

# 398th Operations Officer's Report

24 August 1944

Target: Airfield on the outskirts of Kolleda, Germany

HEADQUARTERS 398TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (K-B-1)

Office of the Operations Officer

APO 557, U.S. Army

24 August, 1944

SUBJECT: Operations Officer's Report on Mission of 24 August 1944

TO: Commanding General, First Bombardment Division, APO 557

Commanding General, 1st Combat Wing, APO 557

## 1. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS:

### A. Data:

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| (1) Date of Mission:     | 24 August 1944.   |
| (2) Target Assigned:     | A/F Kolleda, Germany.   |
| (3) Target Attacked:     | A/F Kolleda, Germany<br>A/F Coslar, Germany                     |
| (4) Units Participating: | 37 A/C of this Group including<br>2 PFF formed the 1st "B" CBW. |
| (5) Returned Early:      | None  |
| (6) Lost:                | None  |
| (7) Returned Early:      | 42-107203, 42-107183.   |

## 2. NARRATIVE:

### **Lead Group 1st "B" CBW [601st]**

The 1st "B" CBW formation composed of the 398th Group, consisted of three, twelve ship groups and one spare aircraft. The Wing was briefed to bomb the primary target of an airfield at Kolleda, Germany with incendiary bombs following the 1st "A" CBW dropping demolition bombs. The Lead and High Groups bombed the primary, the Low Group bombed the secondary.

Take-off was at 0640 as briefed, with assembly over Debden at 5,000 ft, or as briefed 6,000 ft and three "Devils." Briefed altitude was reached at Division Line and followed thereafter. The bombing was 25,000 ft, clear, and visual.

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No flak was encountered which was not skirted, none being over the target.

No enemy fighters were encountered.  
Friendly fighter support was excellent.

Weather was better than forecast over Europe, being clear, and bombing results were good.

## **High Group 1st "B" CBW [602nd]**

Take-off and assembly were normal with the exception of a change of three (3) devils in assembly altitude. This group left Debden on time with 12 A/C and one spare. Route to target was as briefed. One A/C aborted (engine out - mechanical failure) some fifty (50) miles within the enemy coast. Spare aircraft from this group filled in a vacancy in the lead group.

Bomb run was made on primary at 26,500 feet, results were good. No flak was encountered on the bomb run. To the best of my knowledge, no flak damage occurred in this group.

Proceeded to home station as briefed.  
No enemy aircraft encountered.  
Weather was as briefed.

## **Low Group 1st "B" CBW [603rd]**

Take-off was normal as was assembly except that assembly altitude was changed three (3) devils. We left Debden on time with twelve (12) aircraft. The route to the target was as briefed. The bomb run was made at 24,500 feet on PDI. Bombs failed to release at the primary due to a rack dysfunction. This group continued on to the secondary target and made another PDI run and got bombs away. Results as observed by gunners were good.

Flak was meager and accurate near Leipzig. It was avoided on rest of mission. There was little flak damage to this group.

After bombs away this group could not get back into 1st "B" CBW, so fell in with two other groups and returned with them in wing formation.

No enemy aircraft were sighted.  
Weather was as briefed.

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Returned Early:

42-107183 returned to home field early due to excessive engine temperature and engine was losing oil. Aircraft attacked a target of opportunity in Germany. Sortie.

42-107203 returned to home field early due to excessive oil leak. Aircraft attacked a target of opportunity in Germany. Sortie.

JEAN B. MILLER

Major, Air Corps

Operations Officer

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Transcribed by: Ann Collins, Oct. 2003