

Missions flown by: -

S/Sgt Fred G Zurbuchen
Waist Gunner

86th Bomb Squadron
493rd Bombardment Group (H)



“The Fighting 493rd”

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493rd BG Researcher/Historian.
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Summary of Missions

Details of this “**Missions Flown Query**” are taken from the original documents of the 493rd BG. These are referred to as the **DS DOCS** collection

The position flown by any member of the crew is taken from the consolidated loading lists (CLL's) on occasions crew members would fly in alternative positions. In this document only the position shown on the CLL's are used.

Mission - the mission number according to the 493rd BG records **Date** – Date of mission

Target - Name of the Primary Target, or that of the target that was attacked by the Group

Type - Target type **Time** – Duration of the mission from Take-off to Landing

MACR - The missing Air Crew Report number (if appropriate)

“xfer” indicates this was the last mission of the aircraft with the 493rd BG

Ship – including short and full serial number of the aircraft, plus name (if known)

Position – the position flown in the formation. A = Lead, B= High and C = Low squadron.

Hardstand is the location of the aircraft on the ground for that mission.

* indicates the hardstand was at Little Walden (March 1945 only)

Type – type of aircraft flown B-24 Liberator or B-17 Flying Fortress

Sqdn – the squadron the aircraft was attached to

No Sortie - if the box is ticked the mission did not count toward the crews final mission count. It usually meant the crew either aborted before they reached enemy territory, or the mission was scrubbed.

AC – Command Pilot found on lead aircraft only. would occupy the co-Pilots usual seat

P – Pilot. **CP** – co-Pilot. (if Command Pilot carried, co-Pilot would fly in one of the gunners positions. Waist, Top Turret or Tail.)

N – Navigator (could also refer to dual role Navigator/Bombardier – a bombardier or a Navigator trained in both roles) **N2/PN** – 2nd Navigator or Pathfinder Navigator (carried on lead aircraft only)

NSP/MO Mickey Operator/Radar Navigator (lead Pathfinder aircraft only)

B – Bombardier **B2/IB** - 2nd Bombardier/instrument Bombardier

TOG - enlisted man trained to release the bombs, guided by the lead aircraft release.

R – Radio Operator **E** – Flight Engineer **NT/NG** – Nose Turret gunner (B-24) or Nose Gunner (B-17) if Navigator/Bombardier carried. **BT** – Ball Turret Gunner **WG** – Waist Gunner **TG** – Tail Gunner

TT – Top Turret Gunner **G** – Gunner not assigned to any specific role

RCM – Radio Counter Measures Operator (Radar Jammer)

F – Aerial Photographer **PAX1 & PAX2** passengers, specifically non combat personnel

Crew notes refer to the individual aircraft shown for that mission.

Mission Notes relate to the mission for that day.

The **MOS** (shown below) is the Military Occupation Speciality (Job description) for the subject of this document. Where the subject undergoes re-classification more than one MOS may be shown.

DS Docs

0361 45/03 16/03/1945 SO #15 assigned from 70th Repl Depot further assigned 861 BS
0384 45/03 31/03/1945 SO #30(165) promoted from Cpl to Sgt (Temp)
0876 45/04 30/04/1945 SO #113 promoted from Sgt to S/Sgt (Temp)

MOS

AIRPLANE ARMORER-GUNNER (612)

Inspects, repairs, and maintains all aircraft armament, including bomb release mechanism, airplane cannons, machine guns, auxiliary equipment, and may repair other weapons. Makes daily inspections and running repairs to equipment, such as bomb racks, bomb release mechanisms, aerial gun sights, flare racks, flare rack controls, and chemical carrying release mechanisms.

Installs armament equipment on airplanes.

Fuzes and places bombs in bomb racks; disassembles guns and inspects them for worn 1 , broken, or defective parts.

Makes necessary replacements or repairs and reassembles weapons after thoroughly cleaning and oiling their working parts.

Mans a machine gun position if combat occurs during flight.

Mission:	141			Date:	30 March 1945	No Sortie: <input type="checkbox"/>
Target:	Hamburg, Germany			Type:	Oil refinery	
Time:	06:50	MACR:		TOG:		
Ship:	629	J	43-38629	R:	Fauls Donald J	
	-----			E:	Christian Marvin R	
position:	B#05	H/stand (* = 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:		

Crew	
Notes	

Mission details

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	E	43-38239	R:	Fauls Donald J	
	The Spoiled Baby			E:	Christian Marvin R	
position:	C#06	H/stand (* = 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:		

Crew	
Notes	

Mission details

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:	145			Date:	05 April 1945	No Sortie: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Target:	Unterschlaubach, Germany			Type:	Airfield	
Time:	07:50	MACR:		TOG:		
Ship:	235	R	43-38235	R:	Fauls Donald J	
	Wild Hare II/Lucifer's Lounge			E:	Christian Marvin R	
position:	B#09	H/stand (* = 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:		

Crew	NTO replaced by MILLER crew
Notes	

Mission details

The primary target for mission 145 was the airfield at Unterschlaubach, Germany. 30 a/c were airborne - 3 of these were return early spares. Because of cloud cover, only the low "C" squadron was able to bomb the first priority target. The turn at the I/P was assisted by M/Os, (Mickey Operators) who lined the formation up at the target. SAV's showed poor results. The lead "A" squadron bombed the Marshalling Yard at Furth visually through an error in identification. Again SAV's show poor results

While the high "B" squadron bombed the second priority target, the Railroad Station/Marshalling yard at Nurnberg, again visually. SAVs show the impact starting short and walking directly across the MPI with very good 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:	150		Date:	11 April 1945	No Sortie: <input type="checkbox"/>
Target:	Ingolstadt, Germany		Type:	Marshalling yard	
Time:	08:00	MACR:	TOG:		
Ship:	235	R	43-38235		
	Wild Hare II/Lucifer's Lounge				
position:	A#03	H/stand (* = L.W.)	30		
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:					
			R:	Fauls Donald J	
			E:	Christian Marvin R	
			NT/NG:		
			BT:	Galloway Newton K	
			WG:	Zurbuchen Fred G	
			TG:	Dolan James E	
			TT:		
			G:		
			RCM:		
			F:		
			PAX1:		
			PAX2:		

Crew	
Notes	

Mission details

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	R	43-38235	R:	Fauls Donald J	
	Wild Hare II/Lucifer's Lounge			E:	Christian Marvin R	
position:	C#05	H/stand (* = 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:		

Crew	
Notes	

Mission details

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	R	43-38235		
	Wild Hare II/Lucifer's Lounge				
position:	A#03	H/stand (* = L.W.)	30		
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:					
			NT/NG:		
			BT:	Galloway Newton K	
			WG:	Zurbuchen Fred G	
			TG:	Dolan James E	
			TT:		
			G:		
			RCM:		
			F:		
			PAX1:		
			PAX2:		

Crew	
Notes	

Mission details

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	L	43-38226	R:	Fauls Donald J	
	Spoilt Baby/Cabin in the Sky			E:	Christian Marvin R	
position:	B#04	H/stand (* = L.W.)	29	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:		

Crew	
Notes	

Mission details

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.