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HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

1 JUN 1944
RECEIVED
BOMBARDMENT

TACTICAL MISSION REPORTFIELD ORDER NO.TARGETTARGET

517

BASDORF

22 MARCH 1944

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HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AAF 147

APO 558

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 : S E C R E T :
 : By Auth of CG :
 : 2d Bomb Div :
 : Initials :
 : Date :
 : : : : : : : :

11 April 1944

SUBJECT : Tactical Report of Mission, 22 March 1944.

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

1. Data.

- a. Date of Mission - 22 March 1944.
- b. Primary Target - Aero-Engine Factory, Basdorf, Germany.
- c. Secondary Target - Berlin, Center of City.
- d. Last Resort Target - Any military objective positively identified as being fifty miles inside Germany.
- e. Units Participating - 20th CBW (446th, 93rd, 448th BG).
96th CBW (458th, 466th BG).
14th CBW (44th BG).
2nd CBW (445th, 453rd, 389th BG).

2. Narrative.

a. This was planned as a visual bombing mission against the important aero-engine plant at Basdorf, Germany, with the city of Berlin as the PFF target in case of overcast at the primary. 216 aircraft of nine Groups disposed tactically as three Combat Wings were dispatched with two PFF aircraft assigned to each Combat Wing. Five Groups of P-47's, two Groups of P-51's and one Group of P-38's furnished excellent fighter support.

b. The 20th and 2nd Combat Wings assembled normally. The 44th Group was unable to effect assembly with the 96th Combat Wing and flew with the 2nd Combat Wing. The Division was forced to fly to the right of the planned route to the enemy coast to avoid the heavy contrails of the B-17's ahead and the remainder of the route was flown as briefed.

c. The target area was 8/10-10/10 overcast and Berlin was attacked by the main force dropping on Pathfinder markers. One Group and eight other aircraft bombed the primary on PFF markers. Results were unobserved. Eight aircraft of one Group dropped on unidentified flares between Basdorf and Berlin. One aircraft developed engine trouble and aborted prior to reaching the target area, making a visual run on a railroad bridge at Heide, as a target of opportunity.

d. Intense and barrage and "unseen" predictor control flak were encountered in the target area and continued for some time after the Division left the target, indicating the success of "Chaff". Some gunfire was encountered enroute. The lead Group of the 2nd Combat Wing was the only unit to receive a fighter attack, two enemy fighters making a half-hearted attack in the target area. Losses were one to flak, one to accident and three to unknown causes.

For the Commanding General:

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

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Tactical Report of Mission, 22 March 1944.

2. Bombing.a. Data.

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLEW AUTO PILOT	FLEW MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLECT	RANGE	NUMBER A/C BOMBED
					<u>BERLIN</u>				
389th	210	4 mins.	21,000	1321	X		PTF	PTF	18
448th	190	4 mins.	20,000	1324		X	PTF	PTF	23
446th	195	5 mins.	21,000	1325	X		PTF	PTF	21 + 1 PTF
93rd	185	3 mins.	22,000	1326		X	PTF	PTF	25
446th	220	8 mins.	22,000	1326	X		PTF	PTF	22
453rd	218	5 mins.	22,000	1326		X	PTF	PTF	10
458th	185	6 mins.	21,000	1327		X	PTF	PTF	21 + 1 PTF
445th	172	4 mins.	21,000	1328	X		PTF	PTF	20 + 2 PTF
44th	215	45 secs.	21,000	1321		X	1	1	24

- b. The primary visual target was Basdorf. Berlin was the secondary on special equipment.
- c. Target area was 8/10-10/10 undercast, and Berlin was attacked with bombs dropped on Pathfinder markers. Eight aircraft dropped on flares between Basdorf and Berlin. One aircraft bombed a railroad bridge at Heide as a target of opportunity.
- d. Five A/C failed to bomb due to rack malfunctions. One A/C had an accidental release and 2 A/C dropped on this.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 22 March 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. The 2nd Combat Wing encountered only a fixed barrage and some inaccurate predicted concentrations in the target area. The 96th Combat Wing encountered a very intense fixed barrage and some meager predictor control "unseen" fire. The 20th Combat Wing encountered a fixed barrage and some inaccurate predictor control "unseen" fire which was too low. The barrage over the city continued for a considerable period of time after our A/C had left, indicating that the "Chaff" had worked satisfactorily. Several rockets leaving reddish brown smoke trails were also observed in the target area.
- b. Gunfire was encountered from many different places on the way home, but it has been impossible to pinpoint any of them accurately.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 22 March 1944

4. Enemy Aircraft Encounters.

- a. The 2d Bomb Division flew this mission with the 20th Combat Wing leading, the 96th Combat Wing second, and the 2nd Combat Wing last. Each Combat Wing was composed of three Groups.
- b. The 20th Combat Wing received no E/A attacks. The lead Group of the Combat Wing reported 6 FW 190's with yellow fuselage and red noses in the target area.
- c. The 96th Combat Wing identified some twelve or fourteen ME 109's. Six or eight were seen over the target, three about twenty miles west of Hannover and two at Quackenbruck. Some of the ME 109's were black or brown with white horizontal stripes on their tail. Others were of the usual color with some painted to resemble P-51's. Two or three FW 190's were seen in the target area. No attacks were reported on this Combat Wing.
- d. The lead Group of the 2nd Combat Wing was the only Group in the entire Division to receive an attack. Two ME 109's in the target area came out of the sun flying abreast and made a half-hearted attack from six o'clock. One JU 88 and two FW 190's were also seen in the target area.
- e. An unidentified B-24 was reported to have flown more or less between the formations of the 96th and the 2nd Combat Wings from near the enemy coastline to the target area. Fighter support from all Combat Wings was reported as excellent.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 22 March 1944

5. Communications.

a. Communication Channels.

- (1) VHF Division channel was only satisfactory. One Combat Wing leader was heard clearly and with strong signal calling other Combat Wing leaders, but received no response. One Division W/T channel, 13 Control point messages and 8 Bomb Strike messages were received. Some interference was encountered.

b. Navigational Aids.

- (1) Splasher beacons, buncher beacons and GEE were used with good results. Four A/C reported obtained 5 fixes from MF D/F section. One A/C reported sending SOS on VHF Air-Sea Rescue channel.

c. Equipment Failures and Performance.

- (1) Number of equipment failures reported were very small and in general pertained to interphone system.

d. Radar and Radio Countermeasures.

- (1) "Window" as scheduled was dispersed from IP minus 2 minutes for 15 minutes. Several Groups reported "Window" effective.

e. Pathfinder Equipment and Performance.

- (1) Pathfinder A/C from 814th Sqdn were scheduled to fly, one each with the 446th BG and one with the 458th BG. No report of performance was received on these A/C. Four pathfinder A/C from 389th BG were scheduled to fly, two with the 446th BG and one each with the 446th and 458th BG. One set went out after 15 minutes of operation due to defective tube. In the remaining A/C targets and landmarks were recognized at ranges of 10 to 35 miles, and target was bombed using PFF equipment.

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FORM Z-11

2d Combat Wing

14th Combat Wing

20th Combat Wing 22 March 1944

UNIT		2d BD	389	389PFF	445	453	44	93	446	448
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	231	23	4	23	24	26	25	25	26
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	216	22	4	21	22	26	25	24	24
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	197	18	4	20	18	24	25	22	23
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	34	5	-	3	6	2	-	3	3
	NO. A/C SORTIES	203	19	4	20	19	25	25	22	23
B O M B S	P R I M A R Y	NO. A/C	32	-	-	-	8	24	-	-
		NO. & TYPE	1601x100IB	-	-	-	384x100IB	1217x100IB	-	-
		TONNAGE	80.1	-	-	-	19.2	60.9	-	-
	O T H E R	TARGET	-	ST-Berlin	ST-Berlin	ST-Berlin	ST-Berlin	ST-Berlin	ST-Berlin	ST-Berlin
		NO. OF A/C	165	18	4	20	10	25	21-Berlin	23
		NO. & TYPE	646x500GP 4904x100IB	923x100IB	16x500GP	200x500GP	520x100IB	-	210x500GP 10x500GP	1058x100IB
		TONNAGE	406.7	46.2	4	50	26	-	64.5	55
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS		486.8	46.2	4	50	45.2	60.9	64.5	55
	R E S U L T S	A/C LOST TO FLAK	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		A/C LOST TO E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		A/C LOST TO FLAK-E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		A/C LOST UNKNOWN	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
		CASUALTIES - KILLED, WOUNDED SER., SLT., MIA	0-1-0-50	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-1-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0
		CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE CAT. A-AC-B-E		23-6-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	8-0-0-0	4-0-0-0	7-4-0-0	1-1-0-0	0-1-0-0

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

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FORM Z-11

96th Combat Wing

22 March 1944

UNIT		2d BD	458	486						
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF		26	29						
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED		24	24						
	NO. A/C ATTACKING		21	22						
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING		5	7						
	NO. A/C SORTIES		22	24						
B O M B S	NO. A/C		-	-						
	NO. & TYPE		-	-						
	TONNAGE		-	-						
	TARGET		ST-Berlin	ST-Berlin						
	NO. OF A/C		21	22						
	NO. & TYPE		210x500GP	1112x100IB						
	TONNAGE		52.5	55.6						
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS		52.5	55.6						
	A/C LOST TO FLAK		-	1						
	A/C LOST TO E/A		-	-						
B A T T L E R E S U L T S	A/C LOST TO FLAK-E/A		-	-						
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT		-	1						
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN		1	-						
	CASUALTIES - KILLED, WOUNDED, SER., SLT., MIA		0-0-0-10	0-0-0-20						
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM		-	-						
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE		1-0-0-0	0-0-0-0						
	GAT. A-AC-B-E									

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

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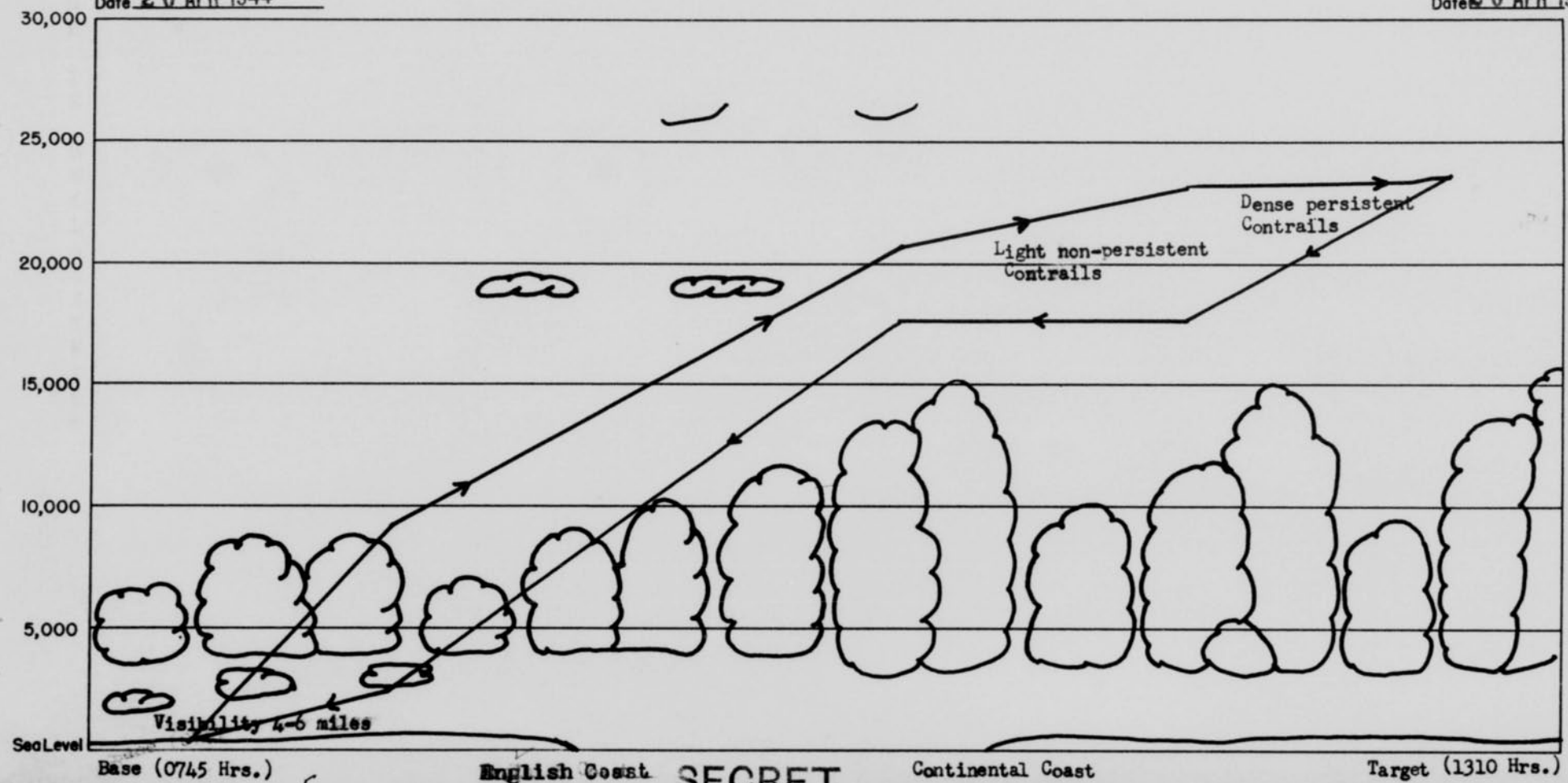
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2ND BOMB DIVISION

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Date 20 APR 1944

WEATHER ENCOUNTERED BY OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT OF THE _____
ROUTE TO TARGET BERLIN DATE: 22 MARCH 1944

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By authority of
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Initials EA mch
Date 20 APR 1944



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TARGETS:

PRIMARY BERLIN

2ND BOMB DIVISION

TRACK CHART

DATE 22 MARCH 1944

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ROUTE FOLLOWED BY PLANNED-2d DIV

ACTUAL-20th CBW

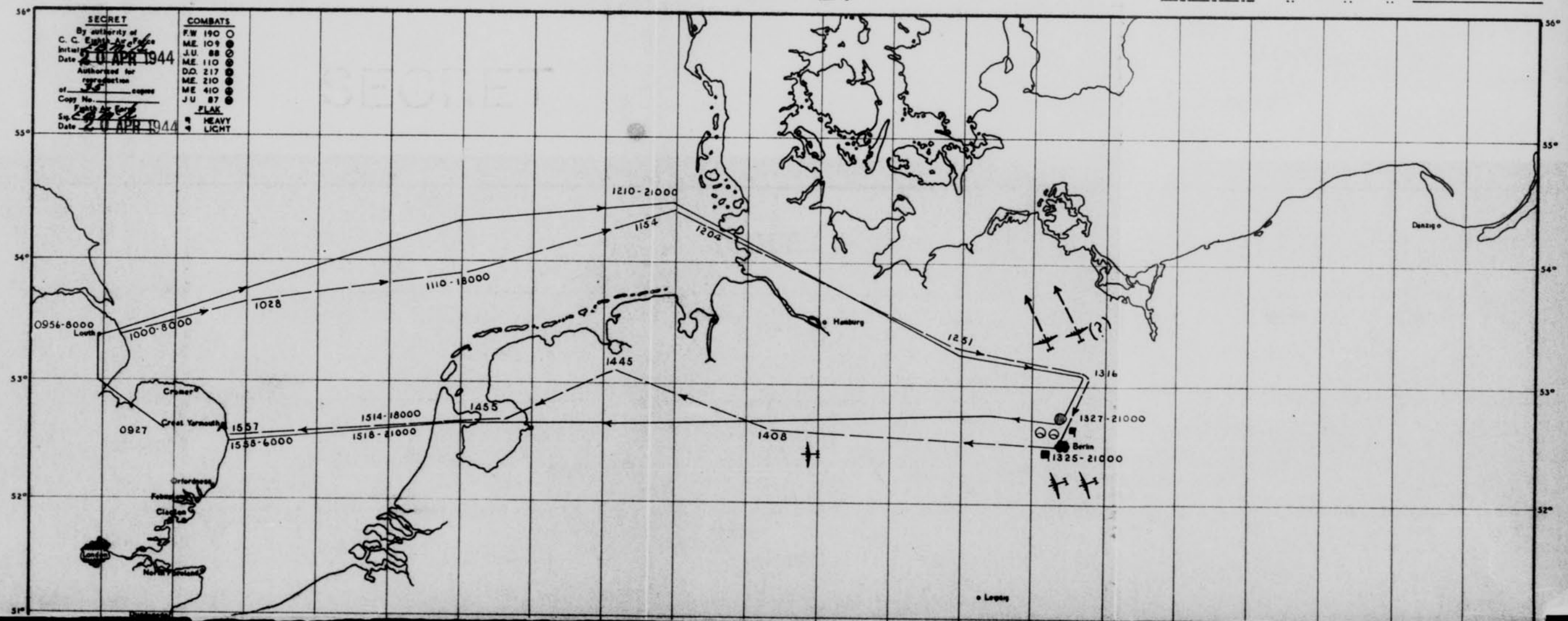
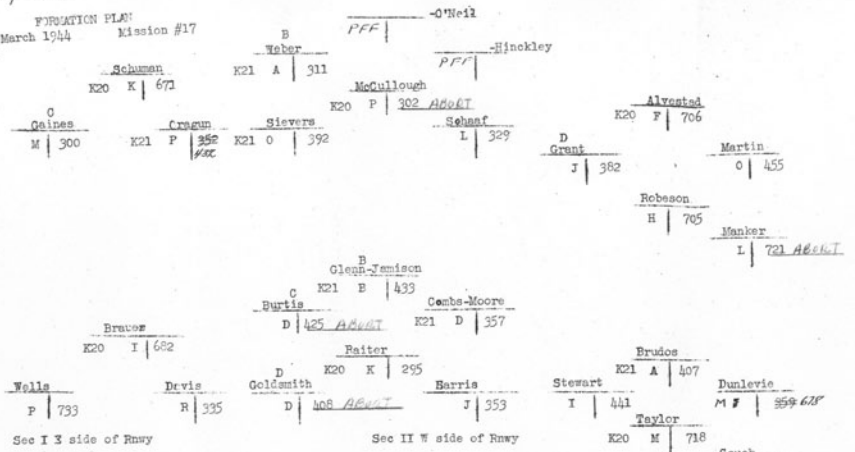


Diagram "A"

POPULATION PLAN
22 March 1944 Mission #17



Sec I 3 side of Rwy

Sec II W side of Rwy

1. 311-23
2. 302-32
3. 706-36
4. 671-42
5. 329-19
6. 392-41
7. 455-33
8. 382-28
9. 352-29
10. 300-38
11. 705-49
12. 721-43

1. 433-24
2. 357-12
3. 425-26
4. 295-6
5. 407-22
6. 682-1
7. 353-7
8. 408-35
9. 359-Hengar #3678
10. 441-17
11. 335-4
12. 733-40
13. 718-30
14. 273-45

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
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	ALVESTAD	11	6			41-28706	706	F	J4	3	DREAM BOAT/SPARE PARTS	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	BRAUER	11	7			41-28682	682	I	Z5	10	UNKNOWN 003	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	BRUDOS	11	7			42-100407	407	A	J3	2	LITTLE LAMBSY DIVEY	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	BURTIS	11	ABT			42-100425	425	D	J3	--	THE BIRD	ABORT - #2 ENG #1 CYL PLUGS DEAD
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	COMBS	11	5	MOORE	D2	42-100357	357	D	Z5	5	VALE OREGAN	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	COUCH	11	ABT			41-29273	273	Q	J4	--	FLAK MAGNET	ABORT - LATE T/O COULD NOT FIND FORM
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	CRAGUN	11	4			42-52432	432	P	J3	9	BACHELOR'S PARADISE	SHIP 352 CROSSED OUT
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	DAVIS	11	4			42-52335	335	R	Z5	9	ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	DUNLEVIE	11	FTR			41-28678	678	M	J3	7	UNKNOWN 002	SHIP 359 t OUT - LOST HOLLAND
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	GAINES	11	5			41-29300	300	M	J4	9	LORELEI	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	GLENN	11	4	JAMISON	L2	42-100433	433	B	J3	6	BIG DICK HARD TO HIT	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	GOLDSMITH	11	ABT			42-100408	408	D	J4	--	BEASTFACE	ABORT - PILOT RPT A/C SLOW TO CLIMB
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	GRANT	11	8			42-52382	382	J	7V	9	WURF'LESS	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	HARRIS, T	11	3			42-52353	353	J	Z5	9	UNKNOWN 049	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	MANKER	11	4			41-28721	721	L	J4	--	DOWNWIND LEG	ABORT N OF HAMBURG - CREDIT
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	MARTIN, J	11	5			42-52455	455	O	7V	6	PLUTOCRAT	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	McCOLLOUGH	11	ABT			41-29302	302	P	7V	--	NOKKISH	ABORT - PILOT RPT FLUCUATE MANIF PRES
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	RAITER	11	8			41-29295	295	K	Z5	3	BOMB TOTIN' MAMA	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	ROBESON	11	6			41-28705	705	H	J4	10	YE OLDE HELLGATE	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	SCHAAF	11	7			41-29329	329	L	7V	8	FRITZI	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	SCHUMAN	11	6			41-28671	671	K	J4	8	UNKNOWN 001	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	SIEVERS	11	5			42-52392	392	O	J4	6	WABBIT TWACKS	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	STEWART	11	4			42-52441	441	I	J3	8	LAST CARD LOUIE	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	TAYLOR, O	11	6			41-28718	718	M	7V	10	BO	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	WEBER	11	4			42-100311	311	A	7V	6	YOKUM BOY	
22-Mar-44	BERLIN	WELLS	11	5			41-28733	733	P	J4	4	RHAPSODY IN JUNK	