

447th BG

General narrative

SUBJECT: S-3 narrative for 447 A, mission of 24 December 1944.

TO: Commanding general, 3D bombardment division, APO 559.

1. 12 A/C of the 447th bomb Gp., including 2 PFF A/C, took off between the hours of 0849 and 0938 to form lead squadron of 4G group, flying seventh in 3BD forces. Normal bad weather pattern was followed in making assembly over the field at 7,000'. Weather was excellent, and assembly was effected quickly. Crossing over our buncher on a NE heading preparatory to making a 180° turn toward the first point of wing assembly, we found ourselves paralleling the 4A group, which according to our estimates should have been several miles south of us on a westerly heading. Wing assembly was made on time with visual reference to the 4F group. However, enroute to division assembly, two or three groups cut inside us far south of course and ended up by forcing both 4F and 4G to the left of the column at coast out despite the fact that we made coast out on time. Contact with Kodak control and the 13CW leader behind us showed that we were in correct position on 4F group, but that our two groups were flying parallel with 4C and 4D, with 4E actually behind us. The resulting "S" ing caused considerable interference and finally ended in our giving way to a couple of 13CW groups. Flak encountered at 06°00'E caused a sharp turn by the column and left us at an excessive interval from 4F group, though in close contact with two units above us. I.P. turn and visual run were normal, bombing being visually by squadrons with fair, good and excellent results. Rally was made with the 4E group directly on our left, our low squadron being a little slow re-joining formation due to difficulty in identifying us. A call from another group at our right kept us from continuing interference with their run on the secondary and rout out was then followed essentially as briefed, maintaining close formation with 4E.

High and low squadron leaders did an excellent job of keeping position despite extended "S" ing and individual A/C did a good job of formation flying as well as of landing in the dark with the confusion of having about 30 visiting A/C landing at the same time.

2&3. 2 A/C failed to attack, both being knocked out of formation by flak at 06°00'E. Both were dispatched and made a sortie. Lt. King (PFF 355) went down on being hit, and his A/C fell apart, with a probability that no men got out. Lt. Jepson aborted and landed at Woodbridge.

4. Formation diagrams are attached.

SUBJECT: S-3 narrative, 447th "E" squadron, mission 24 December 1944.

TO: Commanding general, 3D bombardment division, APO 559.

1. 11 A/C plus two PFF A/C took off between the hours of 0850 and 0942 to form the "B" (High squadron 4C Gp.). Assembly was effected quickly at 7,500. Weather was good. Times by lead were good and because of several late groups, some confusion was caused on the route in. prop wash was caused by extensive "S" ing. Common point and I.P. was made without incident and high squadron bombed with good results on primary (visually). Route out was good.

2. The 4G high squadron had two abort; A/C 400 to engine failure A/C 936 lost 3 turbos. Pilot of A/C 400 returned and used spare. A/C 938 dropped one rack late and A/C 080 dropped late.

- 3a. No A/C lost
- b. No enemy A/C were encountered.
- c. Flak on route across lines was moderate to heavy and accurate.

4. Formation diagram attached.

SUBJECT: S-3 narrative, 447th C squadron, mission 24 December 1944.

TO: Commanding general, 3D bombardment division, APO 559

1. 11 A/C plus 2 PFF A/C formed the low or "C" Sqn. Of the 447th Assembly was made quickly without incident. The primary was bombed visually by making a manual run. (AFCE was out) with fair results. The No.2 man could not take over on bomb run because his bombardier was wounded. The formation, the entire route, was superior.

2. A/C 567 aborted over channel.

3. No A/C were lost.

4. Formation diagrams attached.

SUBJECT: S-3 narrative for mission of 24 December 1944.

TO: Commanding officer, 447th Bomb group (H), APO 559.

1. The high squadron of the 4E composite group consisted of 12 aircraft plus 1 PFF aircraft from the 447th Bomb Group. Group assembly was without incident over buncher #13. Wing assembly was difficult because of interference with another group and with a single high squadron from another group which flew in our group until just before coast out. Control point #2 was made late. Route to the I.P. was made in a staggered column, two and sometimes three groups wide. The 4E group was in flak for a period of approximately an hour but because of the nearness of a group flying on out left wing the flak all burst between the two (2) groups. At the I.P. the 4E group was forced wide because of interference with another group and with a straggling high squadron. Approximately three (3) minutes before bombs away the bombsight on the lead A/C of the high squadron failed to operate. Bombs were dropped by setting in a pre-computed dropping angle and guessing as course. Route out was flown largely slightly south of course and without incident.

2. All aircraft dropped their bombs.

3. No aircraft were lost.

4. Formation diagrams are attached.