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HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

<u>FIELD ORDER NO.</u>	<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
519	HANDJOHT A/D ACHMER A/D	23 MARCH 1944

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

- ANNEX 1 - ROUTES
- ANNEX 2 - BOMBING
- ANNEX 3 - ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE
- ANNEX 4 - ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS
- ANNEX 5 - COMMUNICATIONS
- ANNEX 6 - STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

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SECRETHEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AAF 147 APO 558: : : : : : : :
: SECRET :
: By Auth of CG :
: 2d Bomb Div. :
: Initials :
: Date 16 April 1944 :
: : : : : : : :

16 April 1944

SUBJECT : Tactical Report of Mission, 23 March 1944.

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

1. Data.

a. Date of Mission - 23 March 1944.

b. Targets and Units Participating -

	Primary	Secondary
20th Combat Bomb Wing	- Handorf A/D	Munster - PFF
93rd Bomb Group		
448th Bomb Group		
446th Bomb Group		
2nd Combat Bomb Wing	- Handorf A/D	Munster - PFF
453rd Bomb Group		
445th Bomb Group		
389th Bomb Group		
14th Combat Bomb Wing	- Achmer A/D	Osnabruck - PFF
44th Bomb Group		
392nd Bomb Group		
96th Combat Bomb Wing	- Achmer A/D	Osnabruck - PFF
458th Bomb Group		
466th Bomb Group		

c. Last Resort Target - None.

2. Narrative.

a. This was planned as a visual mission against the Handorf and Achmer airdromes with the cities of Munster and Osnabruck as the PFF targets. 242 aircraft were dispatched with five Groups of P-47's as fighter support. One PFF ship was assigned to each Combat Wing.

b. Assemblies were accomplished without incident, and the Division departed English coast as briefed. Dense and persistent contrails left by the B-17's forced the Division to fly north of the briefed course and caused them to maintain altitudes higher than were briefed which resulted in the spreading out of the formation. Lack of experience of the Pathfinder pilot and navigator in the Wing leading the Division caused a number of deviations from the briefed route to the target. As a result, the lead Wing missed the IP. Steinhuder Lake was located visually and a right turn was made back towards the target area. The remainder of the Division, flying in trail, was not in visual contact with the lead Wing because of contrails, and made the turn to the IP and the bomb run generally as planned.

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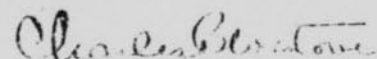
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Tactical Report of Mission, 23 March 1944 (cont'd)

c. Scattered clouds and contrails in the target area forced most Groups to bomb on PFF. The 20th Combat Wing bombed Handorf A/D visually with good to fair results. Two Groups of the 2nd Combat Wing bombed Munster, one on PFF and one visually with good to fair results. One Group saw no marker flares at the IP and hence did not attack. The 14th and 96th Combat Wings bombed Osnabruck on PFF with unobserved results. Three aircraft attacked Bramsche and one aircraft bombed Bohnte airfield as targets of opportunity.

d. Gunfire was moderate to intense and accurate at Osnabruck. Intense and accurate predictor control "seen" fire was encountered at Munster and Handorf. Fixed barrages were also observed at Munster and Osnabruck. A few enemy fighters were seen but only half-hearted attacks were made on one Group by five enemy aircraft. Two aircraft were lost to gunfire, one to enemy fighters, two due to collision in the target area and one to unknown causes. One enemy fighter was claimed as destroyed.

For the Commanding General:



CHARLES B. WESTOVER
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

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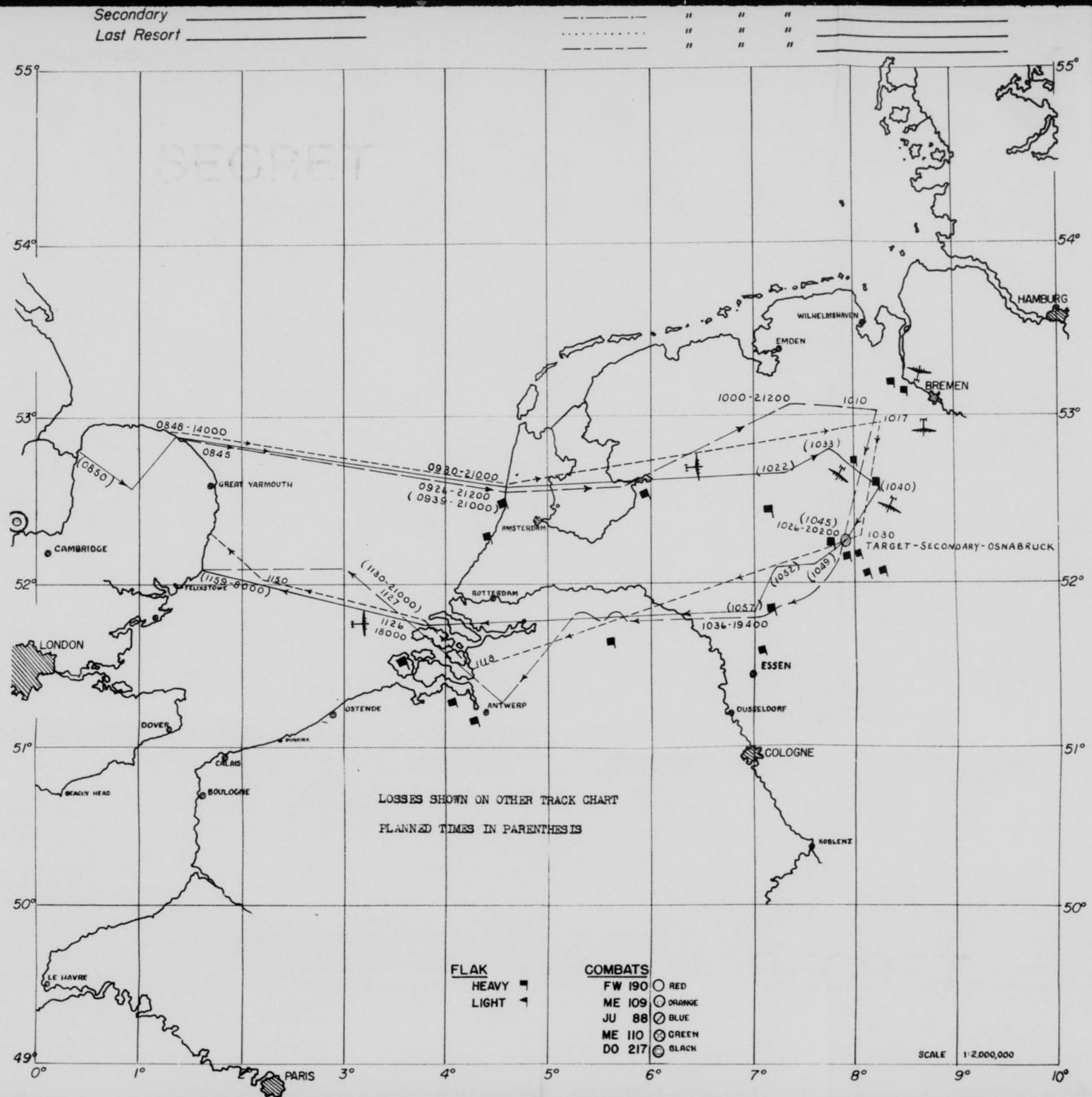
TRACK CHART

TARGET	Date <u>23 MARCH 1944</u>		Route followed by	
Primary	<u>ACHMER</u>		" " "	PLANNED - 2d DIVISION
Secondary			" " "	ACTUAL - 14th CBW
Last Resort			" " "	ACTUAL - 96th CBW



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TACTICAL BOMBING MISSION REPORT - 23 March 1944

GROUP	DIR. OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLEW AUTO-PILOT	FLEW MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLEC.	RANGE	NUMBER A/C BOMBED
					M U N S T E R				
389th	210°	6 min.	21,000	1029		Yes	PFF	PFF	21
453rd	260°	70 sec.	19,000	1054		Yes	1	1	10
					HANDORF AIRDROME				
93rd	260°	1 min.	21,000	1030		Yes	1	0	23
446th	306°	30 sec.	20,000	1032		Yes	2	0	27
448th	350°	15 sec.	23,500	1033		Yes	1	0	17
					OSNABRUCK				
458th	186°	10 min.	20,500	1028		Yes	PFF	PFF	24
392nd	100°	2 min.	20,000	1029	Yes		PFF	PFF	22
44th	187°	4 min.	20,400	1031		Yes	PFF	PFF	25
466th	195°	2 min.	21,000	1026		Yes	PFF	PFF	13

- a. The assigned primary targets were Handorf Airdrome and Achmer Airdrome.
- b. Due to cloud cover only three Groups attacked Handorf Airdrome. Two Groups attacked Munster and four Groups bombed Osnabruck on special equipment. Three aircraft attacked Bramsche and one aircraft on Bohmte Airfield. Handorf Airdrome and Munster were bombed with good to fair results. Results at Osnabruck were unobserved due to cloud coverage.
- c. Two aircraft failed to release due to rack malfunctions.
One aircraft failed to release due to release malfunctions.
One aircraft failed to release due to a bomb door malfunction.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 23 March 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. (1) Both Groups of the 14th Wing encountered moderate to intense and accurate predictor control fire during their bombing runs at Osnabruck, and a fixed barrage was also observed over the town. Very little AA was encountered after bombs were released.
- (2) Intense and accurate predictor control fire was also encountered by both Groups of the 96th Wing, one A/C of the 458th being badly damaged and failing to return to base. A type of AA burst was observed from which several small subsidiary bursts appeared after the initial one. Several rockets leaving white smoke trails were also observed in the target area.
- (3) Intense and accurate predictor control "seen" fire was encountered by the 2nd Wing from Munster. Two rockets were seen in the target area which left white smoke trails and burst into black smoke puffs.
- (4) The 20th Wing encountered moderate and fairly accurate predictor control "seen" fire from Handorf, and a fixed barrage was seen over Munster. Red balls which exploded were seen coming from some of the AA bursts. Red smoke puffs were also seen, but no enemy fighters were encountered.
- (5) Gunfire was encountered on route at IJmuiden, Egmond, Hesepe A/F, Tilburg, Antwerp, Volkel A/F, Woensdrecht A/F, Quackenbruck and Dummer Lake; AA was believed to have been coming from barges on the Dummer Lake.
- (6) Gunfire was believed to have been encountered from Lingden, Rheine, Herford, Zwolle, Walcheren, Bremen, Oldenburg, Melle and Dülmen.
- (7) Balloons were observed at Osnabruck and Hamm.
- b. Anti-Aircraft Officer's Comment.
- (1) The AA encountered at Munster and Handorf was definitely fired by "seen" methods. However, there was broken cloud over Osnabruck and the AA encountered here was probably a mixture of "seen" and "unseen" fire. "Chaff" was probably ineffective as it is not believed that there was a sufficient concentration dropped over the target.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 23 March 1944

4. Enemy Aircraft Encounters.

- a. This mission was flown by the 2d Bomb Division with no E/A opposition except a few straggler attacks. Two half-hearted passes were made by five ME 109's below the formation of one Group near Meppen, Germany. Two other Groups reported possibly the same E/A in this area as having silver bellies with black top and wings. Eight ME 109's were seen in Dummer Lake area. Three heavily camouflaged ME 109's with landing gear down were seen in the target area.
- b. Fighter support excellent.
- c. Six B-24's were lost on this mission, three to AA, two by accident, and one causes unknown.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 23 March 1944

5. Communications.

a. Channels.

- (1) VHF operated very well. Communication was aided by leader of third Combat Wing in flight by relaying messages of other leaders whose signal strength was weak. Nine bomb strike messages and six control point messages were received on W/T Division frequency; reception was very poor, interference heavy and signal strengths weak.

b. Navigational Aids.

- (1) Nine A/C obtained 12 QDM's. Three A/C obtained 3 fixes from MF D/F Section N. Splasher beacons, buncher beacons, and GEE were used with good results.

c. Equipment Failures and Performance.

- (1) One VHF set was transmitting a squeal on VHF channel of 14 CEW on way to target and on return to English Channel. One A/C of 453 BG was unable to contact fighters on VHF Channel C. Other faults reported were mainly interphone failures in one or more positions.

d. Radar and Radio Countermeasures.

- (1) The 96th and 14th CEW discharged "Chaff" from 5251N 0747E minus two minutes for 19 minutes. The 2nd and 20th CEW discharged "Chaff" from the same point for 29 minutes.

e. Pathfinder Equipment and Performance.

- (1) One Pathfinder A/C from 389th BG was assigned to each of the following Groups - 458th, 44th and 93rd BG. All three A/C were able to recognize landmarks and target at range of 15 to 50 miles with good results. Two of the A/C were used to bomb by PFF. In the second case the navigator had trouble stopping drift and bombed outskirts of Osnabruck. The third A/C was not used for PFF bombing since bombardier took advantage of break in clouds to bomb airfield outside of Munster.

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FORM 7-21		2d Combat Wing				14th Combat Wing		20th C.W.	23 March 1944	
UNIT		2d BD	389	389 PFF	445	453	44	392	93	446
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	251	26	3	24	22	25	25	24	28
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	242	22	3	24	22	25	24	24	28
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	202	21	3	-	21	25	22	23	27
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	49	5	-	24	1	-	3	1	1
	NO. A/C SORTIES	233	22	3	24	22	25	23	24	28
B O M B S	P R I M A R Y	NO. A/C	68	-	1	-	-	-	23	27
		NO. & TYPE	424x500GP 1642x100IB	-	4x500GP	-	-	-	120x500GP 676x100IB	168x500GP 666x100IB
		TONNAGE	188.1	-	1	-	-	-	63.8	75.3
	O T H E R	TARGET	-	ST-Munster	ST-Osnabruck	-	ST-Munster TO-Unknown	ST-Osnabruck	ST-Osnabruck	-
		NO. OF A/C	134	21	2	-	10-Munster 11-Unknown	25	22	-
		NO. & TYPE	848x500GP 2829x100IB	110x500GP 502x100IB	8x500GP	-	102x500GP 560x100IB	142x500GP 675x100IB	148x500GP 468x100IB	-
		TONNAGE	353.5	52.6	2	-	53.5	69.3	60.4	-
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS		541.6	52.6	3	-	53.5	69.3	60.4	63.8 75.3
	B A T T L E R E S U L T S	A/C LOST TO FLAK	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
		A/C LOST TO E/A	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		A/C LOST TO FLAK-E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		A/C LOST UNKNOWN	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
		CASUALTIES - KILLED, WOUNDED, SER., SGT., MIA	0-0-1-59	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-1-10	0-0-0-10	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0
		CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., D.M., NO CLAIM	1-0-0-1	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	1-0-0-1
		A/C BATTLE DAMAGE CAT. A-AC-7	37-5-1-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	9-3-0-0	9-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	3-0-0-0	1-1-0-0 0-0-0-0

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

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FORM 10-21		96th CFB						
UNIT		2d BD	448	458	466			
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF		23	27	24			
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED		21	26	23			
	NO. A/C ATTACKING		18	25	17			
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING		5	2	7			
	NO. A/C SORTIES		20	25	17			
B O M B S	NO. A/C		17	-	-			
	NO. & TYPE		132x500GP 300x100IB	-	-			
	TONNAGE		48	-	-			
	TARGET		ST-Gsnabruock	ST-Gsnabruock	ST-Gsnabruock			
	NO. OF A/C		1	1	17			
	NO. & TYPE		12x500GP	156x500GP 624x100IB	170x500GP			
	TONNAGE		3	70.2	42.5			
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS		51	70.2	42.5			
	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		-	-	2			
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN		-	-	-			
	CASUALTIES - KILLED, WOUNDED, SER., SGT., MIA		0-0-0-10	0-0-0-10	0-0-0-19			
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROP., DAM., NO CLAIM		0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0			
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGES		1-1-0	0-0-0-0	4-0-0-0			
	CAT. A-AC-3-E							

A - Gsnabruock B - Branschke

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

SECRETHEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 634

RELATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF GUN POSITIONS - B-24's

23 March 1944

	Total	% of Total	Des- troyed	Prob.	Dam.	No Claim	% Des- troyed	% Prob.	% Dam.	% No Claim
Nose										
Top T.										
Ball T.										
Tunnel										
Waist										
R. Waist										
Tail T.	2		1			1				
Other										
TOTAL										

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VULNERABILITY OF E/A

	Total	% of Total	Des- troyed	Prob.	Dam.	No Claim	% Des- troyed	% Prob.	% Dam.	% No Claim
ME 109	2		1			1				
TOTAL										

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FORMATION PLAN FOR MISSION # 18

SECTION I

ROUBAL
 K-20 | 303
GRANT
 K21 | 382
HETZLER
 | 329
CLAGGETT
 | 311
PPF-HOGG
 |
SPAVEN
 K20 | 705
UMPHREY
 273
BUSH-WRIGHT
 K21 | 812
DENEFFE
 | 300

HINCKLEY
 | 127

23 March 1944

C
KECK
 | 721
MARTIN
 | 455
COVICH
 K20 | 733
GAINES
 K21 | 392
CRAGUN
 | 352

SECTION II

LOGIE
 K-20 | 432
WATSON
 | 682
STILSON
 K21 | 404
HANHAMAN
 | 359
PIERCE-LAROCHE
 K21 | 357
GLENN - OLLON
 | 425
BITTLER
 K20 | 407
VOGEL
 | 441
MELTON
 | 423

SCHULZE
 | 335
GOLDSMITH
 K20 | 295
COUCH
 K21 | 353
McCOULLOUGH
 | 709
TAYLOR
 | 718

1st Section East Side

1. 127-Hangar 2 8. 300-38
 2. PPF 9. 273-45
 3. 812-21 10. 733-40
 4. 311-23 11. 455-43
 5. 705-49 12. 329-39
 6. 721-43 13. 303-44
 7. 382-28 14. 392-41
 15. 352-49

2nd Section West Side

1. 357-12 8. 441-14
 2. 425-26 9. 353-7
 3. 359-16 10. 295-6
 4. 407-22 11. 404-Hangar 2
 5. 335-4 12. 432-17
 6. 682-1 13. 709-27
 7. 423-18 14. 718-30

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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
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	HINCKLEY	11	1			42-40127	127	--	--	--	FIRST SERGEANT	ASSEMBLY SHIP - CMBT MSN?
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	BITTLER	12	7			42-100407	407	A	J3	3	LITTLE LAMBSY DIVEY	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	BUSH	12	5	WRIGHT	D1	42-109812	812	D	7V	7	UNKNOWN 016	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	CLAGGETT	12	4			42-100311	311	A	7V	7	YOKUM BOY	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	COUCH	12	2			42-52353	353	J	Z5	10	UNKNOWN 049	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	CRAGUN	12	5			41-29352	352	K	7V	4	WOLVE'S LAIR	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	DeNEFFE	12	6			41-29300	300	M	J4	10	LORELEI	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	GAINES	12	6			42-52392	392	O	J4	7	WABBIT TWACKS	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	GLENN	12	5	OLLUM	D2	42-100425	425	D	J3	4	THE BIRD	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	GOLDSMITH	12	4			41-29295	295	K	Z5	4	BOMB TOTIN' MAMA	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	GRANT	12	9			42-52382	382	J	7V	10	WURF'LESS	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	HANNAMAN	12	3			41-29359	359	J	J3	5	TAIL WIND	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	HETZLER	12	FTR			41-29329	329	L	7V	9	FRITZI	FLAK OVER TARGET
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	KECK	12	7			41-28721	721	L	J4	6	DOWNWIND LEG	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	KOVICH	12	5			41-28733	733	P	J4	5	RHAPSODY IN JUNK	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	LAMB	12	5	HOGG	L1	41-28673	673	A	YO	--	389BG/564SQ	Tail number not given
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	LOGIE	12	6			42-52432	432	P	J3	10	BACHELOR'S PARADISE	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	MARTIN, J	12	6			42-52455	455	O	7V	7	PLUTOCRAT	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	McCOLLOUGH	12	5			41-28709	709	I	7V	5	LUCKY STRIKE	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	MELTON	12	6			42-52423	423	R	J3	4	UNKNOWN 031	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	PIERCE	12	ABT	LaROCHE	L2	42-100357	357	D	Z5	--	VALE OREGAN	ABORT - #3 ENG GAS LEAK, LINES REVERSED
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	ROUBAL	12	8			41-29303	303	H	Z5	8	LIBERTY LIB	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	SCHULZE	12	7			42-52335	335	R	Z5	10	ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	SPAVEN	12	5			41-28705	705	H	J4	11	YE OLDE HELLGATE	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	STILSON	12	4			42-52404	404	Q	Z5	3	BELLE OF BOSTON	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	TAYLOR, O	12	7			41-28718	718	M	7V	11	BO	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	UMPHREY	12	6			41-29273	273	Q	J4	8	FLAK MAGNET	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	VOGEL	12	5			42-52441	441	I	J3	9	LAST CARD LOUIE	
23-Mar-44	OSNABRUCK	WATSON	12	4			41-28682	682	I	Z5	11	UNKNOWN 003	