

MISSION SUMMARY REPORT

Field Order #411
22 June 1944
Target Jussy RR Bridge

- A. 55th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Lt. Col. Wilson, Leading
- B. Time up 1344 hours down 1630 hours
- C. 17 P-38's up
- D. 1 Lt. Kelly Returned his bombs
- E. 1 MIA Lt. John A. Pierson Hit by Flak over the target.
- F. 1 Locomotive destroyed
Train loaded with military trucks strafed and set afire
----- Squadron
- G.
 - 1. Primary Target -- Jussy Railroad Bridge
17 P-38's dispatched
 - 2. Time over target 1453/1515 hours
 - 3. Bombs carried 16 x 1,000 lb fused 8/11 seconds
18 x 500 lb fused 8/11 seconds
Early return brought back 1 x 1000 lb and 1 x 500 lb bomb.
 - 4. Results Poor to fair.
 - 5. D/B with 3 flights (12 planes) starting 4,000 ft down to 500 ft.
Skip bombed by Lt. Ford's flight at 40/50 feet.

Lt. Pierson was hit by light flak over the target area. He pulled out of the formation with his right engine on fire. He was flying at about 2,000 feet when it exploded and went down. No chutes were seen. (Major Low made statement.)

Pilots scheduled for this mission were:

Wilson	Pannell	Low	Ford
Oxley	Nelson	Williams	Reynolds
Watson	Pierson	Klink	Cruickshank
Burford	Barnes	Wells	Kelly (E.R.)

Spare -- Buie, filled in for Kelly

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A. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group, Lt. Col. Johnson leading.

B. Up at 1344. Down at 1625.

C. 16.

D. Nil.

E. Nil.

F. 5 half tracks destroyed
5 trucks destroyed.
2 Half tracks damaged.

G. In near Dinkirk 1433 at 12,500 feet. On target 1455. Bombed primary target highway overpass, and small railroad bridge NW of primary target. Strafed train carrying half-tracks and trucks at 4VN7930. Out between Dunkirk and Ostend at 1544 at 13,000 feet.

OBSERVATIONS:

Flak from flak cars two-three miles up track from target. Light moderate, not too accurate.
Tracks at 4VN8026 were demolished.
Hits seen at abutment at N end of bridge. Tracks at S end broken up.
Two ships bombed small RR bridge at 4VN6638.
One flight bombed overpass at 4VN7335.

BOMB DATA:

1. 16
2. 1455-1505
3. 16 - 1,000
16 - 500
4. No hits from our squadron on primary.
One hit below overpass at 4VN8026
No hits on RR bridge at 4VN6638
5. 3,000 feet to 400 feet glide bombing.

