

398th Bombardment Group Formation Chart

Mission 137: 21 January 1945 - Target Attacked: Aschaffenburg, Germany Over Target

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Lead Squadron "B" Group | PETERSON 601 | 21 January 1945 |
| Squadron Leader | Arlin | |
| | 8483-T PFF (C-9) | |
| Watkins | Magness | Robinson |
| 8730-R (D-4) | 7509-J (D-3) | Marchbanks |
| | B Monitor | 8951-B (B-2) |
| | | 8373-K PFF (C-8) |
| Hicks | | Grinter |
| 2592-G (C-2) | | 8993-V (C-4) |
| | Palant | Riley |
| | 2596-N (D-6) | 8805-Z (C-5) |
| | | Shimek |
| | | 8853-L (C-5) |

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Low Squadron "B" Group | Matthews 600 | |
| | 8564-X (C-1) | |
| | Johnson T. | |
| | Johnston | Hahn |
| | 8044-X PFF (F-7) | 7249-P (C-6) |

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| High Squadron "B" Group | HANCOCK 602 | |
| Squadron Leader | Hall | |
| | 8553-Y PFF (F-7) | |
| | Gray | Kunkel |
| | 8664-F (F-9) | 8627-Z (F-6) |
| | | 8274-B (F-2) |
| | Shaffer J.T | |
| | 8794-J (F-5) | |
| | Shaffer V.S. | |
| | 8500-F (F-8) | |

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|----------|------|------|------|------|--|
| Stations | Lead | High | Lead | Low | File 485 b Roll # 2 PDF 2747 thru 2750 |
| | 0620 | 0630 | 0630 | 0630 | |
| Take Off | 0720 | 0730 | 0735 | 0740 | Prepared By: Tom Brantley Nov 2008 |

The original 398th Bomb Group count for this mission was 38: LEAD – 13, LOW- 12, and HIGH - 13. See Arlin's Formation Chart, now referred to as the Planned Formation Chart. The Formation Chart above is the Over Target Formation Chart and was carefully constructed after much research by Tom Brantley.

The above Over Target Formations Chart totals: 19: LEAD 10, LOW 3, and HIGH 6. This was a decrease of 19 from the Planned Formation.

Eleven of the 19 Aircraft flew with other Bomb Groups (reason for this appears to be weather, see note at end)
 381st BG: Taylor 8658-A, Overton 8631-T, Schoen 8970-A, Dean 6157-W, Comstock 8652-V
 91st BG: Jacobs 8754-A, Beam 8864-F
 305th BG: Lewis 7317-P, Shaffer 2519-A
 401st BG: Lamiell 8836-T
 306th BG: Shappell 8697-M

Seven of the 19 Aircraft aborted or returned with all bombs: Andracko 7266-G, Mills 8064-H, Costanzo 6834-H, Lipnick 8669-G, Beatty 2507-F, Schipull 7387-H, Landrum 8630-U

11 flying with other groups and 7 aborting or returning with bombs totals 18, leaving one unaccounted for: Bornstedt 8708-T (continued next page)

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After thorough analysis, it is concluded that Bornstedt in A/C 8708-T probably flew the mission:

The key documents in support of this:

1. The Ordinance Report verifies all bombs away for A/C 708 (PDF page 2758)
2. On the Aircraft Fuel Consumption Report A/C 8708-T was not serviced; however flight hours were 10:25, two (2) more hours greater than all A/C listed on the report (PDF page 2759).

Thus it is probable that Bornstedt joined with one of the other Bomb Groups, such as the 381st, 91st, 305th, 401st, or 306th and was missed in the accounting of where he joined.

Reason A/C flew with other Bomb Groups

Because of the unusual difference between the planned 398th formation (see Arlin Formation Chart) to Aschaffenburg and the 398th over target formation (see above Over Target Formation Chart) further records research by Tom Brantley took place.

An Assistant Intelligence Officer report stated that bad weather prevented a great number of our (398th) a/c forming with our group, however those who did not get in our (398th) group joined either the 91st, 381st, 401st, 305th, and 306th all of which had the same target area assigned to them. This report can be found on 398th Records File 485b Roll# 2 PDF page 2754.