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HEADQUARTERS
20th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
AAF Station F-367 APO 637 U.S. Army

(E-5)

319.1

4 February 1944.

SUBJECT: Summary of Mission to Frankfurt. Field Order No. 234, dated
4 February 1944.

TO : Commanding General, 67th Fighter Wing, AAF Station F-372, APO 637
U. S. Army.

1. This group flew as briefed on course and on time. Shortly after crossing the Dutch coast I nearly aborted the group because of lack of strength. Extremely low temperatures caused twenty-five aircraft to abort with rough engines. However, due to excellent F-47 top cover, it was decided to continue.

2. The bombers were escorted through the target area and on the return until the F-47 again took over.

3. No enemy activity was observed by this group. Flak was light and inaccurate in the target area.

4. The B-24's flew excellent formation and were very easily covered by weaving flights in string above them.

5. R/T was good. Fighter bomber intercom was maintained throughout the escort.

B. M. RUSSELL,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

MISSION SUMMARY

- A. 20th Fighter Group Colonel Russell Leading.
- B. 52 P-38's Up 1040 Down 1430
- C. 25 (1 Escort) - Extremely low free air temperature caused rough engines and engine failure.
- D. Field Order 234 - Penetration, area and W/D support.
- E. 1 - Lt. Durand Lost, cause unknown.
- F. Nil
- G. Lt. Durand-missing in action,
- H. O-O-O
- I. In Noorderhoof 1132, 23,000 Feet. Northwest R/V ~~Markkuzak~~ Koblenz, 24,000 Feet, 1205.
 Target 1216, 23,000 feet; left bombers 1310 ~~near~~ Maastricht, ~~1310~~ Out
 1327, Nieuwe Sluis, 20,000 feet, No enemy aircraft seen, moderate heavy
 flak seen in the direction of Koblenz, Frankfurt and ~~over~~ target. Bomber
 formation good; 2 B-17's ~~near~~ in trouble target area, 7 Chutes seen.
 P - 47's ~~near~~ along ~~the~~ entire course West of 7° East.

MISSION SUMMARY REPORT

F.O. 234

1 JANUARY, 1944

BOMBER ESCORT - RUSSELHEIM NEAR MAINZ.

2 SORTIE CREDITS

A. 55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, MAJOR CLARK LEADING.

B. 16 A/C UP WITTING 1041, DOWN 1420.

C. 8 EARLY RETURNS, 1 ESCORT

D. BOMBER ESCORT F.O. 234

E, F, G, H. NIL

1. LANDFALL IN NOORDERHAUFD AT 1132 HOURS 22/24,000 FEET. SAW SOME B-24S OVER BERGEN OP ZOOM AT 1135 FLYING AT 26,000 FEET. CONTINUED ON OUR COURSE TO R/V WITH 3 BOXES OF B-24S VICINITY AACHEN 1205 HOURS. BOMBERS 21 TO 22,000 FEET, IN GOOD CLOSE FORMATION. MARKED WITH H AND B IN CIRCLE. BOMBERS TURNED SOUTH TO MAKE BOMB RUN FROM SOUTH TO NORTH. COULD SEE NO BOMB RESULTS DUE TO OVERCAST. SAW 7 CHUTES FROM B-17 JUST NORTH OF MAINZ. WE ARRIVED AT TARGET ABOUT 1235 HOURS AND LEFT ABOUT 1250. ALT. 22/24,000 FEET. STAYED WITH BOMBERS UNTIL VICINITY OF AACHEN. P-47S WERE ALL THE WAY BOTH IN AND OUT TO ABOUT 0700⁰ EAST. L/F OUT KNOCKE 19,000 FEET 1322 HOURS.

R/T GOOD - SOME JAMMING STARTED MID-CHANNEL.

NO E/A SEEN.

MISSION SUMMARY REPORT 4 FEBRUARY 1944

A. 77TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 20TH FIGHTER GROUP, MAJOR JOHNSON LEADING.

B. 14 UP AT 1047. 11 DOWN AT 1433.

C. TWO (2).

D. TARGET SUPPORT AND ESCORT, FIELD ORDER NO. 234.

E. ONE - A.A. FIRE.

F. NIL.

G. ONE - 2ND LT. DURAND, DONALD L.

H. 0-0-0.

I. MADE ENEMY LANDFALL AT 1132 AT 24,000 FEET NORTH OF NIEUWE SLUIS AND R/V N OF KOBLENZ WITH B-24's AT 1205 AT 25,000 FEET. BOMBERS SCATTERED. STAYED WITH BOMBERS UNTIL 1330 THEN WITHDREW SE OF ANTWERP AT 24,000 FT. LANDFALL OUT N OF KNOCKE AND OVER SCHOUWEN ISLAND FROM 15-20,000 FT AT 1330.

FLAK WAS INTENSE AND ACCURATE AROUND BOMBERS. NO E/A SEEN. LT. DURAND WENT ON SE IN TARGET AREA AND WAS BEING ESCORTED OUT WHEN AT 14,000 WAS HIT BY FLAK AT 1300. WENT INTO CLOUD LAYER IMMEDIATELY BELOW, SPINNING.

SAW FIVE PARACHUTES IN TARGET AREA. BOMBERS SEEMED TO MAKE DOUBLE RUN ON TARGET.

LT. GARRETT COMING BACK INTO THAMES ESTUARY WITH IFF ON WAS FIRED ON BY AA AT 2,000 FEET. THREE BURSTS WHICH SEEMED TO COME FROM SIX TOWERS IN TWO ROWS OF THREE EACH CONNECTED BY WALKWAYS IN WATER BELOW. THIS WAS SOUTH OF SHOEBOURNESS.

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MISSION REPORT

4 February 1944

A. 79th Fighter Squadron Col. B. M. Russell, leading.

B. 12 P-38s; Up: 1637; Down: 1430;

C. 7 P-38s

D. Ramrod - Target support; F. O. #234

E. None

F. None

G. None

H. O-O-O

I. No E/A seen. Four chutes, from bomber seen south of target approximately 1220. One P-38 in target area on single engine seen to spin into overcast at approximately 1220.

Before reaching enemy coast B²⁴s were sighted to the north and course was altered to investigate. Group then crossed enemy coast at Schouwen Island at 1135 at 24,000 ft. R/V northeast of Koblenz at 1205 at 24,000 feet. Target at 1216 at 24,000 feet. No bombs seen dropped. Out at Koeke and Furnes at 1320 at 24,000 feet. Landfall English Coast at approximately 1350 near Clacton.

EDWARD J. STEINER
1st Lt., Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

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TELEPHONE FLASH REPORT

F.O. 234

DATE 4 FEBRUARY 1944.

(Not to be teletyped)

(Not to be teletyped)

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| a. Designation of Unit | 55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON. |
| b. Time of Landing | 1420 |
| c. Aircraft NYR (State if believed Lost) | NIL |
| d. Estimated Claims | Destroyed 0 Probable 0 Damaged 0 |
| e. Brief description of Mission | LANDFALL IN NOORDERHOOF 1132, 22 - 24,000 FEET. SOME B-24'S OVER BERGEN OP ZUM 1325. R/V IN VICINITY AACHEN 21 - 22,800 FEET 1205. 3 BOXES GOOD FORMATION. (H) (B) TARGET 22, 24,000 FEET 1316- 1326. LANDFALL OUT 19,000 FEET 1322 KNOCKE . |
| f. Weather - Battle damage | |

TELEPHONE FLASH REPORT

F.O. 234DATE 4 FEBRUARY

(Not to be teletyped)

(Not to be teletyped)

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| a. Designation of Unit | 77TH FIGHTER GROUP. |
| b. Time of Landing | 1433 |
| c. Aircraft NYR (State if believed Lost) | 1 NYR. LT. DURAND. |
| d. Estimated Claims | Destroyed 0 Probable 0 Damaged 0 |
| e. Brief description of Mission | LANDFALL IN 1132 AT 24,000 FEET OVER NIEUWE SLUIS B/V 1205 at 25,000 FEET. STAYED WITH THEM TO 1210. LANDFALL OUT KNOCKE, SCHOUWEN 1331. 15 -20,000 FEET. LAST SEEN 1300 IN SPIN 14,000 FEET S.E. FLAK SEEN NOOWUDHEIN AT TIME OF SPIN... |
| f. Weather - Battle damage | |

TELEPHONE FLASH REPORT

F.O. 234DATE 4 FEBRUARY 1944.

(Not to be teletyped)

(Not to be teletyped)

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|--|---|
| a. Designation of Unit | 79TH FIGHTER GROUP. |
| b. Time of Landing | 1430 |
| c. Aircraft MYR (State if believed Lost) | NIL. |
| d. Estimated Claims | Destroyed 0 Probable 0 Damaged 0 |
| e. Brief description of Mission | CROSSED E/C NORTH OF SCHOUWEN ISLAND AT 1140 at 21,000 FEET. R/V AT 1205 AT PROPER PLACE, 24,000 FEET. OVER TARGET 1216 - E/C HOME 23,000 FEET, KNOCKE, OSTEND, DUNKERQUE 1320. NO EA/2 NO DISTRESS. A P-38 SEEN SPINNING IN TARGET AREA. ON SINGLE ENGINE AND WITH BELLY TANKS. 4 CHUTES FROM BOMBERS SOUTH OF TARGET. |
| f. Weather - Battle damage | |

