

## 487<sup>th</sup> BG

### General narrative

SUBJECT: Air leaders narrative report for mission of 24 December 1944

TO: Commanding officer, 487<sup>th</sup> bombardment group, APO559

1. General narrative. Take-off was at 0900 and assembly was made at 7,000 feet. I was flying deputy to general castle. Wing and division assembly was made on time and in perfect weather. The climb was started on leaving the English coast. We reached Belgium at 1130, still climbing. We reached altitude at CP3 and had just levelled off when we were attacked by fighters, causing the lead aircraft to abort. We took over the lead, still being attacked by fighters. After the attack was over we only had two squadron so we continued on course with a lead and high squadron.

We made the turn before the I.P. too quickly but I called HOTSHT Baker and told him we going to make the I.P. good anyway; so, he echeloned to the left-hand. There was no interference at the I.P. KODAK red had given us target weather so we peeled off by squadrons and made a visual run on the primary target. The run was made at 22,500 feet, 150 I.A.S., on A.F.C.E. with a heading of 221 degrees. Bombs were away at 1415. The route out was as briefed.

Meager flak was encountered on the route in, about 20 miles southeast of Liege. Fighter support for our group was nil when we were hit and was only fair overt the complete route.

2. Aircraft not attacking. 35 A/C plus 3 PFF took off in the 487<sup>th</sup> main group. 43-38002, in the low squadron, aborted over enemy territory with engine failure; he is credited with a sortie. 43-37969, in the low squadron, returned early from engineering but attacked on the way out. 43-38169, in the high squadron, returned early but attacked.

The following aircraft were MIA before target due to enemy aircraft. In the low squadron: 44-8121 (PFF), 42-102497, 43-37569, 43-38926, 44-8192, 44-8614. In the lead squadron: 44-8444, PFF.

A/C 43-37979 landed in France. The crew is safe, but the aircraft was abandoned. This A/C was in the lead squadron.

A/C 44-8530 and A/C 42-98014 landed at Woodbridge.

Twenty-seven aircraft plus two PFF attacked.