

HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

<u>FIELD ORDER NO.</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>DATE</u>
542	SIRACOURT	5 APRIL 1944

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2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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SECRETHEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AAF 147 APO 558

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 : SECRET :
 : By Auth of CG :
 : 2d Bomb Div. :
 : Initials *WES* :
 : Date *17 April 1944* :
 : : : : : : : :

17 April 1944

SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, 5 April 1944.

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

1. Data.

- a. Date of Mission - 5 April 1944.
- b. Primary Target - Siracourt/St. Pol, Noball Installation.
- c. Secondary Target - None.
- d. Last Resort Target - None.
- e. Units Participating - 96th CBW (458th, 466th BG)

2. Narrative.

a. The Noball target, Siracourt, was attacked by the 96th Combat Wing on G-H equipment. 51 aircraft were dispatched in four Squadrons with a G-H ship leading each Squadron and one Group of P-47's gave excellent fighter support

b. The 458th Group assembled without incident. The new 466th Group experienced difficulty in assembly in attempting to make a straight climb through the overcast. They did not break out until about 14,000 feet at which time they were approximately 100 miles north of Cremer; however, planned rendezvous with the 458th Group was made. Just after departing buncher 15, the G-H equipment on the lead Squadron of the 458th Group failed and the second Squadron took over the lead. The special equipment in this Squadron failed shortly thereafter and decision was made to continue on course in hope of making a visual run on the target. At the IP, equipment of the second Squadron was working intermittently so the Group continued on course. At a point ten miles from the target, the equipment went out again and the Air Commander abandoned the mission since the target area was completely overcast. The 466th Group flew the route to the target as briefed.

c. The 466th Group reported a good run on the special equipment, bombing results were unobserved.

d. Only light and inaccurate gunfire was encountered in the target area. Chaff was reported as being effective. No enemy fighters were seen. Claims and losses were nil.

For the Commanding General:

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

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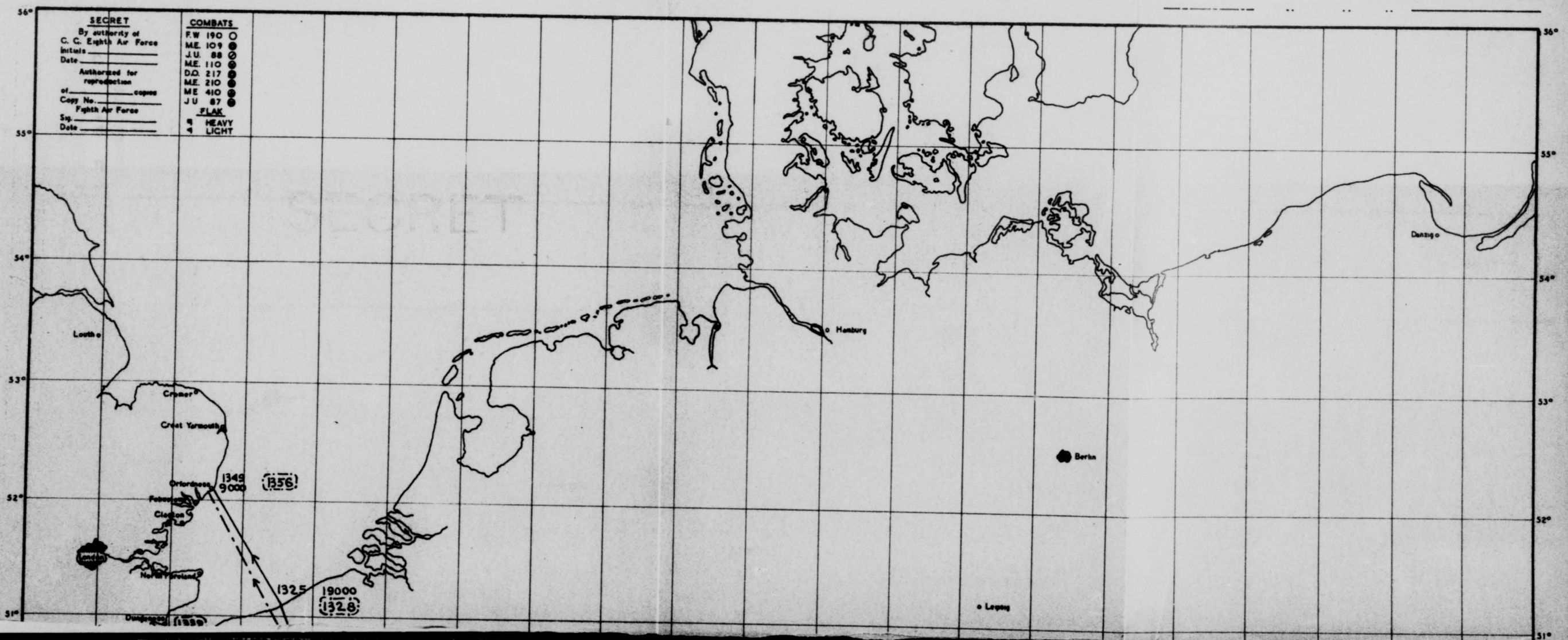
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PRIMARY SIROCOURT

TRACK CHART

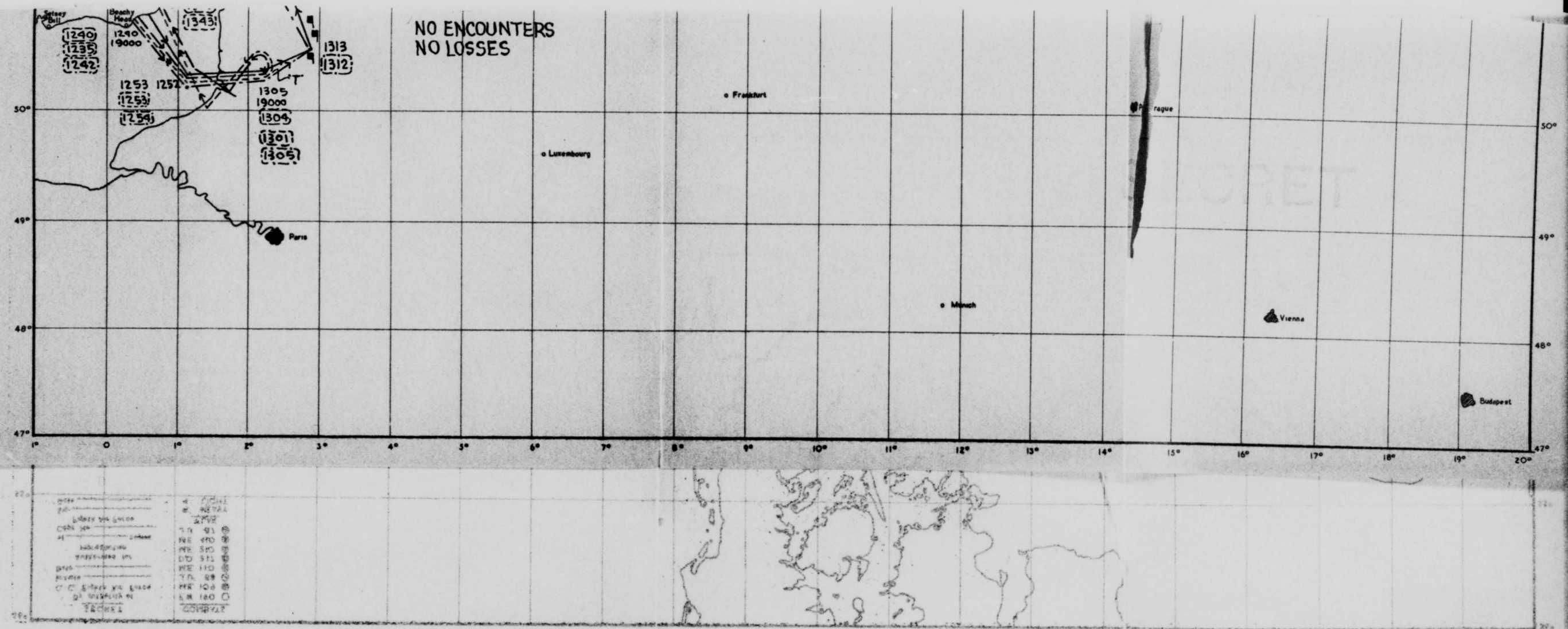
DATE April 5, 1944

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY BRIEFING

458 LEAD SECTION458 SECOND "466 1st & 2nd "

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ROUTE FOLLOWED BY
BRIEFING

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Tactical Report of Mission, 5 April 1944

2. Bombing.

a. Data.

GROUP	DIRECTION OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	WENT AUTO- PILOT	WENT MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLECT.	RANGE	NUMBER A/C BOMBED
<u>SIRACOURT</u>									
458	DID NOT BOMB								
466	68°		20,000 ft	1306		X	PFF	PFF	20

b. Only two groups were assigned to bomb Siracourt on PFF.

c. One group failed to bomb due to failure of the special equipment. Twenty aircraft of the second group bombed through 10/10 undercast.

d. A PFF aircraft that was to lead a section failed to rendezvous with the section and instead flew with the Group that did not bomb. One aircraft failed to bomb due to a rack malfunction.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 5 April 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. An inaccurate fixed barrage was fired in the target area, and several rockets leaving white trails of smoke were also observed here. No other anti-aircraft fire was encountered on route.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 5 April 1944

5. Communications.

a. Communication Channels.

- (1) VHF communication with weather scouting aircraft was excellent. W/T communication was good, interference was slight.

b. Navigational Aids.

- (1) The 458th Bomb Group did not use "GEE" for rendezvousing. "GEE" operated satisfactorily. Jamming presented no difficulty. Good signals were reported to target and on return.

c. Equipment Failures and Performance.

- (1) No major failures with communications equipment was reported.

d. Radar and Radio Counter-Measures.

- (1) All aircraft carried 620 units of "Window" chaff for dispersing for a period of 31 minutes at a rate of one unit every three minutes.

e. Pathfinder Equipment and Performance.

- (1) Four G-H aircraft were scheduled. Two sets were not in working condition at target. Of the two sets in working order, one did not bomb due to formation trouble.

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FORM 8-21

UNIT		2d BD	93GH	458	466					
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	58	4	28	26					
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	51	4	26	21					
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	21	1	-	20					
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	37	3	28	6					
	NO. A/C SORTIES	50	4	25	21					
B O M B S	NO. A/C	21	1	-	20					
	NO. & TYPE	236x500GP	10x500GP	-	226x500GP					
	TONNAGE	59.0	2.5	-	56.5					
	TARGET	-	-	-	-					
	NO. OF A/C	-	-	-	-					
	NO. & TYPE	-	-	-	-					
	TONNAGE	-	-	-	-					
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	59.0	2.5	-	56.5					
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	-	-	-	-					
	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	-	-	-	-					
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-	-	-	-					
	CASUALTIES - KILLED, WOUNDED, SER., SGT., MIA	-	-	-	-					
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., D.M., NO CLAIM	-	-	-	-					
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	-	-	-	-					
	CAT. A-AC-3-3	-	-	-	-					

TACTICAL COMMANDER'S REPORT
6. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
5 April 1944

PREPARED BY
STATISTICAL CONTROL
2d BOMB DIVISION

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HEADQUARTERS
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
AAF 123 APO 558
Office of the Operations Officer

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AUTH CO 4586P
INITIALS *slw*
DATE *5 Apr*

6 April 1944.

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 5 April 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H).

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A. Group	458
B. Division F.O. No.	251
C. Date of Operation	5 April 1944
D. Ordered Primary Target.	No Ball-Siracourt-St Pol
E. A/C Taking Off.	28
F. A/C Dispatched.	26
G. Sorties	25
H. A/C Attacking	Nil
I. A/C Not Attacking	28
J. A/C Attacking - Primary Target.	Nil
K. A/C Attacking - Secondary Target.	Nil
L. A/C Attacking - Last Resort Target.	Nil
M. A/C Attacking - Opportunity Target.	Nil
N. A/C Lost - Flak	Nil
O. A/C Lost - Flak and E/A	Nil
P. A/C Lost - E/A.	Nil
Q. A/C Lost - Accident	Nil
R. A/C Lost - Cause Unknown.	Nil

Joseph S. Williams
JOSEPH S. WILLIAMS
1st Lt, AC
Group Statistical Officer

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FORMATION PLAN
MISSION OF 5 APRIL 1944

GH-LaRoche

Harris
353 K-21

Woodward-Hickley
366 K-21

Brucos
059 K-21

Schulze
335 K-21

Slaton
K-20407

Vogel
432

Wells
441

Stroup
423

Olney
359

Goldsmith
38

Davis
682

Kingsley
305 K-20

Stillson
404

Watson
295 K-20

Melton
276

GH-Hensler

C
Zimmerman
457 K-21

Weber-Freeman
365 K-21

Mangerich
667 K-20

Schuman
671 K-21

Alvestad
705 K-21

Nickleton
709

Nedrow
455

Sievers
392

Spaven
733

DeMeffe
300

Gaines
273

McGillough
302 K-20

Shaw
721

Robeson
705 K-20

Cragen
352

458th Pilots and Aircraft as listed on Formation Plans

Date	Target	Pilot	458th Msn	Pilot Msn	Cmd Pilot	Ld	Serial	Last 3	RCL	Sqdn	A/C Msn	A/C Name	Comments
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	ALVESTAD	16	8			41-28706	706	F	J4	4	DREAM BOAT/SPARE PARTS	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	BRUDOS	16	9			42-110059	059	E	J3	1	UNKNOWN 056	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	CRAGUN	16	7			41-29352	352		7V	8	WOLVE'S LAIR	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	DAVIS	16	7			41-28682	682	I	Z5	12	UNKNOWN 003	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	DeNEFFE	16	8			41-29300	300	M	J4	14	LORELEI	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	GAINES	16	7			41-29273	273	Q	J4	12	FLAK MAGNET	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	GOLDSMITH	16	NTO			--	-	--	--	--		NO TAKE OFF - ILLEGIBLE - NOT ON OPS RPT
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	HARRIS, T	16	4			42-52353	353	J	Z5	13	UNKNOWN 049	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	KINGSLEY	16	5			41-29305	305	N	Z5	5	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	MANGERICH	16	10			41-28667	667	F	7V	6	JAYHAWKER	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	McCOLLOUGH	16	7			41-29302	302	P	7V	8	NOKKISH	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	MELTON	16	9			41-29276	276	T	J4	3	URGIN VIRGIN/The ROTTEN SOCK	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	MIDDLETON	16	1			41-28709	709	I	7V	8	LUCKY STRIKE	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	NEDROW	16	1			42-52455	455	O	7V	10	PLUTOCRAT	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	OLNEY	16	1			41-29359	359	J	J3	9	TAIL WIND	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	ROBESON	16	10			41-28705	705	H	J4	14	YE OLDE HELLGATE	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	SCHULZE	16	11			42-52335	335	R	Z5	14	ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	SCHUMAN	16	7			41-28671	671	K	J4	11	UNKNOWN 001	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	SHAW, C	16	6			41-28721	721	L	J4	9	DOWNWIND LEG	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	SIEVERS	16	8			42-52392	392	O	J4	11	WABBIT TWACKS	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	SLATON	16	3			42-100407	407	A	J3	6	LITTLE LAMBSY DIVEY	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	SPAVEN	16	7			41-28733	733	P	J4	9	RHAPSODY IN JUNK	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	STILSON	16	5			42-52404	404	Q	Z5	4	BELLE OF BOSTON	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	STROUP	16	6			42-52423	423	R	J3	7	UNKNOWN 031	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	VOGEL	16	8			42-52432	432	P	J3	14	BACHELOR'S PARADISE	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	WATSON	16	8			41-29295	295	K	Z5	8	BOMB TOTIN' MAMA	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	WEBER	16	7	FREEMAN	D2	42-100365	365	B	7V	8	WOLFGANG (maybe)	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	WELLS	16	7			42-52441	441	I	J3	12	LAST CARD LOUIE	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	WOODWARD	16	5	HINCKLEY	D1	42-100366	366	B	Z5	5	MIZPAH	
05-Apr-44	ST. POL-SIRACOURT	ZIMMERMAN	16	2			42-52457	457	Q	7V	8	FINAL APPROACH	