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HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

| <u>FIELD ORDER NO.</u> | <u>TARGET</u> | <u>DATE</u> |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 514 | WATTEN | 21 MARCH 1944 |

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2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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DOD OR 51009, 27 Sep 58

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S E C R E THEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AAF 147 APO 558: : : : : : : :
: S E C R E T :
: By Auth of CG :
: 2d Bomb Div :
: Initials *[initials]* :
: Date *13 Apr 44* :
: : : : : : : :

5 April 1944

SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, 21 March 1944.

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

1. Data.

- a. Date of Mission - 21 March 1944
- b. Primary Target - Watten - Noball Installation
- c. Secondary Target - None
- d. Last Resort Target - None
- e. Units Participating - 14th CBW (392nd, 44th BG)
96th CBW (458th BG)

2. Narrative.

a. Two Groups of the 14th Combat Wing and one Group of the 96th Combat Wing attacked the military installation at Watten using G-H overcast bombing technique. Sixty-five aircraft were dispatched with two Groups of P-47's furnishing fighter escort. One G-H aircraft was assigned to each of the five sections participating.

b. Assembly was accomplished without difficulty and the route to the target was flown as briefed.

c. Bombing was done on special equipment as there was a cloud cover of from 8/10 to 10/10. Runs were good but results were unobserved. One aircraft of one section accidentally released its bombs after reaching the IP and seven other ships dropped on his release.

d. AA fire was reported as moderate and accurate to inaccurate. No enemy fighters were seen and there were no losses.

For the Commanding General:

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

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TARGET

Primary NOBALL NO. 1
 Secondary
 Last Resort

Date 21 MARCH 1944

TRACK CHART

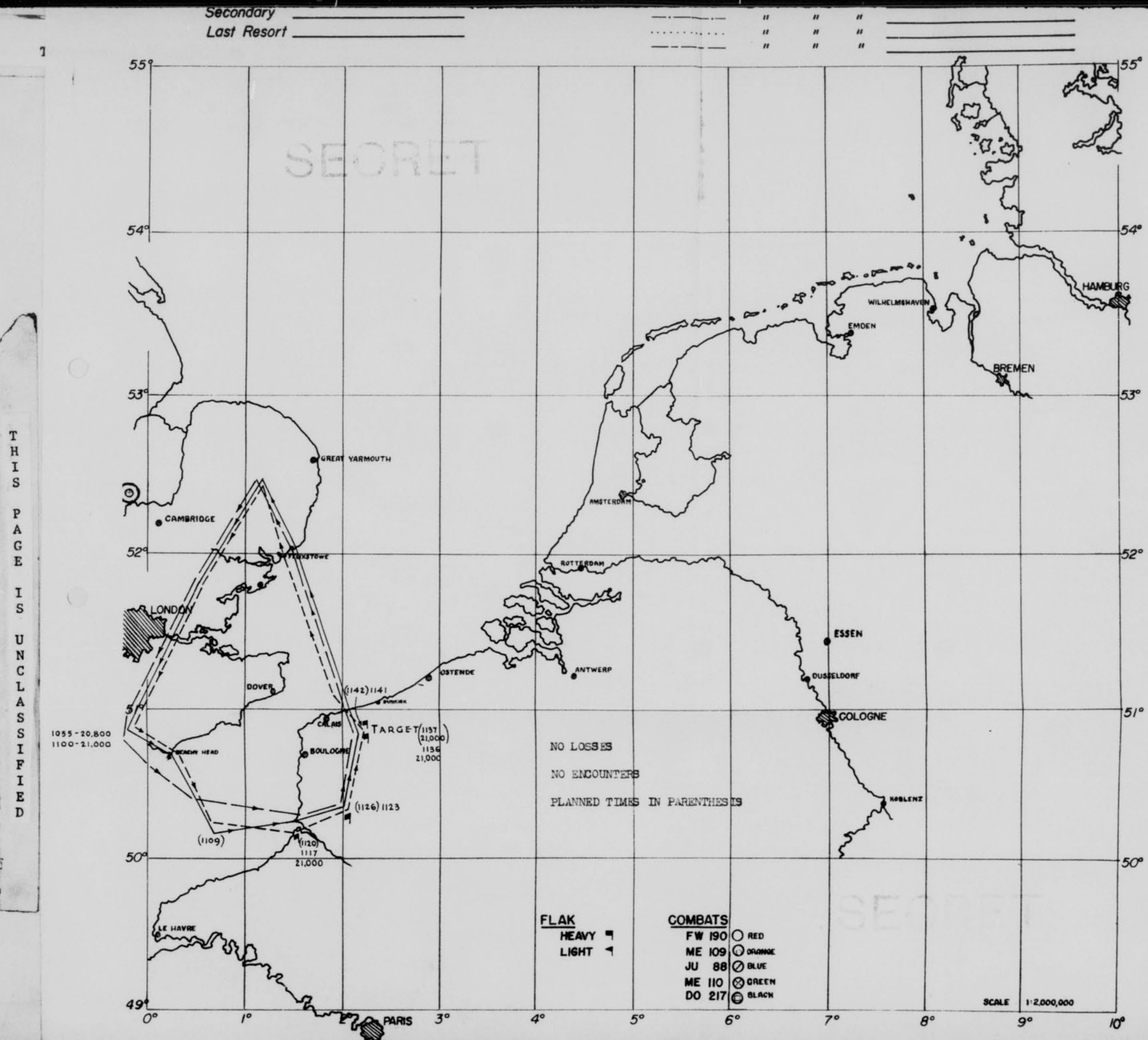
Route followed by

PLANNED - 2d DIVISION

ACTUAL - 14th CEW
 ACTUAL - 96th CEW

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Tactical Report of Mission, 21 March 1944

2. Bombing.

a. Data.

| GROUP | DIRECT OF RUN | LENGTH OF RUN | ALTITUDE | TIME OF RELEASE | PIEW AUTO PILOT | PIEW MANUAL | RANGE & DEFLECT | RANGE | NUMBER A/C BOMBED |
|-------|------------------|------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------|----------------------|
| 392 | 15° | | 21,000 | 1136 | | X | PTF | PTF | 13 + 1 PTF |
| 44 | 10° | 17 min. | 21,000 | 1137 | | X | PTF | PTF | 23 + 2 PTF |
| 458 | 10° | | 21,000 | 1141 | | X | PTF | PTF | 15 + 2 PTF |

- b. The assigned target was Watten.
- c. One Combat Wing was dispatched and attacked the target by bombing on special equipment, the target being covered by clouds.
- d. One aircraft released its bombs accidentally before the target. Seven other aircraft dropped on this early release. One aircraft was loaded with only two bombs and these failed to release over the target.
- e. Results were unobserved due to cloud cover.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 21 March 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. (1) The 392nd Group encountered moderate predictor control fire from St. Omer to the target which was not very accurate tending to be below and behind. The AA fire stopped as soon as bombs were dropped.
- (2) The 44th Group encountered moderate and fairly accurate predictor control fire from St. Omer, but only meager fire in the target area.
- (3) The 458th Group encountered moderate predictor control fire from St. Omer to the target which was very inaccurate being much too low.
- (4) Meager and inaccurate "unseen" fire was encountered at Cayeux and Hesdin, and fairly accurate predictor control "seen" fire was encountered at Audruicq and Gravelines.
- b. Anti-Aircraft Officer's Comment.
- (1) Although the clouds were broken it is unlikely that the ground defenses were able to employ "seen" methods in the target area. There was probably an insufficient concentration of "Chaff", and the enemy were not prevented from engaging the Groups by predictor control fire. However, their heightfinding appears to have been affected, most of the fire being too low.

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5. Communications.

a. Communication Channels.

- (1) Five messages were received from weather aircraft; information was satisfactory. A control point message was received from each of the two sections of the 96th Combat Bomb Wing on VHF at a range of approximately 160 miles with aircraft at 21,000 feet; the signals received were loud and clear. Five bomb strike messages were received, one from each section participating. Communication was very good; however, no control point message was received from the three sections of the 14th Combat Bomb Wing either on VHF R/T or W/T.

b. Navigational Aids.

- (1) Two aircraft obtained 3 QDM's, and one aircraft obtained a fix from MF D/F Section N. Buncher and splasher beacons were used with good results. GEE performance was good, with reliable fixes obtained and no jamming observed.

c. Equipment Failures and Performance.

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

d. Radar and Radio Countermeasures.

- (1) All aircraft carried "Window" chaff. It was dispersed from landfall to point of leaving enemy coast, a period of 24 minutes. The 458th Bomb Group reported chaff very effective.

e. Pathfinder Equipment and Performance.

- (1) Five GH aircraft from 93rd Bomb Group were assigned, one to each of the five sections. The equipment in each of the five aircraft was in normal working condition over the target. Equipment checked properly on return with exception of one set from which the antenna had been shot.

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FORM Z-11

21 March 1944

| UNIT | | 2d BD | 44 | 392 | 458 | 93 GM | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|--|--|
| A I R C R A F T | NO. A/C TAKING OFF | 68 | 24 | 13 | 26 | 5 | | | |
| | NO. A/C DISPATCHED | 65 | 23 | 13 | 24 | 5 | | | |
| | NO. A/C ATTACKING | 56 | 23 | 13 | 15 | 5 | | | |
| | NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING | 12 | 1 | - | 11 | - | | | |
| | NO. A/C SORTIES | 65 | 23 | 13 | 24 | 5 | | | |
| B O M B S | PT R I R M G A E T Y | NO. A/C | 56 | 23 | 13 | 15 | 5 | | |
| | | NO. & TYPE | 30x100GP 20x1000GP 203x2000GP | 92x2000GP | 52x2000GP | 59x2000GP | 80x100GP 20x1000GP | | |
| | | TONNAGE | 217 | 92 | 52 | 59 | 14 | | |
| | O T T A H R E G R E T S | TARGET | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| | | NO. OF A/C | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| | | NO. & TYPE | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| | | TONNAGE | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| | | TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS | 217 | 92 | 52 | 59 | 14 | | |
| | B A T T L E R E S U L T S | A/C LOST TO FLAK | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| | | A/C LOST TO E/A | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| | | A/C LOST TO FLAK-E/A | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| | | A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| | | A/C LOST UNKNOWN | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| | | CASUALTIES - KILLED, WOUNDED SER., SLT., MIA | 0-0-0-0 | 0-0-0-0 | 0-0-0-0 | 0-0-0-0 | 0-0-0-0 | | |
| | | CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM | 0-0-0-0 | 0-0-0-0 | 0-0-0-0 | 0-0-0-0 | 0-0-0-0 | | |
| | | A/C BATTLE DAMAGE CAT. A-C-D-E | 7-0-0-0 | 1-0-0-0 | 1-0-0-0 | 5-0-0-0 | 0-0-0-0 | | |

TACTICAL COMMANDER'S REPORT
6. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONSPREPARED BY
STATISTICAL CONTROL
2d BOMB DIVISION

EARLY RELEASES O

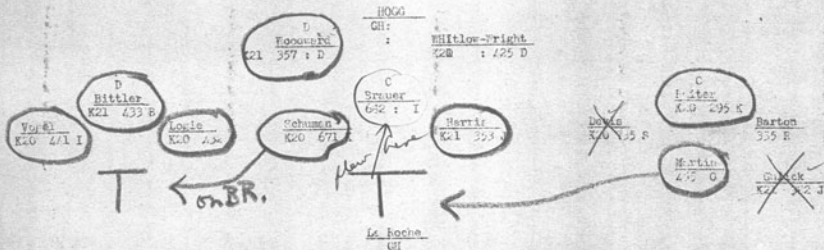


Diagram showing relationships between individuals:

- Woodward (D, K21 357 : D) connects to Srauer (C, 682 : I)
- Srauer (C, 682 : I) connects to Harris (C, K21 353)
- Harris (C, K21 353) connects to I. Star (C, K20 295 K)
- I. Star (C, K20 295 K) connects to Martin (C, 470 O)
- Martin (C, 470 O) connects to Barton (C, 355 R)
- Barton (C, 355 R) connects to Gibcock (C, K21 382 J)
- Gibcock (C, K21 382 J) connects to I. Star (C, K20 295 K)
- I. Star (C, K20 295 K) connects to Srauer (C, 682 : I)
- Srauer (C, 682 : I) connects to Hittler (D, K21 433 B)
- Hittler (D, K21 433 B) connects to Vogel (K20 471 I)

Additional individuals and connections:

- Woodward (D, K21 357 : D) connects to Srauer (C, 682 : I)
- Srauer (C, 682 : I) connects to Harris (C, K21 353)
- Harris (C, K21 353) connects to I. Star (C, K20 295 K)
- I. Star (C, K20 295 K) connects to Martin (C, 470 O)
- Martin (C, 470 O) connects to Barton (C, 355 R)
- Barton (C, 355 R) connects to Gibcock (C, K21 382 J)
- Gibcock (C, K21 382 J) connects to I. Star (C, K20 295 K)
- I. Star (C, K20 295 K) connects to Srauer (C, 682 : I)
- Srauer (C, 682 : I) connects to Hittler (D, K21 433 B)
- Hittler (D, K21 433 B) connects to Vogel (K20 471 I)

1 - 125 - 26
2 - 357 - 12
3 - 682 - 1
4 - 433 - 24
5 - 295 - Hg 2
6 - 353 - 7
7 - 671 - 42
8 - 452 - 16
9 - 441 - 14
10 - 335 - 4
11 - 735 - 77

1 - 43 - 37
2 - 812 - 21
3 - 745 - 49
4 - 49 - 31
5 - 303 - 34
6 - 39 - 41
7 - 721 - 43
8 - 273 - 45
9 - 300 - 53
10 - 304 - Hg 4
11 - 717 - 30

Shaw
K20 741 L

Keck
K20 705 H

Stevens
K21 392 O

Taylor
K20 71 M

Toubel
305 H

Mc Collough
302 P

Alvestad
706 F

Schurf
3-9 L

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 |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|----|-----------|--------|-----|------|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | ALVESTAD | 10 | 5 | | | 41-28706 | 706 | F | J4 | 2 | DREAM BOAT/SPARE PARTS | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | BARTON | 10 | 1 | | | 42-52335 | 335 | R | Z5 | 8 | ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | BITTLER | 10 | 6 | | | 42-100433 | 433 | B | J3 | 5 | BIG DICK HARD TO HIT | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | BRAUER | 10 | 6 | | | 41-28682 | 682 | I | Z5 | 9 | UNKNOWN 003 | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | BUSH | 10 | 4 | | | 42-109812 | 812 | D | 7V | 6 | UNKNOWN 016 | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | DAVIS | 10 | 3 | | | 41-28735 | 735 | S | J4 | 3 | UNKNOWN 005 | X'ed out on chart |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | DeNEFFE | 10 | 5 | | | 41-29300 | 300 | M | J4 | 8 | LORELEI | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | GULICK | 10 | 3 | | | 42-52382 | 382 | J | 7V | 8 | WURF'LESS | X'ed out on cht Also unclr (352?) |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | HARRIS, T | 10 | 2 | | | 42-52353 | 353 | J | Z5 | 8 | UNKNOWN 049 | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | KECK | 10 | 6 | | | 41-28705 | 705 | H | J4 | 9 | YE OLDE HELLGATE | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | LOGIE | 10 | 5 | | | 42-52432 | 432 | P | J3 | 8 | BACHELOR'S PARADISE | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | MANKER | 10 | 3 | | | 41-29273 | 273 | Q | J4 | 7 | FLAK MAGNET | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | MARTIN, J | 10 | 4 | | | 42-52455 | 455 | O | 7V | 5 | PLUTOCRAT | Tail number unclear (435 or 455?) |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | McCOLLOUGH | 10 | 4 | | | 41-29302 | 302 | P | 7V | 5 | NOKKISH | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | RAITER | 10 | 7 | | | 41-29295 | 295 | K | Z5 | 2 | BOMB TOTIN' MAMA | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | ROUBAL | 10 | 7 | | | 41-29303 | 303 | H | Z5 | 7 | LIBERTY LIB | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | SCHAAF | 10 | 6 | | | 41-29329 | 329 | L | 7V | 7 | FRITZI | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | SCHUMAN | 10 | 5 | | | 41-28671 | 671 | K | J4 | 7 | UNKNOWN 001 | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | SHAW, C | 10 | 5 | | | 41-28721 | 721 | L | J4 | 5 | DOWNWIND LEG | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | SIEVERS | 10 | 4 | | | 42-52392 | 392 | O | J4 | 5 | WABBIT TWACKS | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | TAYLOR, O | 10 | 5 | | | 41-28718 | 718 | M | 7V | 9 | BO | Tail number unclear |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | TOOMAN | 10 | 3 | OLLUM | D2 | 42-100431 | 431 | B | J4 | 5 | BOMB-AH-DEAR | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | VOGEL | 10 | 4 | | | 42-52441 | 441 | I | J3 | 7 | LAST CARD LOUIE | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | WHITLOW | 10 | 6 | WRIGHT | D1 | 42-100425 | 425 | D | J3 | 3 | THE BIRD | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | WOODWARD | 10 | 3 | | | 42-100357 | 357 | D | Z5 | 4 | VALE OREGAN | |
| 21-Mar-44 | WATTEN, near ST. OMER | ZIMMERMAN | 10 | 1 | | | 42-52457 | 457 | Q | 7V | 4 | FINAL APPROACH | |