

9th May 1944

Lancaster LM388 Target **Mardyck** - coastal gun batteries. Up 2250h Down 0115h. Bombed from 12,000ft at 0011h. 8 concentrated Red Target Indicators - bombing concentrated

All aircraft took off successfully, attacked the primary target and returned to base. The operation was carried out in good weather conditions, nil cloud, good visibility. Opposition from ground consisted of slight, heavy flak, accurate for height, but no light flak or searchlights were seen. There was no evidence of fighter opposition. TI markers well placed.

11th May 1944

Lancaster LM388 Target **Hasselt**, Belgium - Railway yards. Up 2210h Down 0125h Bombed on cluster of yellow flares on built up area and railway lines. Master of Ceremonies not heard owing to continuous interference of news in English on same frequency.

Attacked the marshalling yards at Hasselt. On reaching the target area, difficulty was experienced in identifying the target and very few Path Finder Flares were seen. Instructions were received by master of ceremonies not to bomb and aircraft brought bombs back to base. 4 aircraft did not receive this instruction and bombed on yellow flares. One aircraft flown by P/O Clarke & crew failed to return. Opposition from enemy defences was on a moderate scale and only 4 crews reported sighting an enemy fighter. 5 aircraft were seen to go down in flames.

19th May 1944

Target **Orleans** - railway yards. Up 2215h Down 0310h bombed at 0044h from 10,000ft between two yellow TI's about 100 yards apart. Bombing well concentrated across markers.

Attacked marshalling yards Orleans. All aircraft took off in less than 20mins. Weather not good, a fair amount of low cloud. PFF markers placed on time. Master of ceremonies distinctly heard giving instructions to bomb. Opposition at enemy defences was only slight, though there was activity of enemy night fighters. One of our aircraft flown by P/O Boothroyd & crew failed to return. From observations of other crews there would be little doubt that they were shot down by a fighter in the vicinity of Paris on their way to the target. The remaining aircraft all bombed the primary target. Crews reported bombs were seen bursting across flares and many large explosions seen. On return the aircraft had to be diverted to an American station returning to base later in the day.

21st May 1944

Lancaster LL916 Target **Duisburg**. First large attack for a year on this city. Up 2230h Down 0305h Bomb load 1x 4000lb HE 204 x 30lb incendiaries. Bombed at 0114h from 20,000ft on 1 release point flare. PFF very scanty. Incendiaries seen through occasional breaks in the clouds.

The route and target area covered 10/10 cloud and navigation was rendered difficult owing to strong winds. 2 aircraft flown by F/Sgt Wanklin & crew and P/O Reilly & crew failed to return. PFF markings were scanty and rather late. Opposition consisted of moderate heavy flak with fairly active night fighter's interception. 12 enemy aircraft were sighted and 11 of our aircraft were seen to be shot down in flames. Results of raid difficult to assess owing to cloud.

22nd May 1944

Lancaster LL916 Target **Dortmund** Up 2225h Down 0250h Bombed at 0047h from 21,000ft on a concentration of red and green TI's burning on the ground. Fires going well around markers and attack seemed very successful.

Good weather conditions. F/O Shepherd & crew and F/Sgt Moncrief & crew failed to return. PFF markings described as excellent and the target area was clear. Searchlights were numerous and heavy flak encountered, although it was not as intense as expected on a Ruhr target. 9 sightings of enemy fighters reported. One of our aircraft was hit by falling incendiaries causing damage to starboard aileron and a fire in the rear turret, which was extinguished by the Rear Gunner and Wireless Op. The Wireless Op momentarily lost consciousness but was revived by the Rear gunner. The target area was described as one mass of fires and all crews were enthusiastic about the success of the operation

24th May 1944

Lancaster LL916 Target **Aachen** railway yards. Up 2350h Down 0450h bombed at 0229h from 22000 ft on centre of red and green Tl's. PFF markers well concentrated and 1 fire burning.

Three aircraft abandoned the mission owing to lack of oxygen supply to the rear turret and the others to engine failure. Weather fair and good visibility. Opposition from ground consisted of moderate, heavy flak. 6 sightings of enemy aircraft reported one of which ?? into a combat with unobserved results. 8 aircraft were seen to be shot down in flames

27th May 1944

They took off at 2305h - failed to return. Nothing heard after take-off. They were on their way to bomb the Rothe Erde Railway Yards at Aachen. 162 Lancasters across several squadrons took part in the raid and 12 were lost. 166 squadron also lost the Lancaster flown by Pilot Officer Snell & crew.

"Good weather. The target was free from cloud. 2 aircraft flown by Warrant Officer Mander & crew and P/O Snell & crew failed to return. Opposition from enemy defences fairly intense and considerable enemy fighter activity. 9 sightings of enemy aircraft reported - two developed into combats"

Researched by Dorothy Ramser