

Operational Debriefs:

7/8-1-45. MUNICH

ME 353 Fricker H.E, Sgt Reynolds J.R, Sgt Diggins R.D. Sgt Mainwaring
R.T Sgt Hepworth A, Sgt Crutchfield M, Sgt Hornigold W.
1652-0209hrs.

Full load returned due to order from Controller to cease bombing. We made a supporting run and there was no marking visible at 2026hrs. At 2049hrs Controller ordered cease bombing if not in target area and return home according to plan.

13/14-1-45. POLITZ. Synthetic Oil Plant

PB 797 Fricker, Reynolds, Diggins, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
1624-0320hrs.

Bombed from 16000 ft at 2233hrs. Much smoke on target, black heavy smoke as of oil burning when a/c left the target area. One large explosion seen at 2230hrs which lit up the sky for at least 2 minutes. Successful. Landed at Grimsby.

16/17-1-45. BRUX. (Western Czechoslovakia)

PB 791 Fricker, Reynolds, Diggins, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
1753-0326hrs.

Bombed from 16700 ft at 2042hrs. Black smoke rising above cloud at 2041.
Told by Master Bomber to bomb G.T.I direct - no overshoot. Large fires seen at Leitz(?).

1-2-45. SIEGEN.

PB 844 Fricker A428305, Reynolds, Diggins, Mainwaring A426635, Hepworth,
Crutchfield, Hornigold.
1619-2257.

Bombed from 9500 ft at 1922hrs. Mass of burning incendiaries below cloud.

7/8-2-45. LADBERGEN

PB 349 Fricker, Reynolds, Diggins, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
2105-0322.

Bombed from 12000 ft at 0001. No results seen.

8/9-2-45. POLITZ.

ME 322 Fricker, Reynolds, Diggins, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
1656-0249.

Bombed from 9000 ft at 2125. Target obscured by black smoke with a large red glow of fire.
Attack was a success.

23/24-2-45. HORTEN.

ME 471 Fricker, Reynolds, Diggins, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
1724-0036.

Bombed from 10020 ft at 2047. Bombing well concentrated. Good fires.
Smoke covered target area. Successful.

3/4-3-45. LADBERGEN.

PB 791 Fricker, Reynolds, Diggens, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
1828-0002.

Bombed from 9600 ft at 2201. No results seen due to cloud. Successful.

6/7-3-45. SASSNITZ.

PB 907 Fricker, Reynolds, Diggens, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
1819-0410.

Bombed at 9800 ft at 2309. Bombs seen bursting in dock area.

7/8-3-45. HARBURG.

PB 484 Fricker, Reynolds, Diggens, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
1746-0104.

Bombed from 11050 at 2159. Marking was really good. Attack concentrated. Many explosions from 2158-2208. Target clearly seen successful.

12-3-45 DORTMUND.

SW 256 Fricker, Reynolds, Diggens, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
1341-1903.

Bombed from 15500 ft at 1658. Mushroom of smoke seen ascending through cloud. Sheet of flame shot up through cloud at 1651. Thought to be a good raid.

14-3-45. LUTZKENDORF. (Wintershall synthetic oil plant)

PB 433 Fricker, Reynolds, Diggens, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
1717-0246.

Bombed from 8200 ft at 2206. Glow of red T.I's through smoke. Bombing appeared to be well round glow of red T.I's. Heavy black smoke over area of 4-5000ft. No fires seen. Successful. Landed at Wyton.

16/17-3-45. WURZBURG.

PB 433 Fricker, Reynolds, Diggens, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
1805-0153.

Bombed from 9600 ft at 2136. River seen and T.I's seemed accurate.

Bombed in early part of the attack, only a few sticks had fallen. Successful.

20/21-3-45. BOHLEN.

PB 433 Fricker, Reynolds, Diggens, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
2327-0749.

Bombed from 15500 ft at 03471/2. Bombing well concentrated around T.I's.

A few fires and heavy smoke from target area. Master bomber uncertain as to accuracy of markers. Successful sortie.

22-3-45. HAMBURG.

PB 433 Fricker, Reynolds, Diggens, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
0117-0708.

Bombed from 15400 ft at 0409. Ground detail seen on supporting run but not on bombing run. Big orange explosion at 0410 lasting some few seconds.

23/24-3-45. WESEL.

PB 433 Fricker, Reynolds, Higgins, Mainwaring, Hepworth, Crutchfield, Hornigold.
1920-0143.

Did not drop bombs. 1 minute from target 3 a/c were seen 500 ft above
bb starboard beam and close quarter, closing in to directly above. I commenced a slight turn
to port and thus failed to get R.T.I's in the bomb sight graticule. So bomb aimer did not
release bombs.

1-5-45. The posted strength of the Squadron is:- 101 Officers & 191 Other Ranks.

On Charge:- Lancasters Mark I - 3. Lancasters Mark III - 18.

10 a/c ready for ops:

1432-1445 - 10 airborne.

2035-2102 10 landed at base.

Extract:- The Squadron was detailed to take part in operation "Exodus" - the
repatriation of P.O.Ws from Germany. 10 a/c were detailed:-

"Q" W/C Botting.

"B" S/L Walker.

"A" F/O MacAulay.

"G" F/O Branch.

"H" F/L Mellor.

"K" F/O Fricker.

"N" F.L Wright.

"O" F/L Bromfield.

"U" F/O Mersey.

"P" F/O Binns.

The first a/c took off at 1432 and landed at Juvincourt.

236 Ex P.O.Ws were landed at Westcott. The a/c all returned to base, the last one landing at
2102.

Syerston Movement Order:

Mentioned in move to Syerston, May 1945 – billeted in Block 3; room 3 (with 17 other
airmen which included his crew mates).
