

TH

HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORTFIELD ORDER NO.TARGETDATE

522

METZ A/D
NANCY A/D

24 MARCH 1944

T
H
I
S

P
A
G
E

I
S

U
N
C
L
A
S
S
I
F
I
E
D

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

- ANNEX 1 - ROUTES
- ANNEX 2 - BOMBING
- ANNEX 3 - ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE
- ANNEX 4 - ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS (NONE)
- ANNEX 5 - COMMUNICATIONS
- ANNEX 6 - STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9, 22 Sep 58

COPY NO. 2

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AAF 147 APO 558

: : : : :
 : S E C R E T :
 : By Auth of CG :
 : 2d Bomb Div :
 : Initials *WLP* :
 : Date *21 April 1944* :
 : : : : :

13 April 1944

SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, 24 March 1944.

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

1. Data.

a. Date of Mission - 24 March 1944.

b. Targets and Units Participating -

	Primary	Secondary
14th Combat Bomb Wing 392nd Bomb Group 44th Bomb Group	- Metz A/D	Thionville A/D
96th Combat Bomb Wing 458th Bomb Group 466th Bomb Group	- Metz A/D	Thionville A/D
2nd Combat Bomb Wing 389th Bomb Group 445th Bomb Group 453rd Bomb Group	- Nancy A/D	St. Dizier A/D
20th Combat Bomb Wing 446th Bomb Group 448th Bomb Group	- Nancy A/D	St. Dizier A/D

c. Last Resort Target - None

2. Narrative.

a. This was planned as a visual mission against airdromes at Metz and Nancy/Essey with airdromes at Thionville and St. Dizier as secondary targets. 206 aircraft were dispatched with eight Groups of P-47's and one Group of P-38's assigned as fighter support.

b. Assembly was accomplished without difficulty and the route flown as briefed. At the enemy coast, the lead and deputy lead planes of the 446th Group, leading the 20th Combat Wing, were crippled by flak and returned to base, the 448th Group assuming the lead of this Combat Wing.

c. One Group and one section bombed their primary target, Nancy airdrome, visually but results could not be determined due to clouds. Two Groups bombed St. Dizier, as a target of opportunity, when their primary and secondary became obscured by clouds. Five Groups bombed St. Dizier as their secondary because of cloud cover at the primary with good results. One section held their bombs when smoke obscured the secondary.

d. Intense and accurate predictor control "seen" fire was encountered in Londerieres/Neufchâtel area. Heavier to moderate and accurate "seen" fire was encountered at various places enroute. Two Fighter Groups did not take off due to weather and the others were reported to have given weak support on the way in and good support on the way out. 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

S E C R E T

 T
H
I
S

P
A
G
E

I
S

U
N
C
L
A
S
S
I
F
I
E
D

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

TARGETS:

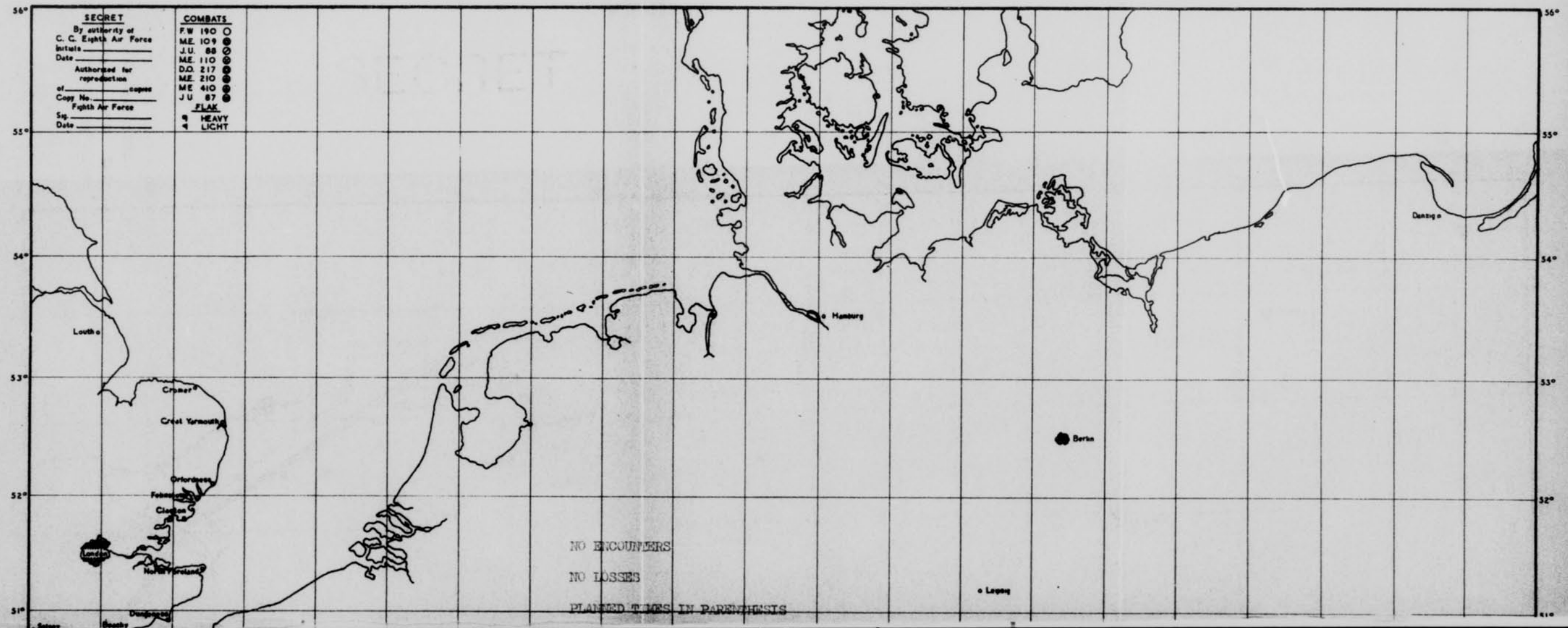
PRIMARY

NETZ

TRACK CHART

DATE 24 MARCH 1944

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY 14th & 96th PLANNED

14th ACTUAL96th ACTUAL2nd & 20th PLANNED

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

Tactical Report of Mission, 24 March 1944.

a. Bombing.

GROUP	DIRECTION OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLEW AUTO- PILOT FLEW MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLECT.	RANGE	NO. A/C BOMBED
<u>NANCY AIRDROME</u>								
448th	20°	20 sec.	14,000 ft	1022		1	1	9
446th	10°	20 sec.	15,000 ft	1025		2	0	24
<u>ST. DIZIER AIRDROME</u>								
44th	265°	65 sec.	16,000 ft	1017		2	2	25
392nd	360°	90 sec.	15,000 ft	1024		2	0	26
458th	292°	2 min.	15,300 ft	1030		2	1	22
466th	270°	90 sec.	16,000 ft	1030		1	0	21
389th	305°	5 min.	15,000 ft	1048	X	1	1	24
445th	290°	5 min.	15,500 ft	1050	X	0	1	13
453rd	300°	55 sec.	15,000 ft	1050		1	0	14

- b. The assigned primary targets were the Metz and Nancy Airdrome.
- c. Only one group and one section attacked the Nancy Airdrome. Due to cloud cover over the assigned primary targets, seven groups bombed the secondary target, the St. Dizier Airdrome.
- d. Two aircraft failed to bomb due to rack failure. One aircraft released six bombs accidentally at the secondary IP, Six aircraft dropped on this release.
- e. Cloud cover at the primary makes results difficult to determine. The secondary was attacked with good results.

SECRET

S E C R E T

Tactical Report of Mission, 24 March 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. (1) No AA fire was encountered at either of the targets.
- (2) Intense and very accurate predictor control "seen" fire was encountered in the Londinieres/Neufchatel area. One Group observed consistent salvos of three black bursts and one green in this area.
- (3) Moderate and accurate "seen" fire was encountered at Dieppe, Grandvilliers and Romilly.
- (4) Meager to moderate gunfire was encountered at Beauvais, Epernay, Metz, Soissons, Compiègne and Chalons sur Marne, Forges and from woods south of Foucarmont.
- (5) It is believed that gunfire was also encountered at Sezanne.

b. Phenomena.

- (1) Yellow, green, blue and red smoke puffs were seen at Romilly, most of the fire apparently coming from south of the A/D. No enemy fighters were seen.

T
H
I
S

P
A
G
E

I
S

U
N
C
L
A
S
S
I
F
I
E
D

S E C R E T

THI:

S E C R E T

Tactical Report of Mission, 24 March 1944

5. Communications.

a. Communication Channels.

- (1) Communications on Division W/T frequency with weather aircraft VHF communication was fair. Seven bomb strike messages were received. Interference was reported on HF DF Section N frequency.

b. Navigational Aids.

- (1) Fifteen A/C obtained 30 QDM's. Four A/C obtained 6 fixes from assigned MF D/F. GEE operated satisfactorily; one Group reported interference in the area of Thames Estuary.

c. Equipment Failures and Performance.

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

d. Radar and Radio Countermeasures.

- (1) None.

e. Pathfinder Equipment and Performance.

- (1) None.

T
H
I
S

P
A
G
E

I
S

U
N
C
L
A
S
S
I
F
I
E
DS E C R E T

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

FORM 7-71		2d Comb. Wing				14th Combat Wing		20th Combat Wing	
A I R C R A F T	UNIT	2d BD	389	445	453	44	392	446	448
	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	209	24	14	15	25	26	26	24
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	206	24	14	15	25	26	26	23
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	180	24	13	14	25	26	24	11
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	29	-	1	1	-	-	2	13
	NO. A/C SORTIES	206	24	14	15	25	26	26	23
B O M B S	NO. A/C	33	-	-	-	-	-	24	9
	NO. & TYPE	288x500GP 468x100IB	-	-	-	-	-	288x500 GP	468x100IB
	TONNAGE	95.4	-	-	-	-	-	72	23.4
	TARGET	ST-St Dizier	ST-St Dizier	ST-St Dizier	ST-St Dizier	ST-St Dizier	ST-St Dizier	-	ST-St Dizier
	NO. OF A/C	147	24	13	14	25	26	-	2
	NO. & TYPE	895x500GP 2598x100IB 868x120FG	288x500GP	676x100IB	728x100IB	300x500GP	307x500GP	-	104x100IB
B A T T L E R E S U L T S	TONNAGE	405.8	72	33.8	36.4	75	76.8	-	5.2
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	501.2	72	33.8	36.4	75	76.8	72	28.6
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO FLAK-E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B A T T L E R E S U L T S	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	CASUALTIES - KILLED, WOUNDED, SER., SLT., MIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	16-6-2-0	0-0-0-0	5-1-0-0	1-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-2-0-0	1-2-1-0
	CAT. A-AC-B-E								

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

PREPARED BY
STATISTICAL CONTROL
2d BOMB DIVISION

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

FORM 7-71		96th Combat Wing		
UNIT		2d BD	458	466
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF		25	30
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED		24	29
	NO. A/C ATTACKING		22	21
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING		3	9
	NO. A/C SORTIES		24	29
B O M B S	NO. A/C		-	-
	NO. & TYPE		-	-
	TONNAGE		-	-
	TARGET		ST-St Dizier	ST-St Dizier
	NO. OF A/C		22	21
	NO. & TYPE		868x120FC	1090x100IB
	TONNAGE		52.1	54.5
TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS			52.1	54.5
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		-	-
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM		-	-
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE		4-1-1-0	5-0-0-0

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

PREPARED BY
STATISTICAL CONTROL
2d FCB DIVISION

FORMATION PLAN

24 MARCH 1944

PIERCE-JAMISON

RAITER

D 1 425

SCHULZE

K-21 K 1 295

D
HANNAMAN

COMBS-HINCKLEY

K 1 335

LOGIE

VOGEL

D 1 812

K-21 D 1 357

KINGSLEY

K-20 S 1 735

K 1 671

BURTIS

N 1 305

K-20 J 1 353

K-20 J 1 359

STEWART

WELLS

BARTON

K-21 1 1 709

WATSON

B 408

P 1 432

I 1 441

*at
and all way*

MELTON

1 127

SECTION II

D

SPAIVEN

M 1 339

C

UMPHREY

K-21 Q 1 273

WEBER-LAROCHE

A 1 311

LAMB-MOORE

B 1 431

KECK

L 1 721

CRAGUN

K-20 K 1 352

ROUBAL

K-21 H 1 303

K-20

ROBESON

H 1 705

KOVICH

K-21 P 1 733

GRANT

J 1 382

K-20
WANGERICH

Q 1 457

SCHAAF

M 1 718

ALVESTAD

O 1 392

(ANDREW CREW)

SECTION ONE - WEST

1. 127	9. 432	Behind H 3
2. 425 26	10. 353 7	
3. 357 front hangar 2	11. 305 9	
4. 812 21	12. 671 42	
5. 359 29	13. 735 47	
6. 335 4	14. 709 27	
7. 295 6	15. 408 35	
8. 441 17		

SECTION II - EAST

1. 311 23	8. 457 31
2. 431 37	10. 705 40
3. 273 45	11. 303 34
4. 382 28	12. 352 29
5. 721 43	13. 392 41
6. 300 Behind H4	
7. 718 30	

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
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	ALVESTAD	13	7			42-52392	392	O	J4	8	WABBIT TWACKS	Andrew Crew
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	BARTON	13	2			41-28709	709	I	7V	6	LUCKY STRIKE	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	BURTIS	13	5			41-29359	359	J	J3	6	TAIL WIND	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	COMBS	13	6	HINCKLEY	D1	42-100357	357	D	Z5	6	VALE OREGAN	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	CRAGUN	13	6			41-29352	352	K	7V	5	WOLVE'S LAIR	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	DAVIS	13	5			42-52353	353	J	Z5	11	UNKNOWN 049	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	GRANT	13	10			42-52382	382	J	7V	11	WURF'LESS	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	HANNAMAN	13	4			42-109812	812	D	7V	8	UNKNOWN 016	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	KECK	13	8			41-28721	721	L	J4	7	DOWNWIND LEG	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	KINGSLEY	13	3			41-29305	305	N	Z5	3	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	KOVICH	13	6			41-28733	733	P	J4	6	RHAPSODY IN JUNK	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	LAMB	13	6	MOORE	D2	42-100431	431	B	J4	6	BOMB-AH-DEAR	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	LOGIE	13	7			41-28735	735	S	J4	4	UNKNOWN 005	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	MANGERICH	13	7			42-52457	457	Q	7V	5	FINAL APPROACH	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	MELTON	13	--			42-40127	127	--	--	--	FIRST SERGEANT	ASSEMBLY SHIP - CMBT MSN?
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	PIERCE	13	6	JAMISON	L1	42-100425	425	D	J3	5	THE BIRD	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	RAITER	13	9			41-29295	295	K	Z5	5	BOMB TOTIN' MAMA	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	ROBESON	13	7			41-28705	705	H	J4	12	YE OLDE HELLGATE	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	ROUBAL	13	9			41-29303	303	H	Z5	9	LIBERTY LIB	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	SCHAAF	13	8			41-28718	718	M	7V	12	BO	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	SCHULZE	13	8			42-52335	335	R	Z5	11	ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	SPAVEN	13	6			41-29300	300	M	J4	11	LORELEI	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	STEWART	13	5			42-52432	432	P	J3	11	BACHELOR'S PARADISE	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	UMPHREY	13	7			41-29273	273	Q	J4	9	FLAK MAGNET	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	VOGEL	13	6			41-28671	671	K	J4	9	UNKNOWN 001	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	WATSON	13	5			42-100408	408	D	J4	5	BEASTFACE	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	WEBER	13	5	LaROCHE	L2	42-100311	311	A	7V	8	YOKUM BOY	
24-Mar-44	ST. DIZIER	WELLS	13	6			42-52441	441	I	J3	10	LAST CARD LOUIE	