

Missions flown by: -

Capt. Earl W Reynolds
Pilot

86th Bomb Squadron
493rd Bombardment Group (H)



“The Fighting 493rd”

Researched & Compiled by Darren Jelley
Including data supplied by David Schmitt

493rd BG Researcher/Historian.
The Fighting 493rd BG Association

DS Docs

0147 45/03 31/03/1945 listed Officers Roster

0361 45/03 16/03/1945 SO #15 assigned from 70th Repl Depot further assigned 861 BS

0660 45/04 30/04/1945 listed Officers Roster Flight Commander 861 BS

0665 45/04 30/04/1945 listed Officers Roster Pilot 861 BS

1127 45/05 31/05/1945 listed Officers Roster Flight Commander 861 BS

MOS

PILOT, B-17 (1091)

Pilots B-17 aircraft and commands crew in the accomplishment of offensive missions against the enemy.

Ascertains, prior to mission, that aircraft has been properly inspected by crew members; takes off, operates, and lands airplane under varying flying conditions and such hazards as adverse weather, enemy attack, and low-altitude and night flying; maintains flight records and reports observations made during mission.

Must have thorough knowledge of general and local flying regulations and meteorology.

Must know tactics used against various types of objectives and against hostile fighter attacks.

Must meet prescribed physical standards.

Must be a rated pilot and have completed transition and tactical training in B-17 aircraft.

Mission:	140		Date:	28 March 1945	No Sortie: <input type="checkbox"/>
Target:	Hannover, Germany		Type:	Marshalling yard	
Time:	07:15	MACR:	TOG:	Ogle Kenneth L	
Ship:	270	44-8270	R:	Abdulla Edward J	
	Lil Sergeant		E:	Baker Harold W (Jr)	
Hardstand Nr: (* = L.W.)	16*		NT/NG:		
Type:	B-17	Sqdn:	861	BT:	Wheeler Oris W
AC:			WG:	Bandy Edwin C	
P:	STEWART JAMES E K		TG:	Reshan Richard D	
CP:	REYNOLDS EARL W		TT:		
N:	WRIGHT ROBERT B		G:		
N2/PN:			RCM:		
NSP/MO:			F:		
B:			PAX1:		
B2/IB:			PAX2:		

Notes: 30 aircraft were airborne but one returned early.
 A total of 336 x 500lb GP bombs were dropped on Hannover, Germany.
 Group bombed the secondary target of Hannover by PFF technique. Mickey operators believe the results were good. Cloud breaks in the target area permitted limited observations which also indicate good results. SAVs show cloud cover over impact but indicate bombs hit town of Hannover.

Lt W.A. Johnson and crew completed their tour on this mission

Mission:	141		Date:	30 March 1945	No Sortie: <input type="checkbox"/>
Target:	Hamburg, Germany		Type:	Oil refinery	
Time:	06:50	MACR:	TOG:		
Ship:	629	43-38629	R:	Fauls Donald J	
	-----		E:	Christian Marvin R	
Hardstand Nr: (* = L.W.)	33*		NT/NG:		
Type:	B-17	Sqdn:	860	BT:	Galloway Newton K
AC:			WG:	Zurbuchen Fred G	
P:	REYNOLDS EARL W		TG:	Dolan James E	
CP:	FINCHER WILLIAM L		TT:		
N:	HAUSRATH LOUIS J		G:		
N2/PN:			RCM:		
NSP/MO:			F:		
B:	McCABE JAMES M		PAX1:		
B2/IB:			PAX2:		

Notes: 31 aircraft took off from Little Walden bound for Hamburg, Germany. 4 aircraft returned early with mechanical problems.
28 aircraft were credited with sorties.
26 aircraft attacked the secondary target at Hamburg. One aircraft could not release its bomb load due to frozen bomb bay doors.
A total of 155 x 1000lb GP bombs were dropped on the target.

2 aircraft were hit by flak in the target area and are declared MIA (Lt Dwyer & Lt Hoagland)

1 aircraft was lost after crashing 1/2 mile from Little Walden (Lt Goodspeed)
on investigation it was found that the aircraft had sustained major flak damage over the target.
6 men died.

Lead A/C of "A" squadron aborted at 5247-0526 so Hi Sq took over. "B" squadron made an H2X, with visual assist, run on the target. M/O estimated poor results due to a defect in the equipment.
Overall bombing results were poor.

Mission:	143		Date:	03 April 1945	No Sortie: <input type="checkbox"/>
Target:	Kiel, Germany		Type:	Dry Docks & slipways	
Time:	06:50	MACR:	TOG:		
Ship:	239	43-38239	R:	Fauls Donald J	
	The Spoiled Baby		E:	Christian Marvin R	
Hardstand Nr: (* = L.W.)	20		NT/NG:		
Type:	B-17	Sqdn:	861	BT:	Galloway Newton K
AC:			WG:	Zurbuchen Fred G	
P:	REYNOLDS EARL W		TG:	Dolan James E	
CP:	FINCHER WILLIAM L		TT:		
N:	HAUSRATH LOUIS J		G:		
N2/PN:			RCM:		
NSP/MO:			F:		
B:	McCABE JAMES M		PAX1:		
B2/IB:			PAX2:		

Notes:

31 aircraft were airborne initially, with 2 returning early. 28 aircraft attacked the Secondary target at Kiel.

1 aircraft was unable to release its bombs over the target due to a rack malfunction. The bombs were later jettisoned over the North Sea.

Bombing was made in squadron formation using H2X technique.

Mickey operator believes results were good.

SAVS show 10/10 cloud cover. Results were unobserved.

Neither SAVs or scope photography were available for plotting showing any recognizable features of the target.

Mission:	145b		Date:	05 April 1945	No Sortie: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Target:	Nurnberg, Germany		Type:	Railroad Station/Marshalling yard	
Time:	07:50	MACR:	TOG:		
Ship:	235	43-38235	R:	Fauls Donald J	
	Wild Hare II/Lucifer's Lounge		E:	Christian Marvin R	
Hardstand Nr: (* = L.W.)	30		NT/NG:		
Type:	B-17	Sqdn:	861	BT:	Galloway Newton K
AC:			WG:	Zurbuchen Fred G	
P:	REYNOLDS EARL W		TG:	Dolan James E	
CP:	FINCHER WILLIAM L		TT:		
N:	HAUSRATH LOUIS J		G:		
N2/PN:			RCM:		
NSP/MO:			F:		
B:	McCABE JAMES M		PAX1:		
B2/IB:			PAX2:		

Notes: The first priority target for mission 145 was an airfield at Unterschlauerbach Germany. 30 a/c were airborne - 3 of these were return early spares. Because of cloud cover, only "C" squadron was able to bomb the first priority target. "A" squadron bombed Furth through an error in identification. While the "B" squadron bombed the second priority target at Nurnberg. 1 crew aborted.

"A" sqdn bombed the Marshalling yard at Furth, visually. (target of opportunity)
 "B" sqdn bombed Nurnberg railroad station and marshalling yard visually (secondary target)
 "C" sqdn bombed Unterschlauerbach visually. (The turn at the I/P was assisted by M/Os, who lined the formation up at the target)

SAVs show that "A" squadron bombed, with poor results, the M/Y at Furth.
 "B" squadron SAVs show the impact starting short and walking directly across the MPI with very good results.
 "C" squadron SAVs show poor results.

"A" Squadron
 Skeen, H.A.Johnson, Whitson, Stipak, Dorsett, Alexander, Craig.

"B" Squadron
 Waananen, Klopp, Stewart, Marcum, Frese, Harrold, Greene, VanMeter, C.H. Johnson.

"C" Squadron
 Lewis, Wurtz, Jones, Viguers, Hossler, Sharp, Meyer

Mission:	149		Date:	10 April 1945	No Sortie: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Target:	Neuruppin, Germany		Type:	Airfield	
Time:	07:55	MACR:	TOG:		
Ship:	241	43-38241	R:		
	Ulp		E:		
Hardstand Nr: (* = L.W.)	41		NT/NG:		
Type:	B-17	Sqdn:	863	BT:	
AC:			WG:		
P:	REYNOLDS EARL W		TG:		
CP:			TT:		
N:			G:		
N2/PN:			RCM:		
NSP/MO:			F:		
B:			PAX1:		
B2/IB:			PAX2:		

Notes: Of the 30 a/c that left Debach, 29 of them reached and bombed the airfield at Neurippin, Germany. The other a/c returned early.
 Target was bombed by visual technique in squadron formation.
 SAVs show "A" squadron bombed with very good results covering MPI with very good pattern.
 "B" squadron bombed with good to very good results
 "C" squadron bombs fell just over the MPI, but postholed airfield and pattern continued down into hangar area

"This target presented special difficulties as the MPIs had no prominent features, but were simply points on the landing ground. There were no runways on the field to aid the bombardier in orientating himself.
 The bombardiers are to be congratulated for their work on this mission.
 It is apparent by the patterns that all the formations were good, indicative of good flying by the wing ships
 There were at least 16 single and twin aircraft ships on the field at the time of the bombing. The bomb craters will keep them on the ground for a few days."

A.R.Curran
 1st Lt. Air Corps
 Asst P.I. Officer

Mission:	150		Date:	11 April 1945	No Sortie: <input type="checkbox"/>
Target:	Ingolstadt, Germany		Type:	Marshalling yard	
Time:	08:00	MACR:	TOG:		
Ship:	235	43-38235	R:	Fauls Donald J	
	Wild Hare II/Lucifer's Lounge		E:	Christian Marvin R	
Hardstand Nr: (* = L.W.)	30		NT/NG:		
Type:	B-17	Sqdn:	861	BT:	Galloway Newton K
AC:			WG:	Zurbuchen Fred G	
P:	REYNOLDS EARL W		TG:	Dolan James E	
CP:	FINCHER WILLIAM L		TT:		
N:	HAUSRATH LOUIS J		G:		
N2/PN:			RCM:		
NSP/MO:			F:		
B:	McCABE JAMES M		PAX1:		
B2/IB:			PAX2:		

Notes: Combat mission #150 was flown to Ingolstadt, Germany. 30 a/c took off and all reached and bombed the Primary target.

SAVs show "A" squadron bombed approximately 2500 feet short of MPI. Hits were in an open area with poor results.

"B" squadron bombed with approximately 40% of their pattern within 500 feet of MPI with very good results. The yard received a good concentration of hits with one probable hit and two near misses on the southern round house. There were at least 3 strings of goods wagons to be seen under the pattern and it is felt all lines in the area of the pattern received severe damage needing major repairs.

"C" squadron selected, as their MPI, the choke point on the North side of the M/Y and bombed with major portion of pattern short of MPI. Some hits were seen on the MPI. Results possibly fair.

Mission:	151		Date:	14 April 1945	No Sortie: <input type="checkbox"/>
Target:	Royan, France		Type:	Gun/Troop emplacements	
Time:	07:45	MACR:	TOG:		
Ship:	235	43-38235	R:	Fauls Donald J	
	Wild Hare II/Lucifer's Lounge		E:	Christian Marvin R	
Hardstand Nr: (* = L.W.)	30		NT/NG:		
Type:	B-17	Sqdn:	861	BT:	Galloway Newton K
AC:			WG:	Zurbuchen Fred G	
P:	REYNOLDS EARL W		TG:	Dolan James E	
CP:	FINCHER WILLIAM L		TT:		
N:	HAUSRATH LOUIS J		G:		
N2/PN:			RCM:		
NSP/MO:			F:		
B:	McCABE JAMES M		PAX1:		
B2/IB:			PAX2:		

Notes: Combat mission 151 was flown to Royan, France in support of the French ground troops. There were 31 aircraft airborne with one of these being a return early spare. 29 a/c made effective sorties and their bombing results were excellent

"A" squadron was 3rd over the target and bombed with good to very good results. There are a number of hits in the target area and hits on the assigned target point.

"B" squadron was 2nd over the target and bombed with excellent results. 92% within 500' and 100% within 1000' of the MPI.

"C" squadron bombed first with good results. The pattern was loose but the target received several good hits in the assigned aiming point.

Mission:	153		Date:	16 April 1945	No Sortie: <input type="checkbox"/>
Target:	Rochefort, France		Type:	Tank defenses	
Time:	06:55	MACR:	TOG:		
Ship:	235	43-38235	R:	Fauls Donald J	
	Wild Hare II/Lucifer's Lounge		E:	Christian Marvin R	
Hardstand Nr: (* = L.W.)	30		NT/NG:		
Type:	B-17	Sqdn:	861	BT:	Galloway Newton K
AC:			WG:	Zurbuchen Fred G	
P:	REYNOLDS EARL W		TG:	Dolan James E	
CP:	FINCHER WILLIAM L		TT:		
N:	HAUSRATH LOUIS J		G:		
N2/PN:			RCM:		
NSP/MO:			F:		
B:	McCABE JAMES M		PAX1:		
B2/IB:			PAX2:		

Notes: Combat mission 153 was flown to the Rochefort area, France, again in support of French ground troops. There were 30 a/c airborne and all of these attacked the first priority target.

SAVs show "A" and "B" squadrons bombed 1500' to 2000' short and to the right of the MPI with poor results. "C" Squadron bombed 8000 yds over the target with poor results

from photo interpretation report

"A" squadron bombed with 75% within 500' and 100% within 1000' of the MPI with very good results. One stick of bombs can be seen on the trap with numerous near misses. The general pattern was excellent and marked credit is due to the bombardier in being able to pick up this difficult target. The target was apparently selected to knock out a possible strong point in the trap.

"B" squadron bombed with approximately 10% within 500', 65% within 1000' and 100% within 2000' of the MPI with good to possibly very good results. The trap extends all the way across the peninsular, and although the pattern was just right of the MPI, it crossed a section of the trap with smoke from the lead making exact strikes unobserved.

"C" squadron bombed some 8000 yards over the target with poor results.

Lts Sharp, Wurtz and Klopp and their respective crews completed their tour

Mission:	156		Date:	19 April 1945	No Sortie: <input type="checkbox"/>
Target:	Aussig, Czechoslovakia		Type:	Marshalling yard	
Time:	08:45	MACR:	TOG:		
Ship:	226	43-38226	R: Fauls Donald J		
	Spoilt Baby/Cabin in the Sky		E: Christian Marvin R		
Hardstand Nr: (* = L.W.)	29		NT/NG:		
Type:	B-17	Sqdn:	861		
AC:					
P:	REYNOLDS EARL W				
CP:	FINCHER WILLIAM L				
N:	HAUSRATH LOUIS J				
N2/PN:					
NSP/MO:					
B:	McCABE JAMES M				
B2/IB:					
			BT: Galloway Newton K		
			WG: Zurbuchen Fred G		
			TG: Dolan James E		
			TT:		
			G:		
			RCM:		
			F:		
			PAX1:		
			PAX2:		

Notes: 30 aircraft were airborne on mission 156. of these, 28 a/c bombed the first priority target at Aussig, Czechoslovakia, dropping a total of 336 x 500 Lb G.P. Bombs. One ship was a return early spare and another aborted because of engine trouble.

SAVs show "A" and "B" squadrons bombed about 1500 - 2500 feet East of MPI with poor results. "C" squadron bombed with about 6 - 10 hits in the yard with fair results.

Mission:	F2	
Target:	Haarlem - Vogelenzang, Holland	
Time:	03:30	MACR: <input type="text"/>
Ship:	226	43-38226
	Spoilt Baby/Cabin in the Sky	
Hardstand Nr: (* = L.W.)	<input type="text" value="29"/>	
Type:	B-17	Sqdn: 861
AC:	<input type="text"/>	
P:	REYNOLDS EARL W	
CP:	FINCHER WILLIAM L	
N:	HAUSRATH LOUIS J	
N2/PN:	<input type="text"/>	
NSP/MO:	<input type="text"/>	
B:	McCABE JAMES M	
B2/IB:	<input type="text"/>	

Date:	02 May 1945	No Sortie: <input type="checkbox"/>
Type:	Food Mission (Chowhound)	
TOG:	<input type="text"/>	
R:	Fauls Donald J	
E:	Christian Marvin R	
NT/NG:	<input type="text"/>	
BT:	<input type="text"/>	
WG:	<input type="text"/>	
TG:	Dolan James E	
TT:	<input type="text"/>	
G:	<input type="text"/>	
RCM:	<input type="text"/>	
F:	Lechuga Abel	
PAX1:	<input type="text"/>	
PAX2:	<input type="text"/>	

Notes: On 2nd May the 2nd food dropping mission was flown. 40 aircraft dropped 3510 cases of 10-1 rations at Haarlem, Holland.

Mission:	F6		Date:	07 May 1945	No Sortie: <input type="checkbox"/>
Target:	Amsterdam - Schiphol, Holland		Type:	Food Mission (Chowhound)	
Time:	03:05	MACR:	TOG:		
Ship:	440/PFF	44-8440	R:		
	-----		E:		
Hardstand Nr: (* = L.W.)	06		NT/NG:		
Type:	B-17	Sqdn:	860	BT:	
AC:			WG:		
P:	REYNOLDS EARL W		TG:		
CP:			TT:		
N:			G:		
N2/PN:			RCM:		
NSP/MO:			F:		
B:			PAX1:	SAWYER LOFTON P	
B2/IB:			PAX2:		

Notes: 40 aircraft were dispatched and dropped British type rations at Amsterdam/Schipol airfield, Holland

Kenneth Harms crew - Standby crew only

Mission:

P5

Target:

Practice Mission

Time: MACR:

Ship:

470/PFF

44-8470

Hardstand Nr: (* = L.W.)

45

Type:

B-17

 Sqdn:

863

AC:

P:

REYNOLDS EARL W

CP:

N:

N2/PN:

NSP/MO:

B:

B2/IB:

Date:

21 April 1945

No Sortie: ☐

Type:

Practice mission

TOG:

R:

E:

NT/NG:

BT:

WG:

TG:

TT:

G:

RCM:

F:

PAX1:

PAX2:

Notes:

Practice Mission