up the usual 36 aircraft, the 613th Squadron putting up the Low Squadron for the Group formation. The assigned target was an armament and motor works at Spandau, Berlin and although the weather was clear right up to the target PFF bombing was necessary. No observations were possible although subsequent plotting did indicate that the results might be good.

Moderate flak was met at Kassel and meager flak over the target and this caused damage to 20 of the Group's aircraft. One 614th aircraft was lost and another crew bailed out from their burning aircraft over France. The 613th crews were:

42-31591	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
43-38160	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
44-6313	1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.
44-6125	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.
44-3767	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.
42-31983	1st Lt. G.K. Cracraft and crew.
44-6132	2nd Lt. S.R. Smith and crew.
43-38458	2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.
44-6842	1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.
44-6588	1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.

Mission 239

Target: Bremen

30 March 1945

This mission was to the submarine pens and their component industries at Bremen, Germany and the 401st put up 36 aircraft to form the "C" Group of the 94th Bomb Wing with the 613th making up the High Squadron of the Group formation.

Clouds over the target ruled out the possibility of a visual run and the formation started in on a PFF run. Then, just before Bombs Away, the clouds broke and all three bombardiers tried to make the corrections for a visual run. They just failed to make all the corrections in time and the bombing was therefore not so good as it might have been.

Both Low and Lead Squadron's bombs were just to the right and over and caused extensive damage in the dock area. In the target area there was accurate flak that tracted the formation for about five minutes, causing damage to 23 aircraft and injuries to three crew members of the 612th Squadron. The 613th crews on this mission were:

42-31591	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.	
42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.	
44-6125	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.	
43-38160	2nd Lt. I.L. Long and crew.	
43-38458	2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.	
44-6146	2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.	
44-6842	1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.	
44-6313	1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.	
44-6588	1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.	
44-6113	1st Lt. G.K. Cracraft and crew.	
44-3767	2nd Lt. J.C. Lovelace and crew.	
44-8550	Capt. W. Riegler and crew.	( 615th Sqdn PFF + GH a/c )

Mission 240

Target: Weimar

31 March 1945

This was the 22nd mission for the month and was a long haul to the oil production plants at Merseburg. Halle and Weimar were the alternative targets and as the primary and secondary targets were obscured by clouds the formation went on to the third target at Weimar.

The Group put up 36 aircraft with the 613th Squadron flying as the Lead Squadron of the 94th "C" Group.

There was some cloud at Weimar so the Lead Bombardiers made an H2X run with visual assists through cloud breaks. The 613th had all their bombs within the 2,000 feet radius, as did the Low Squadron. Some flak was seen but none appeared to be aimed at the Group formation and all crews returned safely to base. The 613th crews taking part on this mission were:

42-31983	2nd Lt. C.D. Young and crew.	
44-6588	1st Lt. H.V. Nielson and crew.	
44-6125	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.	
42-31730	2nd Lt. J.C. Lovelace and crew.	
42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.	
42-97602	2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.	( 614th a/c )
44-3767	2nd Lt. I.L. Long and crew.	
44-6842	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.	
44-6132	1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.	
42-31591	2nd Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.	
43-37706	2nd Lt. J.B. Evans and crew.	

PERSONNEL

Promotions during the month of March were:

Captain to Major: Captain J. Locher.

1st Lt. to Captain: 1st Lt. W.W. Strong and 1st Lt. L. Winchester.

Flight Officer to 2nd Lt. : Flight Officer H. Shaw.

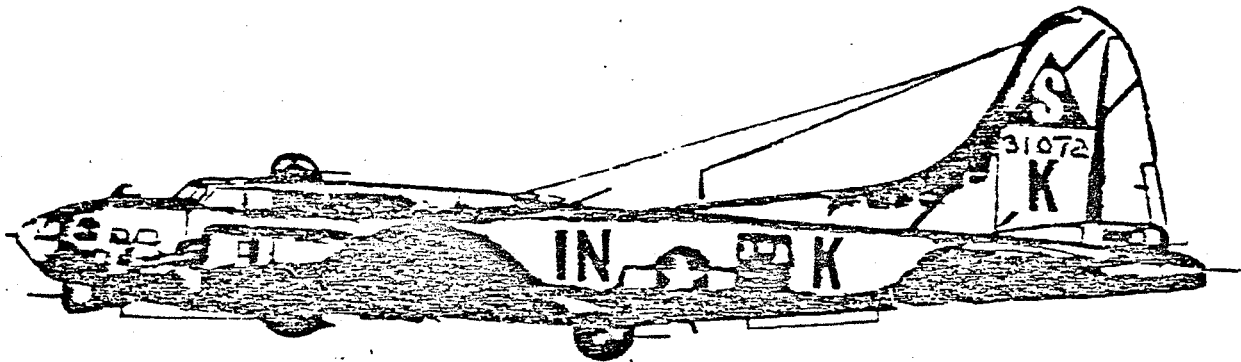
2nd Lt. to 1st Lt. :

2nd Lt. W.I. Johnston	2nd Lt. D.J. Reilly
2nd Lt. J.J. Bantz	2nd Lt. B.F. Jones
2nd Lt. R.R. Zeman	2nd Lt. A.J. Gold
2nd Lt. A.B. Tonne	2nd Lt. J.D. King
2nd Lt. J.H. May	2nd Lt. L.R. Smith
2nd Lt. R.C. Houston	2nd Lt. J.J. Finnell
2nd Lt. W.W. Wicks	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny
2nd Lt. J.N. Shepherd	2nd Lt. C.B. Young
2nd Lt. M. Levy	

In the month of March the following new crews were assigned to the Squadron:

Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg	1st Lt. G.K. Cracraft	
2nd Lt. P.B. Funk	2nd Lt. E.E. Nagle	
Flt./O. C.J. Bruscher	2nd Lt. J.D. King	
Sgt. F.W. Bailey	S/Sgt. R.L. Guerin	ex
T/Sgt. H.R. Ferguson	T/Sgt. G.W. Fenwick	615th
Sgt. W.E. Bush	T/Sgt. R.R. Jacquart	Squadron
Sgt. M.L. Buckus	Sgt. H.F. Ludwig	
Sgt. J.W. Kay	S/Sgt. L.L. Hudson	
Sgt. C.B. Dick	S/Sgt. R.E. Baker	
	Sgt. W.E. Karre	
2nd Lt. J.B. Evans	1st Lt. R.S. Jones	
Flt./O. F.C. Burton	2nd Lt. M. Lunigan	
2nd Lt. G.L. Wright	Flt./O. P.B. Steinman	ex
Sgt. L.C. Hoobler	S/Sgt. R.W. Carr	615th
Sgt. P.B. Gallotello	T/Sgt. B.D. Delong	Squadron
Sgt. H.A. Harris	T/Sgt. J.A. Kozyra	
Sgt. C.D. Lewis	S/Sgt. H.J. Nelson	
Sgt. S.W. Holland	S/Sgt. J.W. Foutch	
Sgt. C.L. Hood	S/Sgt. L.O. Giegen	
Sgt. H. Fritsch	S/Sgt. P.L. Sparkman	
2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield	2nd Lt. I.L. Long	
2nd Lt. W.A. Miller	2nd Lt. L.W. Pope	
2nd Lt. H. Dachyshyn	2nd Lt. F.G. Weirich	
Sgt. E.J. Butlin	Sgt. V.C. Squires	
Sgt. F.N. Coburn	Sgt. H.C. Maddox	
Sgt. C.F. Simonds	Sgt. E.A. Kron	
Sgt. W.A. Davis	Sgt. M.S. Horton	
Sgt. N. Janakas	Sgt. M.C. Fisher	
Sgt. F.R. Maurer	Sgt. W.T. Vaughan	
2nd Lt. J.C. Lovelace	2nd Lt. S.B. Smith	
2nd Lt. M.K. McKinney	2nd Lt. W.A. Miller	
2nd Lt. G.F. Robinson	Flt./O. L.E. Andler	
Sgt. T.H. Taylor	Sgt. R.E. Rechters	
Sgt. C.W. Wetherbee	Sgt. R.A. Hercheuroether	
Sgt. L.W. Kutil	Sgt. R.J. Dilz	
Sgt. C.L. Wright	Sgt. M.H. McDow	
Sgt. F.J. Hutras	Sgt. R.J. Woestman	
Sgt. H.T. Odom	Sgt. C.L. Hood	

In March 1945 all Lead aircraft and crews were transferred to 615th Squadron, hence the crew changeovers from one Squadron to another.

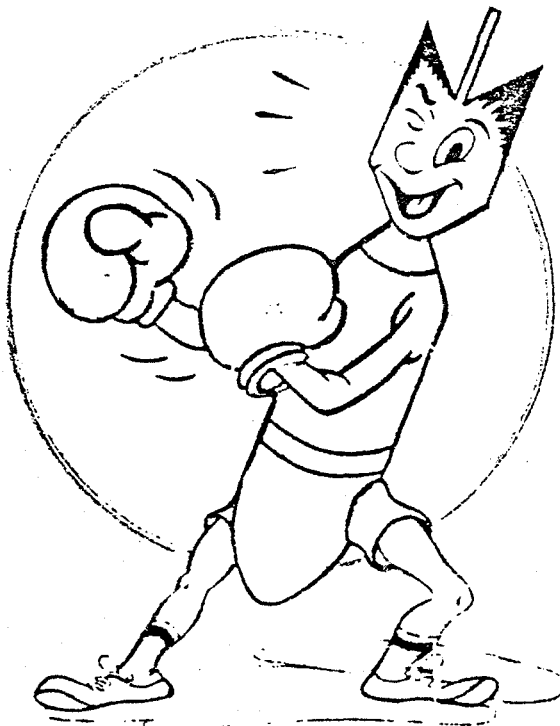


613TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

SQUADRON HISTORY

PART SIX

APRIL - MAY 1945



April - 1945

Although the month of April did not mark the conclusion of the war in Europe it did witness the end of operations (bombardment) for the 8th Air Force. The Allied land armies swept through Germany with amazing speed and with each mile covered they eliminated targets. Even though by the end of the month - in fact, the last 10 days - there was a fair portion of Germany still unoccupied, the proximity of the land forces made it risky to give heavy bombardment support. On the 20th April the 401st Group flew its 254th operation and from then to the end of the month the Group was "Stood down" and there was little doubt, although not officially disclosed, that operations had come to a finish in the E.T.O.

The Group flew 14 missions during the month and the 613th Squadron participated in all of the operations.

For the most part the targets were marshalling yards and traffic arteries. The two exceptions to this were the missions to Royan, France where a German garrison was still holding out.

Bombing was mostly visual and excellent results were achieved. This is borne out by the fact that in comparison with other Groups the 401st finished its tour of duty in second place position of the 8th Air Force.

Losses for the Squadron were relatively light, one crew being M.I.A. for the month. Lt. Geren's crew experienced a fighter attack from Me 262's on the Mission to Ingolstadt. They were unable to get back to base and landed in occupied Germany. The engineer, Sgt. D.M. Leshner, was seriously wounded and rendered unconscious. When it became necessary for the crew to bail out the crew members hooked Sgt. Leshner's chute to the static line and bailed him out. Although the chute opened successfully he was dead when found on the ground. The rest of the crew returned to base.

Lt. A.J. Bradley was the only crew to be lost and they went down on the Bradenburg mission. They had been hit by flak and were seen to drop out of the formation and fall behind. Some of the crew managed to bail out or were blown out of the aircraft.

Frequently the untiring labour of the personnel in the Engineering Section is either overlooked or forgotten by many who are more or less exclusively concerned with other phases of the Group's activities. Some insight into the great job done by the 613th Engineering can be gained from the following statistics based on the entire tour of duty:

- 1,807 aircraft were over the target.
- 13,716 operational hours were flown by these aircraft.
- 47 aircraft returned early for mechanical reasons.
- 33 aircraft returned early for personal reasons.
- 3,634,832 gallons of gas were used.
- 1,846 crew sorties were flown in these aircraft.

Such a record would have been impossible without the maintenance efforts of the line chiefs, crew chiefs and the men under them who worked night and day on these aircraft to "Keep 'Em Flying". In partial recognition for this splendid work the following men received the Bronze Star Medal:

M/Sgt. T.W. Barr	S/Sgt. E. Balkie
M/Sgt. R. Kesterson	M/Sgt. J.W. Fields
M/Sgt. J.H. Cox	S/Sgt. R.D. Johnson
M/Sgt. B. Norris	

With the conclusion of operations came a lull in activity heretofore unknown. Activities and events had moved at a rapid pace from the arrival in November, 1943 and it now seemed that such a lull brought about a reactionary attitude so to speak. Everyone was concerned with the progress of the war and speculations as to its end were paramount. Programs of post-operational activity were in the air and the prospect of a garrison type of duty seemed very promising. Such was the state of events at the months end.

### Operations

Mission 241

Target: Unterluss

4 April 1945

The April missions finally got started on April 4th when the 401st despatched the usual 36 aircraft to attack an airfield at Kotenburg, Germany or any other airfield in the area if the primary could not be attacked.

In the event clouds obscured the target and the Lead and High Squadrons were unable to bomb the primary although they made several runs over the target. The Low Squadron bombed an ordnance depot at Unterluss having mistaken it for an airfield. They did cause considerable damage to the buildings.

No enemy fighters were seen but flak was observed at three places but none hit the Group formation and all aircraft returned to base unharmed. The eleven 613th Crews on the mission were:

43-38160	2nd Lt. I.L. Long and crew.	
43-38862	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.	
42-31591	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.	
43-37706	2nd Lt. W.R. Ford and crew.	
42-31730	2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.	
44-6146	2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.	
44-8767	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.	
44-8449	Capt. W. Riegler and crew.	(615th PFF + GH a/c)
44-6125	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.	
44-6113	1st Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.	
44-6842	1st Lt. A.D. Kelso and crew.	

Mission 242

Target: Ingolstadt

5 April 1945

The next day, April 5th, the assignment was the No. 1 remaining ordnance depot in Germany -- Ingolstadt.

This was a target that had, up to that time, never been attacked, and the 401st put up 36 aircraft on this day to lead the 94th Bombardment Wing. Although it was a clear day and ideal for a visual

attack it had already been under attack by other Groups and the smoke from fires obscured the whole area. The Lead Bombardiers, using outside checkpoints, managed to bomb successfully, although two of the Squadrons did drop a little short of the assigned MPI.

There was no flak over the target but the jet Me 262's hit the High Squadron just before IP and badly damaged one aircraft that began to break up. The crew managed to bring the aircraft back to base with the exception of one of the gunners who had been critically wounded. The crew could not decide if he was alive or dead when they bailed him out on a static line. The 613th crew loadings were as follows:

42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.
43-38160	2nd Lt. I.L. Long and crew.
44-6842	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
43-38458	1st Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
44-6313	1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.
44-6113	1st Lt. T.N. Geren and crew.
44-6588	2nd Lt. J.P. Kerkes and crew.
44-6132	2nd Lt. W.R. Ford and crew.
44-6125	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.
42-31983	1st Lt. C.B. Young and crew.

Mission 243

Target: Luneburg

7 March 1945

The third mission of the month came two days later on April 7th. The airfield at Reinsehlen, Germany was the assigned target with the marshalling yards at Luneburg as the second priority for the visual bombing the Group was to carry out. The 401st dispatched 36 aircraft as the 94th CBW "C" Group.

There was cloud cover over the primary so the formation hit the Luneburg target visually with almost 100% of the bombs within the 2,000 foot circle. At two points on the mission there was meager and inaccurate flak and that was the only opposition met. All aircraft and crews returned safely to base. The 613th Crew Loading List was as follows:

44-6132	2nd Lt. J.P. Kerkes and crew.	
44-6588	2nd Lt. W.R. Ford and crew.	
42-31730	2nd Lt. M. Levy and crew.	
44-6125	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.	
44-6146	2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.	
44-8648	Capt. W. Riegler and crew.	( 615th PFF a/c)
42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.	
42-31989	2nd Lt. I.L. Long and crew.	
44-6842	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.	
43-38458	1st Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.	
42-31591	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.	
43-38862	2nd Lt. J.C. Lovelace and crew.	

Mission 244

Target: Halberstadt

8 April 1945

April 8th was another excellent day for weather both over England and the Continent and the 8th Air Force kept up the offensive with the 401st sending 36 aircraft to hit the airfield at Lerbst. They were ordered to attack the marshalling yards at Halberstadt if the primary could'nt be hit. In fact the smoke from the preceding Groups comp-



letely obscured the primary target at Lerbst so the formation went on to bomb the secondary at Halberstadt. Smoke also covered this target but the photos show that some damage was done to it.

There was no opposition from flak or fighters and all aircraft and crews returned safely to base. The Group Leader on this mission was the 612th Squadron Operations Officer, Major Joe Strauss. Crew loadings were as follows:

43-38677	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.	(614th a/c)
44-6842	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.	
43-38458	1st Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.	
42-31591	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.	
43-38862	2nd Lt. J.C. Lovelace and crew.	
44-6125	2nd Lt. J.P. Kerkes and crew.	
43-37706	2nd Lt. J.B. Evans and crew.	
44-6146	2nd Lt. W.R. Ford and crew.	
44-6584	1st Lt. M. Levy and crew.	
44-6313	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.	

Mission 245

Target: Furstenfeldbruck

9 April 1945

The target on April 9th was an airfield at Furstenfeldbruck (near Munich) in Southern Germany. The 401st was leading the 94th CBW on this mission as the "A" Group.

With the beautiful weather conditions continuing bombing was visual and almost perfect with 95% of bomb hits within the 1,000 feet of aiming point and 100% within 2,000 feet.

There was only meager flak at the target and this proved to be inaccurate, causing minor damage to five aircraft in the Group. None of the crews were injured and all aircraft returned safely to base. The 613th crews on this mission were as follows:

43-38458	1st Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.	
42-31891	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.	
43-38862	2nd Lt. J.C. Lovelace and crew.	
43-37706	2nd Lt. J.B. Evans and crew.	
42-31983	2nd Lt. J.P. Kerkes and crew.	
44-6313	2nd Lt. W.R. Ford and crew.	
42-31730	1st Lt. M. Levy and crew.	
44-6125	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.	
44-6146	2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.	
44-6842	2nd Lt. L.L. King and crew.	
42-102947	2nd Lt. R.A. Shunk and crew.	
44-8449	Capt. W. Riegler and crew.	(Group Lead)

Crew of Lead Ship:

Capt.	W. Riegler	
Lt. Col.	W.T. Seawell	
Capt.	H.C. Wood	
Capt.	H.W. Meadville	
2nd Lt.	D.L. Patrick	(615th)
1st Lt.	G.W. Peterson	(615th)
T/Sgt.	T.H. Moller	
T/Sgt.	K.W. Seely	
2nd Lt.	P.D. Mackin	
S/Sgt.	W. Quist	

Mission 246

Target: Oranienburg

10 April 1945

April 10th saw another large scale attack deep into Germany around the Berlin area. The 401st was to bomb an ordnance depot at Oranienburg and sent out the usual 36 aircraft to do the job.

It was another day when visual bombing was possible although the results were not as good as they should have been. The Lead Squadron bombed to the right and over although the circular error remained practically within the 2,000 foot. The Low Squadron had excellent results with 100% in the 1,000 foot radius --- a "shack" --- and the High Squadron aimed at the wrong point near the target, hitting another depot and thereby causing extensive damage.

The only opposition met during the mission was in the form of meager flak in the Wittenburg area. At first it was inaccurate but then found the range of the Group and caused some damage to two of the aircraft. One aircraft landed safely on the Continent and another went M.I.A.. The M.I.A. crew was that of Lt. Spence of the 612th Squadron and they had quite a story to tell later on because they were forced to land on a Luftwaffe base that the Luftwaffe were still using!

The following crews took part on this mission:

42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.
44-6842	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
44-6132	2nd Lt. S.B. Smith and crew.
44-6125	2nd Lt. L.L. King and crew.
43-38862	2nd Lt. J.C. Lovelace and crew.
43-37706	2nd Lt. J.B. Evans and crew.
44-6313	2nd Lt. W.R. Ford and crew.
42-31591	2nd Lt. C.B. Young and crew.
44-8767	2nd Lt. R.A. Shunk and crew.
44-6588	2nd Lt. J.B. Tripi and crew.
43-38160	2nd Lt. G.F. Snyder and crew.

Mission 247

Target: Friehan

11 April 1945

Flying as the "C" Group of the 94th CBW the 401st put up the usual formation of 36 aircraft to hit a tactical target at Friehan, Germany, which was being used as an oil storage depot. The target was a small marshalling yard at Friehan. Although far into Germany it was now just behind the front line.

It was another clear day that gave excellent conditions for bombing and the Group got 80% within the 1,000 foot mark and 100% within the 2,000 foot radius.

The flak was sporadic and inaccurate over the target and there were no hits to report on either crew members or aircraft. Crew Loading List was:

44-6132	2nd Lt. S.B. Smith and crew.
43-38458	1st Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.
44-6125	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
43-37706	2nd Lt. J.B. Evans and crew.
42-31983	2nd Lt. J.P. Kerkes and crew.
44-6588	1st Lt. M. Levy and crew.

44-6146	2nd Lt. J.B. Tripi and crew.	
44-6342	2nd Lt. R.A. Shunk and crew.	
44-8767	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.	
43-38160	2nd Lt. G.F. Snyder and crew.	
44-8708	Capt. W. Riegler and crew.	( 615th PFF + GH a/c)

Mission 248

Target: Royan

14 April 1945

The Group was rested for a couple of days and then given a most surprising target. This was Royan, near Bordeaux, a coastal fortress still held by the Germans. French troops were about to move in to eliminate these lingering Germans and required the knocking out of the big coastal guns beforehand.

The weather was perfectly clear and the bombing results were up to the usual 401st standard - 90% within the 1,000 foot circle and 100% within the 2,000 foot circle.

The mission was almost like a practice mission with no enemy opposition of any kind and all aircraft and crews returned safely. 613th crews on this mission were:

42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.
43-38458	1st Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
42-107039	2nd Lt. J.C. Lovelace and crew.
44-6588	1st Lt. M. Levy and crew.
44-6313	2nd Lt. J.B. Tripi and crew.
44-8767	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.
43-38758	2nd Lt. L.L. King and crew.
43-37706	2nd Lt. J.B. Evans and crew.
44-6842	2nd Lt. R.A. Shunk and crew.
43-38160	2nd Lt. I.L. Long and crew.

Mission 249

Target: Royan

15 April 1945

This was a repeat performance of the previous days mission. The coastal guns at Royan received another heavy battering from the 36 401st aircraft that attacked in sections of six. Unfortunately two of the section bombardiers selected the wrong aiming point so the bombs of twelve aircraft went astray.

Enemy opposition again remained nil and it proved to be another proverbial "milk run". The Loading List was as follows:

42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.	
44-6132	2nd Lt. S.B. Smith and crew.	
43-38160	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.	
42-31072	2nd Lt. G.F. Snyder and crew.	
44-6588	2nd Lt. L.L. King and crew.	
44-3862	2nd Lt. J.C. Lovelace and crew.	
44-6842	2nd Lt. W.F. Ford and crew.	
44-8767	1st Lt. M. Levy and crew.	
44-6125	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.	
44-6146	2nd Lt. J.B. Tripi and crew.	
44-8449	Capt. W. Riegler and crew.	(615th PFF + GH a/c)

Flying with the 615th : Lt. Col. E. de Jonckheere and Major J.R. Locher.

Mission 250

Target: Regensburg

16 April 1945

This was the third mission in three days. This time it was to hit the German communications at Regensburg where a rail - road bridge was the assigned target. The bombing was coordinated with the bombing of five other MPI's in the city of Regensburg and 36 aircraft of the 401st Group were dispatched on this mission.

The splendid weather also continued and the three Lead Bombardiers, bombing visually, got at least 95% of their bombs within the 1,000 foot radius and believe the bridge must certainly have been destroyed as a result.

Some meager flak was met over Nuremburg and over the target area, and some of it proved to be accurate, causing some damage to two of the Group's aircraft. There were no casualties among the crews and all aircraft returned safely to base. The Crew Loadings were as follows:

42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.
43-38458	1st Lt. J.N. Shepherd and crew.
43-38757	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
43-38160	2nd Lt. L.L. King and crew.
44-6132	2nd Lt. J.B. Evans and crew.
44-6313	2nd Lt. W.F. Ford and crew.
42-31730	1st Lt. M. Levy and crew.
44-6125	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.
44-8767	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.
42-31983	2nd Lt. G.F. Snyder and crew.

Flying with 615th Squadron:

1st Lt. M.L. Kochel
Capt. E.W. Coleman
Capt. H.W. Meadville

Mission 251

Target: Dresden

17 April 1945

Yet another long range tactical mission was carried out for the fourth consecutive day when the 401st Group were sent to Dresden. They put up 36 aircraft to form the "A" Group of the 94th CBW and the assigned target was the marshalling yards.

A visual run was started with the Squadrons going into the bomb run in trail, but the haze and smoke soon made it difficult to find the MPI's until a matter of a few seconds before bombs away. Despite this both Lead and Low Squadrons hit the target while the High Squadron hit short.

The defences, both ground and air, hit back with some effect on this mission and moderate flak tracked the formation over the target causing damage to eight of the aircraft. One Me 262 jet fighter made a pass at the formation but none of the Group appeared to have suffered any damage as a result. All crews and aircraft returned to base. Crew Loadings were as follows:

43-37706	2nd Lt. J.B. Evans and crew.
44-6313	2nd Lt. W.R. Ford and crew.
42-31730	1st Lt. M. Levy and crew.
44-6125	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.
44-8767	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.

42-31072	2nd Lt. G.F. Snyder and crew.
43-38862	2nd Lt. J.C. Lovelace and crew.
44-6588	2nd Lt. S.B. Smith and crew.
44-6842	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
43-38458	2nd Lt. W.W. Woodward and crew.
44-6146	2nd Lt. H.A. Warthen and crew.

Mission 252

Target: Traunstein/Freising

18 April 1945

This was the deepest penetration the Group had had to make for many months. The target was a transformer power station to the southeast of Munich at Traunstein with a marshalling yard as the secondary target. A new policy started with this mission with 30 aircraft as the Group formation instead of the usual 36.

As the Group approached the primary they found it obscured by broken cloud and the Lead and Low Squadrons could not see the target for visual bombing. They went on to bomb the secondary target which was the marshalling yards at Freising with good results. The clouds were drifting and this enabled the High Squadron to get a visual correction on their PFF run at the last moment. They hit the target, which was an excellent result under the conditions they found over the target area.

Some meager and accurate flak hit the formation at or about the point 4727N - 1153E - somewhere to the south of Munich and not very far from the Swiss - Italian border - causing one aircraft to lose an engine. Later this aircraft lost yet another engine and had to leave the formation. Some fighter pilots later reported to the Group that they had seen the crew of this aircraft bail out over the front lines. The pilot of this aircraft was Lt. Eugene A. Viehman of the 614th Squadron. This was the only aircraft to be even damaged on this mission and all other crews returned safely to base. Crew Loading for this mission was as follows:

42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.
44-6588	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
43-38862	2nd Lt. L.L. King and crew.
43-37706	2nd Lt. J.B. Evans and crew.
42-31072	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.
42-31730	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.
44-8767	2nd Lt. A.S. De Palma and crew.

Mission 253

Target: Falkenburg

19 April 1945

This was the sixth day running that the 401st flew an operational mission. The Allied Armies had the Germany falling back rapidly on all fronts and the 8th were hitting marshalling yards in quick succession to further disable the German defences. The day before it had been southern Germany but on this day the attacks were centred on the Berlin - Leipzig area with the assigned target at Falkenburg. The Group again flew in the new formation of 30 aircraft as the 94th "A" Group.

It proved to be another clear day over the target and the three Lead Bombardiers all hit their assigned MPI's and did another good job of bombing. The patterns could have been slightly better but this was put down to the inexperience in flying the new type of formation. There was no enemy opposition of any kind and all aircraft and crews returned safely to base.

The 613th Loading List for this day was as follows:

42-102947	Flt./O. L.L. Berneburg and crew.
42-31730	2nd Lt. H.A. Warthen and crew.
43-37706	2nd Lt. W.W. Woodward and crew.
44-6842	2nd Lt. D.D. Litchfield and crew.
44-6132	2nd Lt. S.B. Smith and crew.
43-38862	2nd Lt. J.C. Lovelace and crew.
42-31983	2nd Lt. J.P. Kerkes and crew.
43-38458	1st Lt. J.H. May and crew.
44-6588	2nd Lt. W.C. McKenny and crew.

Weather Ship:

Capt.	W. Reigler	Pilot
1st Lt.	J.R. Frew	Co-pilot
2nd Lt.	C.A. Hunt	Navigator
Sgt.	W.C. Lauderdale	Radio

Flying with 615th Squadron :

Lt. Col. E. de Jonckheere  
Capt. E.W. Coleman

Mission 254

Target: Brandenburg

20 April 1945

This was undoubtedly the mission everyone had been waiting for --- the last mission the 401st were to fly in W.W.II. The crews were not to know this for some weeks to come when they took off that morning to attack the marshalling yards at Brandenburg. In the days to follow they were to take off and be recalled a number of times, so on this morning it was just another mission deep into Germany.

It was the seventh consecutive day of operations and the 401st flew as the 94th "B" Group. Despite heavy smoke and considerable haze the bombardiers did a very creditable job of bombing the target by making blink sightings on outside checkpoints with their RAF Grid attachments. Each Squadron showed strikes on their assigned MPI'S.

The flak was meager but deadly accurate on the High Squadron position that the 613th were flying on this mission. The aircraft hit was the ship piloted by Lt. Aubrey J. Bradley Jr. and it received a direct burst and fell out of the formation, blowing up on the way down. It had happened so swiftly that the crew had no chance to bail out, and the five survivors were either blow out or fell out of the wreckage. Five of the crew were trapped in the aircraft and fell to their deaths.

The Loading List for this last mission was:

43-38758	1st Lt. S.B. Smith and crew.
42-31591	1st Lt. M. Maharick and crew.
44-8767	2nd Lt. A.S. De Palma and crew.
44-6313	2nd Lt. W.H. Ford and crew.
42-31730	1st Lt. M. Levy and crew.
44-6146	1st Lt. C.B. Young and crew.
44-6842	2nd Lt. J.B. Tripi and crew.
43-38160	2nd Lt. R.A. Shunk and crew.
44-8825	Capt. E.W. Coleman and crew. (a 615th FFF + GH a/c)
43-39125	1st Lt. A.J. Bradley and crew.

The full crew of this last ship to be lost by the 401st Bomb Group was as follows:-

1st Lt. A.J. Bradley Jr.		Pilot
1st Lt. K.F. Carey		Co-pilot
2nd Lt. E.W. Peterson		Navigator
Sgt. W.K. Benson	K.I.A.	Toggler
T/Sgt. A. Massa	K.I.A.	Radio Operator (614th Sqdn.)
Sgt. E. Cowgill	K.I.A.	Eng./Top T.
Sgt. W.T. Vaughn Jr.		Ball Turret
S/Sgt. W.J. McKee	K.I.A.	Tail Gunner
S/Sgt. F.C. Nachtigal		Waist Gunner
S/Sgt. G. Toombs	K.I.A.	Radio Countermeasures Operator

On reaching the ground Lt. Bradley was very badly beaten up by German civilians before being rescued by members of the Luftwaffe. Sgt. Fred Nachtigal was also rescued by the Luftwaffe from an angry mob of Germans and taken to the nearest base. He tells his incredible story in "My Friend My Enemy". Father Fred became a Roman Catholic priest and now resides at Youngstown, Ohio.

The honor of leading the last 401st mission in WW II rests with the 613th Squadron and its Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Eric T. de Jonckheere. The crew on this mission flying the Lead Aircraft were:-

Capt. E.W. Coleman		Pilot
Lt. Col. E.T. de Jonckheere		Co-pilot and Air Commander
Capt. A. Shapiro		Navigator (612th)
1st Lt. R.C. Hudsheth		Extra Navigator
Capt. H.W. Meadville		Bombardier
1st Lt. G.E. Peterson		Radar (615th)
T/Sgt. W.C. Sitton		Radio Operator
Sgt. H.A. Harris		Eng./Top T.
2nd Lt. K.H. Lyng		Observer/Tail Gunner
S/Sgt. H. Quist		Waist Gunner

#### PERSONNEL

During the month of April the following new crews were assigned to the Squadron:-

2nd Lt. W.H. Ford	2nd Lt. A.S. de Palma
2nd Lt. T.S. McArron	2nd Lt. W. Griffith
2nd Lt. C.E. Davis	Flt./O. L. Hauf
Sgt. F.F. Burns	2nd Lt. J.M. Wolfe
Sgt. G. Hanson	Sgt. J.R. Hughes
Sgt. P.L. Moody	Sgt. C.S. Fulwider
Sgt. W.L. Englett	Sgt. J.L. Horner
Sgt. C. Bailey	Sgt. J.E. Adams
Sgt. C.B. Dick	Sgt. A.J. Straub
Sgt. W.E. Karr	

2nd Lt. J.F. Kerkes  
2nd Lt. R.C. Wendling  
2nd Lt. W.B. Koch  
Sgt. R.A. Sunderlin  
Sgt. R.J. Gulbranson  
Sgt. J. Siringer  
Sgt. R.D. McGoon  
Sgt. R.C. Kramer  
Sgt. C.E. Barbour

2nd Lt. L.L. King  
2nd Lt. R.D. Youmans  
2nd Lt. J.J. McGarity  
Sgt. F.R. Maurer  
Sgt. G.E. Redden  
Sgt. J. Moleski  
Sgt. L.C. Mercon  
Sgt. P.R. Allen  
Sgt. P.L. Sparkman  
S/Sgt. E.N. York

2nd Lt. R.A. Shunk  
2nd Lt. E.L. Fakan  
Flt./O. E.B. Kammerer  
Sgt. R.W. Pascal  
Sgt. C.A. Hutchison  
Sgt. M.E. Tague  
Sgt. R.L. Johannes  
Sgt. C.L. Rehn  
Sgt. B. Patterson

2nd Lt. G.F. Snyder  
Flt./O. J. Waltershed  
Flt./O. T. Jentson  
Flt./O. E.W. Kaulkin  
Sgt. J.J. Metzger  
Sgt. L.J. Close  
Sgt. V. Lacy  
Sgt. R.C. Kramer  
Sgt. C.E. Barbour

2nd Lt. J.B. Tripi  
2nd Lt. H.L. Hardin  
1st Lt. A.R. Simpson  
1st Lt. R.G. Billman  
Sgt. C.H. Walker  
Sgt. L.R. McCarthy  
Sgt. R.D. Macoon  
Sgt. G.D. Parker  
Sgt. W.A. Tustin

2nd Lt. H.A. Warthen  
2nd Lt. R.C. Brekinfield  
Flt./O. J.H. Whaley  
Flt./O. H. Breslow  
Cpl. M.G. Kita  
Cpl. C.H. Knott  
Cpl. J.J. Ferguson  
Cpl. C.W. Scale  
Cpl. D.L. Plaxico

2nd Lt. W.W. Woodward  
2nd Lt. H.L. Dorman  
2nd Lt. R.G. Weidenbein  
2nd Lt. J.F. Dulkan  
Cpl. E.R. Kuhlman  
Cpl. E. Cowgill  
Cpl. W.F. Fleming  
Cpl. J.H. Youngblood  
Cpl. E.J. Jasnoch

The crews given are only those that took part in missions up to 20th April, 1945. Other crews did arrive about or after that date and took part in a number of missions that were recalled. Unfortunately the Loading Lists for these recalls are not recorded so I am unable to list them. We can only imagine the frustration these gallant crews must have felt after their long, hard training to lose their opportunity to fly even one combat mission.

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May 1945

The month of May began as the month of April ended, quiet and without any operational missions. There was every indication that the end of the war was only a matter of days away, perhaps even hours. This type of feeling had been experienced before as in the days preceding September when the Allies had swept across France and stood poised at the German border. Now, however, the situation was vastly different. Most of Germany had been conquered and occupied; the American Army had linked up with the Russian Army which had driven across Germany from the East; and, with the exception of a few rather small pockets of resistance, the whole of Germany was under Allied control. Rumours of peace proposals were many and persistent and some seemed to have reliable sources.

May 8th was the historic day for it was announced on that day from the Supreme Allied Headquarters that the Germans had surrendered unconditionally at Rheims, France to General Eisenhower.

The following day a victory celebration was held by the Group in which all the Squadrons participated. The 613th Squadron formed in the Squadron area and marched to the control tower where the ceremony was being held. After a talk by the Group Commander, Colonel Seawell, religious services were held for each denomination.

Post V-E Day operations consisted of transporting Allied prisoners of war from various camps deep in Germany and Austria to a proceeding point in France. Aircraft were partially stripped down allowing them to carry 30 prisoners of war.

Transport of P.O.W.'s lasted for about one week. By that time there was another matter to occupy the minds and activities of all the personnel. A rumour, which was later confirmed, brought the news that this Group, among others, was scheduled to go to the States under the redeployment program, and by the time the month was ending all were engaged in the business of packing and preparing to leave.

Thus ended the saga of the 613th Squadron, 401st Bomb Group in Europe.

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OPERATION "HOME RUN"

The transfer of the 8th Air Force from the ETO to the Far East was known by the codename WHITE PROJECT. In the 401st the movement became known as Operation HOME RUN. The plan was that the veteran airman of the ETO would welcome a 30 day trip home when the movement was taking place. Air Transport Command decided that RAF Valley, on the Isle of Anglesey, Wales, would be the ideal choice as the base for this operation. Before crossing the Atlantic all aircraft were to go through an oil and fuel consumption check and receive a 100 hour inspection. The pilots had to hold a current instrument card or be qualified for instrument flying and the navigators were given a six hour refresher course at the base on arriving.

The operation began on May 17th., 1945 when B-24's, each carrying 20 men, passed through Valley on their way home. The 401st passed through the station from May 31st to June 5th when 76 B-17's left Deenethorpe. The 401st had 48 standard machines on charge at the end of the war but 76 left for the U.S.A. on HOME RUN. This difference was brought about by exchanging their PFF and Gee H B-17's with the 384th and 305th Bomb Groups who were scheduled for the occupational forces.

The PFF and Gee H B-17's of the 613th Squadron had already been transferred to the 615th Squadron in March, 1945 and it was these aircraft that stayed in Europe after the war.

44-6842, IN-V, ( last flown in the 613th by Lt. D.D. Litchfield and Lt. R.A. Shunk ) went to the 384th at Grafton Underwood and then on to Istres, France in June 1945 to participate in GREEN PROJECT - moving U.S. troops to staging areas. They also moved displaced persons and some Greek military personnel.

44-8449, IN-P, ( last flown by Capt. W. Riegler ) 44-8454, IN-C, 44-8550, IN-Q and 44-8648, IN-M were transferred to the 305th Bomb Group at Chelveston ( the Group brought to the ETO by Col. Curtis E. LeMay ). This Group were moved to St Trond, Belgium on project CASEY JONES, photo-mapping flights over Europe and North Africa.

There were few accidents considering the large numbers that passed through RAF Valley and the nature of the locality. North Wales is an area of mountains and heavy cloud formations coming in from the Atlantic and the Irish Sea. A B-17 from the 351st Group - a fellow member of the 94th CBW - became lost in the area and crashed into the high ground at nearby Barmouth with the loss of all twenty men aboard. A B-24 crashed into a mountain on the Isle of Skye after leaving Valley, again with the loss of twenty lives, and another B-24 went down in the Atlantic without a trace.

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#### THE 401st HACK

The 401st hack was on charge to the 613th Squadron. It was the oldest B-17 with the Group and was, in fact, a B-17E acquired after the Group had landed in England but before the Group moved into Deenethorpe on 19th November 1943. It had belonged to the 97th Bomb Group, the first Group in the 8th Air Force, who had flown the first American mission in WWII on 17th August, 1942. The 97th Bomb Group had only been in the ETO for two months before leaving for North Africa on 18 - 20 November, 1942. It was used by the Group for target towing and general hack duties until replaced by a War Weary 614th B-17 in August, 1944.

This B-17E was 41-9107, IN-P and I wonder if anyone knows what finally became of this historic Queen and whether any photographs of her exist.

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