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HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

<u>FIELD ORDER NO.</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>DATE</u>
501	BRUNSWICK	15 MARCH 1944

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2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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: 2d Bomb Div :
: Initials :
: Date :
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2 April 1944

SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, 15 March 1944.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, AAF 101, APO 634.

1. Data.

- a. Date of Mission - 15 March 1944
- b. Primary Target - Mulenbau-V. Industrie AG - Brunswick, Germany.
- c. Secondary Target - Brunswick, Germany - Center of City.
- d. Last Resort Target - None.
- e. Units Participating - 2nd CBW (445th, 389th, 453rd BG)
14th CBW (392nd, 44th BG)
96th CBW (458th BG)

2. Narrative.

a. This was planned as a visual mission against Mulenbau-V. Industrie AG at Brunswick with the city of Brunswick as the PFF target. 154 aircraft of six Groups were dispatched with five Groups of P-47's and one Group of P-38's giving excellent support.

b. Assemblies were accomplished without incident and the route to the target was flown as briefed with the exception that it was necessary to make a series of wide swings just prior to the IP to maintain proper interval with preceding B-17 formations. The special equipment of the Pathfinder, leading the Division, became U/S on the bomb-run, and the leader of the Wing elected to make a 180° turn to the left and the target was bombed on the second run. The 14th Wing, flying in trail, dropped on its Pathfinders, while the 2nd Wing was maneuvering for another bomb-run, turned right after target as briefed and flew an interception course to the 2nd Wing, falling in trail enroute to base.

c. The target area was overcast and bombs were dropped on PFF with unobserved results.

d. A fixed barrage was encountered over the target on the general axis of attack with no apparent attempt to change it when the 2nd Wing made the second run from a different direction. Gunfire was encountered at numerous points enroute. Weak enemy fighter defense was encountered with eight FW 190's attacking one Wing but being driven off by P-47's almost immediately. Two aircraft were lost, one to enemy aircraft and one to an unknown cause. There were no claims.

For the Commanding General:

Charles B. Westover
CHARLES B. WESTOVER
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

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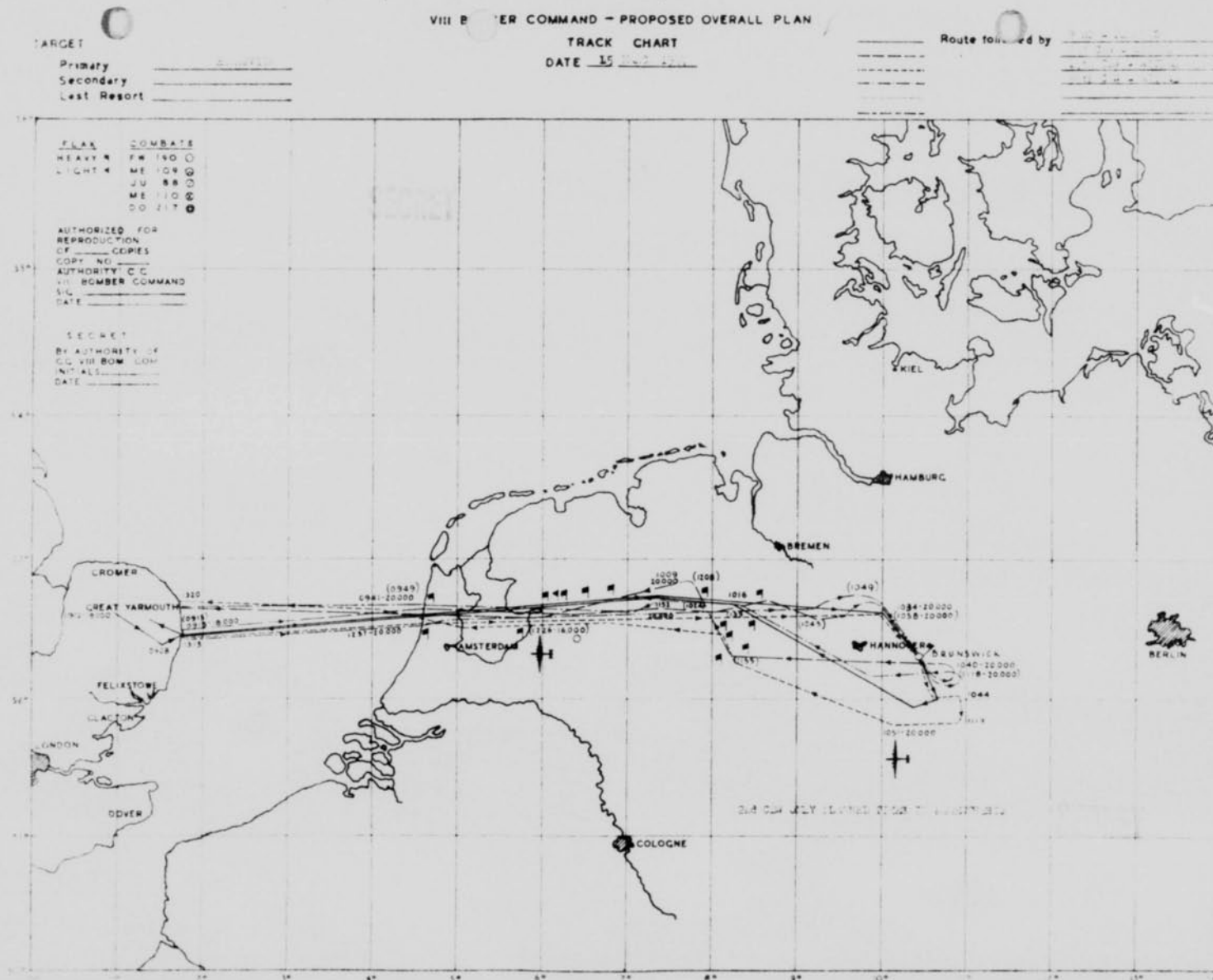
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Tactical Report of Mission, 15 March 1944

2. Bombing.a. Data.

GROUP	DIRECTION OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	VIEW AUTO PILOT	PLEW MANUAL	METHOD OF SIGHTING	NO. A/C BOMBED
				BRUNSWICK				
445th	305°	6 min	20,000 ft	1118	Yes		Sighted for range and deflection with PFF. Dropped on second run.	22
389th	158°		21,000 ft	1105	Yes		No sighting. Dropped on B-17 smoke markers on 1st run.	25
450th	162°		19,000 ft	1107		Yes	No sighting. Dropped on B-17 smoke markers on 1st run.	23
392nd	165°	4 min	20,000 ft	1108		Yes	Sighted for range and deflection with PFF.	22
458th	152°		21,200 ft	1109		Yes	Dropped on PFF A/C of 392nd Gp.	25
441st	170°		19,300 ft	1109	Yes		Dropped on PFF A/C of 392nd Gp.	24

- b. This mission was carried out as briefed with Brunswick being attacked through cloud cover by special equipment.
- c. Two Combat Wings were assigned and bombed the target area. One A/C dropped its bombs on Hildesheim as a target of opportunity. Two other A/C each bombed at 5237-0840 and 5237-0903.
- d. Three A/C failed to bomb due to mechanical difficulties.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 15 March 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. (1) A fixed barrage was fired over the target area which did not trouble the Groups in the 2nd Wing, but was reasonably well placed for the 14th Wing. This barrage appears to have been 3000 to 4000 ft in depth. A few rockets were seen over the target area leaving zigzag smoke trails and small white objects were seen falling from some of the AA fire bursts which were suspected of being small parachutes. A few red bursts were also seen which seemed to have no connection with enemy fighters.
- (2) Intense and accurate predictor control "seen" fire was encountered at Rheine A/F and Quackenbruck and an accurate "unseen" predicted concentration was encountered at Dummer Lake.
- (3) Gunfire was also encountered on route at Vechta, Hesepe, Diepholz, Zwolle, Egmond, IJmuiden, Meppen, Vorden, Minden and Bramsche. Crews reported that AA fire was continuous between Osnabruck and Dummer Lake.
- (4) Intense Automatic Weapons fire was encountered at Meppen which was self-destroying at 12000 to 14,000 ft. several thousand feet beneath our Groups.
- b. Phenomena.
 - (1) In the target area ten rocket like objects were seen which spiralled downwards leaving red trails of smoke.
 - (2) In the Dummer Lake area bursts were seen which resembled spinning catherine wheels trailing smoke.
- c. Anti-Aircraft Officer's Comment.
 - (1) "Chaff" appears to have been successful in confusing the enemy defences at the target, no attempt at predictor control fire being made. The fixed barrage was put up across the general axis of attack, and no attempt seems to have been made to combat the Groups of the 2nd Wing which attacked from a different direction.

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4. Enemy Aircraft Encounters.

- a. No E/A encounters were reported by the 2nd CBW, although the lead Group estimated about 15 Me 109's and 5 FW 190's in the area between Quackenbruck and Zuider Zee. No colorings or tactics were noted as fighter cover kept them away from the formation. About 8 FW 190's, all black in color, were seen in and around the target area but no attacks were made.
- b. The lead Group of the 14th CBW reported one Swoop attack through their formation by about 6 or 8 FW 190's and Me 109's who apparently continued their dive, using the contrails of this Group as cover and attacking the Group flying in the low left position of the CBW. The dive continued through this Group, passing over the first section, attacking the second section and making a sharp 180 degree left turn to attack the trail plane flying in #4 position in 2nd section. This plane was lost by this attack at approximately 1240 just north of the vicinity of Zwolle. The FW's had long yellow noses. No other attacks were reported. Fighter support was excellent.

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5. Communications.

a. Communication Channels.

- (1) Weather report messages were received clear and accurate except No. 4 which required repeat. Eight control point messages and six bomb strike messages were received on W/T. One control point message was received on VHF. Communication on W/T and VHF R/T was generally satisfactory.

b. Navigational Aids.

- (1) Fifteen aircraft obtained 21 QDMs. One aircraft of 458th BG received 8 fixes from Section G. Two aircraft of 453rd BG obtained fixes and one aircraft of 44th BG was unsuccessful in getting a fix or response from MF D/F section G. GEE operated satisfactorily.

c. Equipment Failures and Performance.

- (1) Equipment failures were few and of a minor nature.

d. Radar and Radio Countermeasures.

- (1) "Window" was dispersed by lead Combat Wing and 392nd BG of second CBW. 392nd BG reported flak inaccurate on bomb run and over target with flak still bursting around chaff in target area after all planes had left.

e. Pathfinder Equipment and Performance.

- (1) Two PFF aircraft from 814th Sq flew with each of two Groups, the 445th BG and 392nd BG.

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FORM 2-11		---2nd CBW---				---14th CBW---		---20th CBW---	
UNIT		2d BD	389th	445th	453rd	44th	392nd	458th	
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	163	27	26	26	27	26	31	
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	154	26	23	23	26	26	30	
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	144	25	22	23	24	24	26	
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	19	2	4	3	3	2	5	
	NO. A/C SORTIES	147	25	22	23	24	26	27	
B O M B S	P R I M A R Y	NO. A/C	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		NO. & TYPE	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		TONNAGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	O T T A R G E T S	TARGET	-	ST-Brunswick	ST-Brunswick	ST-Brunswick	ST-Brunswick	TO- A&B TO-Hildesheim	
		NO. OF A/C	144	25	22	23	24	TO-2 A/C ST-22 A/C	TO- 1 A/C ST-25 A/C
		NO. & TYPE	1715x100GP 5732x100IB	294x100GP 976x100IB	264x100GP 880x100IB	276x100GP 920x100IB	281x100GP 956x100IB	288x100GP 960x100IB	312x100GP 1040x100IB
		TONNAGE	372.4	63.5	57.2	59.8	61.9	62.4	67.6
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS		372.4	63.5	57.2	59.8	61.9	62.4	67.6
	B A T T L E R E S U L T S	A/C LOST TO FLAK	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		A/C LOST TO E/A	1	-	-	-	1	-	
		A/C LOST TO FLAK-E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		A/C LOST UNKNOWN	1	-	-	-	-	-	
		CASUALTIES - KILLED, WOUNDED, SER., SLT., MIA	0-0-0--20	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-10	0-0-0-10	0-0-0-0
		CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM	0-0-0-1	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-1	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE CAT. A-B-E		11-6-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	7-2-0-0	0-0-0-0	4-2-0-0	0-2-0-0

TACTICAL COMMANDER'S REPORT
6. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
15 March 1944

INSPECTED BY
SERVING DIVISION
2d BOMB DIVISION

TO- A 52° 37'N - 08°40'E

TO-B 52° 37'N-09°03'E

CRAGUN K 352	KECK K 671	ROBESON H 705	SPAVEN P 733	HOGG - WEBER B 365	BUSH-FREEMAN D 812	NYMAN O 455	MCCULLOUGH P 302	SCHAAF L 329
				ALVESTAD Q 273	SHAW L 721	GRANT J 382	GAINES B 735	SULLICK Q 454
			DAVIDSON O 392				TAYLOR M 718	
				MONSON-PIERCE A 362	WHITLOW-OLLOM D 425			
SCHULZE R 335	BAUDOS M 678	LOGIE P 432	BRAUER I 682	PETERS F 331	GOLDWITH O 738	WOODWARD A 497	COUCH J 353	
			MELTON Q 719	DUNLEVIE J 359		VOGEL S 342		
					JAITER N 305		HANNAMAN I 441	
						STILLSON Q 404		

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458th Pilot List

DATE	TARGET	PILOT	458th Msn #	Pilot Msn#	Cmd / Inst Pilot	LD	Serial	Last 3	RCL	Sqdn	A/C Msn#	A/C Name	Notes
11-Mar-44	Non-Operational Mission	Lamb	--	ACC			42-100341	341	A	J4	--	Satans's Mate	Ground Accident Sta 123
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	ALVESTAD	7	3			41-29273	273	Q	J4	5	FLAK MAGNET	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	BRAUER	7	5			41-28682	682	I	Z5	7	UNKNOWN 003	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	BRUDOS	7	5			41-28678	678	M	J3	5	UNKNOWN 002	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	BUSH	7	3	FREEMAN	D1	42-109812	812	D	7V	3	UNKNOWN 016	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	COUCH	7	1			42-52353	353	J	Z5	6	UNKNOWN 049	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	CRAGUN	7	3			41-29352	352	K	7V	3	WOLVE'S LAIR	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	DAVIDSON	7	4			42-52392	392	O	J4	2	WABBIT TWACKS	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	DUNLEVIE	7	3			41-29359	359	J	J3	3	TAIL WIND	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	GAINES	7	3			41-28735	735	S	J4	2	UNKNOWN 005	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	GOLDSMITH	7	3			41-28738	738	O	Z5	1	MEAT AROUND THE CORNER	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	GRANT	7	5			42-52382	382	J	7V	5	WURF'LESS	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	GULICK	7	2			42-52457	457	Q	7V	2	FINAL APPROACH	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	HANNAMAN	7	1			42-52441	441	I	J3	5	LAST CARD LOUIE	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	KECK	7	4			41-28671	671	K	J4	5	UNKNOWN 001	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	LOGIE	7	4			42-52432	432	P	J3	5	BACHELOR'S PARADISE	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	McCOLLOUGH	7	1			41-29302	302	P	7V	4	NOKKISH	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	MELTON	7	4			41-28719	719	Q	J3	5	PADDLEFOOT	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	NYMAN	7	4			42-52455	455	O	7V	2	PLUTOCRAT	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	PETERS	7	4			41-29331	331	F	J3	4	BLONDIE'S FOLLY	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	PIERCE	7	5	HENSON	L2	42-100362	362	A	Z5	5	SWEET LORRAINE/BOOMERANG	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	RAITER	7	5			41-29305	305	N	Z5	2	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	ROBESON	7	4			41-28705	705	H	J4	6	YE OLDE HELLGATE	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	SCHAAF	7	4			41-29329	329	L	7V	4	FRITZI	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	SCHULZE	7	5			42-52335	335	R	Z5	6	ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	SHAW, C	7	4			41-28721	721	L	J4	3	DOWNWIND LEG	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	SPAVEN	7	3			41-28733	733	P	J4	2	RHAPSODY IN JUNK	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	STILSON	7	3			42-52404	404	Q	Z5	2	BELLE OF BOSTON	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	TAYLOR, O	7	4			41-28718	718	M	7V	7	BO	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	VOGEL	7	3			41-29342	342	S	J3	3	ROUGH RIDERS	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	WEBER	7	3	HOGG	L1	42-100365	365	B	7V	5	WOLFGANG (maybe)	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	WHITLOW	7	4	OLLUM	D2	42-100425	425	D	J3	2	THE BIRD	
15-Mar-44	BRUNSWICK	WOODWARD	7	1			42-100407	407	A	J3	1	LITTLE LAMBSY DIVEY	