

OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER  
STATION 128 - APO 634

D-G-3

4 March, 1944.

SUBJECT: Crew Comments and Suggestions - Mission 4 March 1944.

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, 401st Bombardment Group (H), APO 634.  
(Through Lt. Col. Brooks and Lt. Col. Voorhees.)

1. Lt. Alvah H. Chapman Jr. (pilot) and Capt. William C. Garland (co-pilot) A/C 1511, unite in saying that proper maintenance and adjustment of AFCE can never be secured at this base.

2. Capt. Leon Stamm, pilot, A/C 1485, requests that better urination facilities be provided. S/Sgt. John C. Jack (BTG), stated that all EM on this crew missed the briefing because facilities for serving breakfast in the combat mess were very poor.

3. Capt. George (NMI) Gould (pilot), A/C 9873, was pleased with truck service from dispersal area. This A/C fell in with Glatton and eventually went over the target area with the third division. Capt. Gould felt that the Glatton group should have been able to find the 94th Combat Wing.

4. Supplementing par. 2 above a number of additional Enlisted Combat Personnel missed the briefing because of the mess hall situation.  
rooms

5. Lt. Busse (bombardier), A/C 1038, stated that dressing/provided for 612th & 613th Squadrons have been locked for three consecutive days and crews have had to dress in the halls. This crew feels that there should be more than one man in the drying room, and agree that Cpl. Hettich does an excellent job in the equipment room.

6. Lt. Edwin A. Post (pilot), A/C 7496, praised Lt. Charles R. Vickrey and S/Sgt. Joseph C. Exnowski for their bravery in kicking out twelve bombs which failed to salvo. Lt. Post also felt that there was too much talking over the VHF at bombs away, and stated that every one in the formation was calling the leader to verify whether or not to bomb; for this reason, had he had any message to send, the leader would have been unable to do so.

7. Lt. Henry H. Briarton (bombardier) A/C 9662, says there is not enough electrical equipment to go around and complains of sizes issued.

8. S/Sgt. Edward (NMI) Wallach, (ROG), A/C 8136, complains that guns in radio hatch are too heavy for him to handle and suggests installation of a counter-balance. He also needs rubber cups for head sets.

9. Lt. Sandy Lew (pilot), A/C 3507, complimented the entire ground crew, both A.M.'s and Armament for efficient work; incidentally, the truck driver assigned to this crew disappeared this morning and Lt. Lew had to drive the truck.

10. Some crew members felt that information dispensed by weather at the morning briefing was inaccurate. Lt. Herbert L. Hobbs, (navigator), A/C 1037, feels navigators should be briefed on weather together with the pilot.

11. Lt. Wallace R. Smith, (pilot), A/C 1315, says oxygen supply was too low; he also suggests that crew chiefs should make an especial effort that portable bottles are filled. Lt. James G. Levey, (bombardier), A/C 1315, says that it is almost impossible to extract safety wires from incendiary bombs.

12. Lt. Boudinot Stinson (pilot), A/C 7440, asks "where was the 457th group?".

13. Some pilots seem to think the leader of the composite box flew too fast, and criticised the formation flown by this box.

14. A number of crew members joined in complaining about the breakfast served by the combat mess. There were also additional complaints concerning insufficient personnel in the drying room and the lack of sufficient heated equipment.

*W. B. Fry*

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Major, A. C.,  
S-2 Officer.

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*W. B. Fry*

W. B. FRY,  
Major, A. C.,  
S-2 Officer.

HEADQUARTERS  
STATION NO. 128  
APO 634

4 March, 1944

**SUBJECT:** B-4 Combat Mission Report on Mission 4 March, 1944.  
**TO :** Commanding Officer, 1st Bombardment Division, APO 634.

1. The following Engineering failures were reported with the number of cases in parenthesis:

Engine Oil Leaks (1) Heater Inoperative (1)  
Oxygen Regulators Out (4) Tachometer Out (1)  
Carburetor Temperature Gauge Out (1)  
Runaway Propeller Governor (1)

2. The following Armament failures were reported with the number of cases in parenthesis:

Ball Turret Inoperative in Azimuth (1)  
Leaking Hydraulic System in Chin Turret (1)  
Ball Turret Inoperative in Azimuth and Elevation (1)  
Chin Turret Inoperative in Azimuth and Elevation (1)  
Bent Lock Salvo Bar (1) Faulty Bomb Racks (2)

3. The following failures other than Engineering and Armament were reported with the number of cases in parenthesis:

None Reported.

CHARLES W. HUNT  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Group Engineering Officer

HEADQUARTERS  
401ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
Office of the Engineering Officer  
Station 128

A.P.O. 834  
4 March, 1944

**SUBJECT: Mission Summary Report**

**TO : Group Operations, Station 128, APO 834.**

**1. Abortives.**

**a. 42-31508 - Returned early because bombardier found loose fuses in incendiary bombs being carried. Bombs were dropped before aircraft returned to base. Fuses were checked prior to takeoff by Base Chemical Section but were not checked by the bombardier.**

**b. 42-37843 - Returned early because of a blown # 3 cylinder on # 1 engine. Pilot reports that # 1 supercharger ran away and before the engine could be throttled back manifold pressure exceeded 60" Hg causing cylinder to give way.**

**c. 42-31619 - Returned early because the # 3 engine was running rough. The cylinder head temperature was 250 degrees, oil temperature 90 degrees and oil pressure slightly low. A ground check of the engine revealed no defects. A crew was not available for a high altitude check flight.**

**d. 42-38026 - Returned early due to a loss of oxygen pressure. Ground check revealed a leak in an oxygen line.**

**e. 42-31891 - Returned early due to loss of oxygen in right waist system. System was filled on the ground and revealed no leaks.**

**f. 42-31116 Returned early due to internal failure of # 2 engine.**

**g. 42-39837 - Returned early because pilot could not keep in formation due to erratic action of # 3 supercharger. A ground check revealed no malfunction.**

**2. Battle Damage.**

**a. 42-97440 - Two flak holes in bottom of right horizontal stabilizer; Small flak hole in bottom of right elevator; Small flak hole in bottom of left horizontal stabilizer; Small flak hole through left wing, inner panel; Small flak hole in bottom of right wing, damaging # 4 fuel tank; 3" flak hole in bottom and out top of fuselage, near nose; Small flak hole through bottom of # 3 ring cowl, cracking oil pump.**

**b. 42-31315 - Small flak hole in # 2 oil cooler; Small flak hole through leading edge of left wing; 2" rip in top of left aileron, by flak; Small flak hole in top left side of fuselage, near station 8.**

**c. 42-39846 - 3" flak hole in Plexiglass Nose Section; Small flak hole in plexiglass of Ball Turret.**

**SUBJECT: Mission Summary Report (continued)**

**d. 42-39847 - Small flak hole in left side of fuselage, between stations 4 and 5; Small flak hole in left side of vertical stabilizer.**

**e. 42-31485 - Small flak hole in plexiglass of upper turret; 2" flak hole in bottom of left wing, outer panel.**

**f. 42-97496 - 3" flak hole in right side of fuselage, above leading edge of horizontal stabilizer; 3" flak hole in top of # 3 nacelle fairing.**

**g. 42-31091 - 2" flak hole through right elevator trim tab; Small flak hole in right side of dorsal fin; Small flak hole through fuselage, near station 7; 3" flak hole in right side of fuselage, near station 9; 2" flak hole in top of right wing, right of # 4 nacelle.**

**h. 42-31037 - Several small flak holes in bottom of wings and horizontal stabilizer; Flak hole through Bomb Bay Door, cutting conduit in Bomb Bay.**

<u>TOTAL NO. OF A/C</u>	<u>MAJOR DAMAGE</u>	<u>MINOR DAMAGE</u>	<u>BY FLAK</u>
8	0	8	8

**CHARLES W. HUNT  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Group Engineering Officer**

HEADQUARTERS  
401ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
STATION 128

A.P.O. 634  
4 March, 1944

**SUBJECT:** Armament Narrative, Mission No. 31, 4 March, 1944  
**TO :** Commanding Officer, 401st Bombardment Group (H),  
APO 634, U.S. Army.

1. The following Armament malfunctions were reported at the conclusion of the mission of 4 March, 1944.

<u>A/C No.</u>	<u>GUN POSITION</u>	<u>MALFUNCTION</u>	<u>PERSONNEL OR EQUIPMENT</u>
42-31091	Ball Turret	Failed in Azimuth	Equipment
42-31662	Chin Turret	Hydraulic System Leaks	Equipment
42-39820	Ball Turret	Inoperative in Azimuth and in elevation	Equipment
42-97496	Chin Turret	Failed in Azimuth and in elevation	Equipment

BOMB RACK MALFUNCTIONS

a. 42-31730 - Bombs toggled from left rack, salvoed right rack. Ground check revealed Lock Salvo Bar to be bent.

b. 42-97496 - Upper seven stations failed to toggle, Bomb Bay Doors frozen and emergency release failed in flight. Ground check revealed no malfunction.

c. 42-39820 - Bomb rack malfunctions reported in general. Bomb racks checked out on ground and found satisfactory.

SAM P BROOMHALL JR.  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Group Armament Officer