

TH

HEADQUARTERS
24 BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 550

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

635

TARGET

OSTADHUCK
HUNTER

DATE

7 MAY 1944.

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24 BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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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 *RRS* :
 : Date *30 May 1944* :
 : : : : : : : :

28 May 1944

SUBJECT : Tactical Report of Mission, 7 May 1944.

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

1. Data.

- a. Date of Mission - 7 May 1944.
- b. Primary Targets - Osnabruck - 96th CBW, 2nd CBW "A", 14th CBW.
Munster - 2nd CBW "B", 20th CBW.
- c. Secondary Target - None.
- d. East Resort Target - None.
- e. Units Participating -
- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 96th Combat Wing | - 6 Squadrons | - 12 A/C each |
| 2nd Combat Wing "A" | - 6 " | - " " " |
| 14th Combat Wing | - 5 " | - " " " |
| | - 1 " | - " " " from 96th CBW |
| 2nd Combat Wing "B" | - 2 " | - " " " |
| | - 2 " | - " " " from 20th CBW |
| | - 1 " | - " " " from 96th CBW |
| 20th Combat Wing | - 6 " | - " " " f |

2. Narrative.

a. 325 aircraft from four Combat Wings were dispatched to attack visually, or through the use of PFF, the cities of Osnabruck and Munster. Four Groups of P-47s provided fighter support.

b. Group and Wing assemblies were accomplished without incident. Some difficulty was experienced at the Division assembly line with the 2nd Combat Wing "B" taking the lead on departure from the English coast. The route was flown generally as briefed.

c. All units bombed in Wing formation on PFF with unobserved results. Due to mistaken identity on the part of the flick operators, the 14th Combat Wing bombed Munster instead of Osnabruck and the 2nd Combat Wing "B" attacked Osnabruck instead of Munster.

d. Moderate to intense accurate flick was encountered over Munster and Osnabruck. Some crews reported seeing smoke bombs, which imitated our PFF flares, but they were not as bright and did not leave as large a smoke trail. Heavy gunfire was reported over the northern Ruhr and from barges off the Dutch coast. No enemy aircraft were seen and fighter support was good. Losses were one to flick and none to enemy aircraft. Claims are nil.

For the Commanding General:

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

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TARGETS
PRIMARY MUNSTER 2420 C.W.
OSNABRUCK 964 14 C.W.

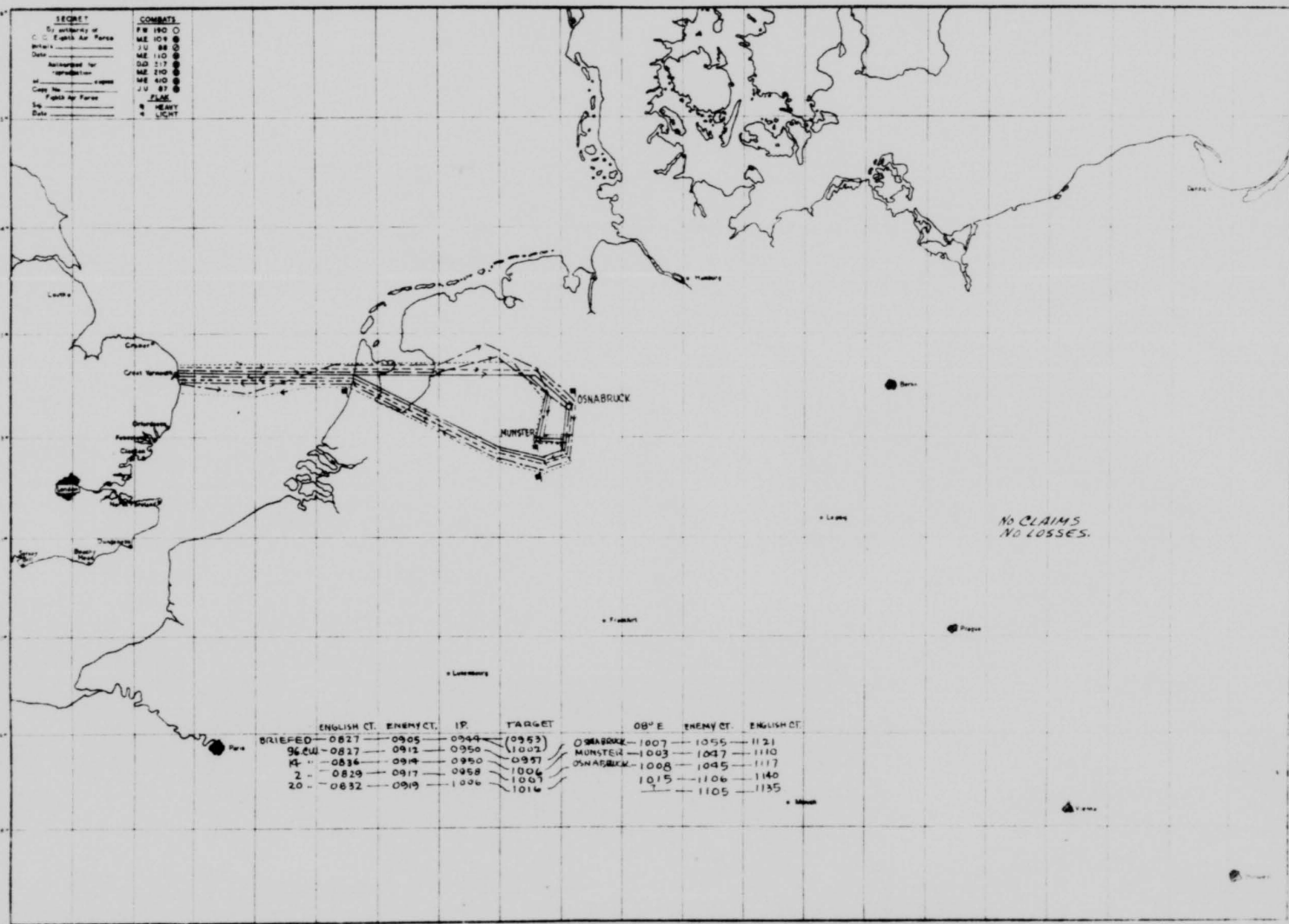
TRACK CHART

DATE MAY 7, 1944.

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY BRIEFED

SECRET
By authority of
C. C. English Air Force
Date
Revised by
Date
Copy No.
By
Date

COMBATS
FW 190
ME 109
JU 88
ME 110
ME 210
ME 410
JU 87
FLAK
HEAVY
LIGHT



NO CLAIMS
NO LOSSES.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 7 May 1944

2. Bombing.

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	PILOT PILOT	TYPE PILOT	RANGE DEFLECT	RANGE RANGE	NUMBER BOMBS
<u>OSNABRUCK</u>									
466			22,000'	0957		X	Dropped on Lead PTF	19 + 1 PTF	
467	226		22,000'	0959		X	Dropped on 466-458	25	
458	135		22,000'	1000		X	Dropped on 466	26	
389	146	9 min.	22,100'	1007	X		Dropped on Lead PTF	28 + 1 PTF + 6 A/C of 445th	
453	140		22,000'	1008	X		Dropped on 389th	28	
44	146		23,500'	1004		X	Dropped on Smoke Bombs	27	
<u>MUNSTER</u>									
392	240	7 min.	22,500'	1006		X	Dropped on Lead PTF	20 + 1 PTF + 3 A/C of 44th	
445	175	10 min.	22,000'	1005	X		Dropped on Lead PTF	21 + 1 PTF + 6 A/C of 445th	
93	150		22,500'	1005	X		Dropped on 445th	23	
446	220	10 min.	22,300'	1016		X	Dropped on Lead PTF	29 + 1 PTF	
448	200		23,500'	1016		X	Dropped on 445	32	

- The assigned primary targets for this mission were Osnabruck and Munster, Germany.
- Osnabruck was attacked by six Groups and Munster was attacked by five Groups. Bombing was done by PTF through 10/10 undercast in Combat Wing formation.
- Four A/C failed to bomb due to the bombardier not seeing the PTF smoke markers. One A/C did not bomb due to the bomb bay doors failing to open. Six A/C did not bomb due to rack malfunctions.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 7 May 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. The 96th Wing encountered a fixed barrage at Osnabruck which appears to have been fairly accurately placed for the 466th and 467th Groups, but was inaccurate for the 458th Group. The 44th, 589th and 453rd Groups all encountered inaccurate fixed barrages over the target.
- b. The 392nd Group, which led the attack on Munster, encountered intense and fairly accurate predictor control "unseen" fire over the target. The 445th Group, following closely behind, encountered inaccurate predictor control "unseen" fire which was too low. All Groups in the 20th Wing encountered moderate to intense inaccurate fire over the target which was mainly in the form of a fixed barrage although some predictor control fire was also reported.
- c. Heavy gunfire was encountered en route from the northern Ruhr, and from barges off the Dutch coast.
- d. Several rockets were seen at Osnabruck.
- e. At Munster, white objects resembling tennis balls were observed coming up from the ground leaving a slight smoke trail and bursting into a sort of flare.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 7 May 1944

5. Communications.

- a. VHF R/T communication was excellent, with contacts maintained to enemy coast, and interplane messages intercepted beyond that point. W/T communication failed for a short distance in the vicinity of Control Point three, apparently due to a noticeable skip effect, since communication was restored further along the route. Pathfinder equipment (H2K) was used in each Combat Wing lead aircraft with fair results. Some technical difficulty was experienced in 14th and 2nd Combat Wings; however, recognition of landmarks and target extended to a maximum of 100 miles in one aircraft. Two Groups reported "Window" discharge very effective in reducing accuracy of Flak.

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FORM V-11		7 May 1944									
UNIT		2BD	389BG	389SH	475BG	452EG	47BG	392BG	93BG	446BG	
AIRCRAFT	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	334	29	5	29	30	30	28	25	30	
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	325	28	5	27	29	30	28	24	30	
	NO. A/C ATTENDING	312	28	5	27	28	30	28	23	29	
	NO. A/C NOT ATTENDING	22	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	1	
	NO. A/C SIGHTED	322	28	5	27	29	30	28	24	30	
BOBS	NO. A/C	312	28	5	27	28	30	28	23	29	
	NO. & TYPE	6342x100IB 2158x500GP	335x500GP	20x500GP	572x100IB 192x500GP	1454x100IB 72x500GP	1248x100IB 72x500GP	333x500GP	520x100IB 144x500GP	520x100IB 218x500GP	
	TONNAGE	856.6	83.7	5	76.6	72.7	80.4	83.3	62	80.5	
	TARGET	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	NO. OF A/C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	NO. & TYPE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	TONNAGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	856.6	83.7	5	76.6	72.7	80.4	83.3	62	80.5	
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	A/C LOST TO E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
RESULTS	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, IN CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB. DOWN, NO CLAIM	1-0-2-6	1-0-2-6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	20-2-0-0	-	3-0-0-0	3-1-0-0	1-0-0-0	0-1-0-0	2-0-0-0	-	-	

Tactical Aircraft Division

REMARKS:
Tactical Aircraft Division
2d Bomb Division

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Page #2

FORM V-11

7 May

1944

AIRCRAFT	UNIT	448BG	458BG	466BG	467BG
	NO. A/C TAKEN OFF	34	29	31	34
BOMBERS	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	32	28	30	34
	NO. A/C ATTENDING	32	26	25	31
	NO. A/C NOT ATTENDING	2	3	6	3
	NO. A/C SQUADS	32	28	30	31
	NO. A/C	32	26	25	31
BOMBERS	NO. & TYPE	416x100IB 287x500GP	311x500GP	246x500GP	1612x100IB
	TORNGE	92.5	77.8	61.5	80.6
	TARGET	-	-	-	-
	NO. OF A/C	-	-	-	-
	NO. & TYPE	-	-	-	-
BOMBERS	TORNGE	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL TORNGE, ALL TARGETS	92.5	77.8	61.5	80.6
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO E/A	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A	-	-	-	-
BOMBERS	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-	-	-	-
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED	-	-	-	-
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED,	-	-	-	-
	PROB., DUB., NO CLAIM	-	-	-	-
BOMBERS	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	-	-	5-0-0-0	6-0-0-0
	A/C NON-BATTLE	-	-	-	-

Tactical Report of Action
2d Bomb DivisionFOLLOWED BY:
2d Bomb Division

HEADQUARTERS
STATION 123 APO 558
OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

8 MAY 1944

SUBJECT: S-2 REPORT, MISSION 7 MAY 44. (OSNABRUCK)

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, AAF 123, APO 558.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT OPPOSITION

1. NO ENEMY AIRCRAFT WERE SEEN.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE

2. INTENSE BUT INACCURATE AA FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED IN THE TARGET AREA, MOST OF IT BEING 2-3000' BELOW THE FORMATION SHOWING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CHAFF. THE SAME TYPE OF FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED OVER MUNSTER.

3. SOME CREWS REPORT SEEING ROCKETS JUST AFTER TARGET. THE NUMBER SEEN RANGED FROM FIVE TO TWELVE, HOWEVER THE ACCURACY OF THE ROCKETS WAS POOR. THE ENEMY USED SMOKE BOMBS WHICH GAVE A GOOD IMITATION OF OUR PFF FLARES, HOWEVER, THEY WERE NOT AS BRIGHT AND DID NOT LEAVE AS LARGE A SMOKE TRAIL.

4. FIVE OF OUR AIRCRAFT SUFFERED MINOR BATTLE DAMAGE.

OBSERVATIONS

5. NONE.

CHARLES M. DERRY
CAPT. AC,
GROUP S-2 OFFICER

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AUTH: CO 45860

INITIALS: aw

DATE: 7 May

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

7 May 1944

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 7 May 1944.

TO : Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H)
AAF 123, APO 558

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A. Group	458	
B. Division F.O. No.	288	
C. Date of Operation	7 May 1944	
D. Ordered Primary Target.	Osnabruck	
E. A/C Taking Off.	29	
F. A/C Dispatched.	28	
G. Sorties	28	
H. A/C Attacking	26	
I. A/C Not Attacking	3	
J. A/C Attacking - Primary Target.	26	25 - 12 X 500 GP 1 - 11 X 500 GP
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, Air Corps

Group Statistical Officer

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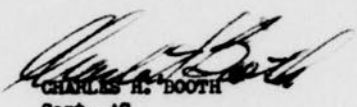
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458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP(H)
AAF 123 APO 558SECRET
AUTH Co 4586P
INITIALS gms
DATE 9 May

9 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Report of the Operations Officer, Mission of 7 May 1944.

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

1. General Narrative - See the enclosed Command Pilot's Narrative.
2. Aircraft Not Attacking - Twenty nine (29) aircraft took off and left our base in the formation plan shown in the enclosed formation diagram. One aircraft, 42-52455, left the formation and returned to base before becoming dispatched. Thus, twenty eight (28) aircraft were dispatched.
3. Of the twenty eight (28) aircraft dispatched, all went over enemy territory and are credited with sorties.
4. Twenty eight (28) aircraft went over the target. Two (2) aircraft, 42-100341 and 41-28962, did not attack the target. Thus, twenty six (26) aircraft are credited with an attack.
5. Of the twenty six (26) aircraft credited with attacking, all bombed the Primary Target of Osnabruck.
6. A detailed description of reasons for failure to attack is given in a separate report on Aircraft Not Attacking.
7. Lost Aircraft - None of our aircraft were lost. All returned safely to base.


 CHARLES H. BOOTH
 Capt, AC
 Asst Gp Opas Officer
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 AUTH: Co 48868
 INITIALS: ew
 DATE: 9 May

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

9 May 1944

SUBJECT: Lead Pilot's Narrative, Mission of 7 May 1944, Osnabruck, Germany.

TO : Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H)
 AAF 123, APO 558

1. Take off was on time. Assembly was contact and without incident. The Wing left the coast one (1) minute late and on course. We slowly climbed on course, with the lead group turning in an effort to close up the Wing formation. The briefed route was followed to a point ten (10) miles short of the Wing Initial Point, where the lead group turned toward the target. Over the target, the Group formation was good, but the Wing was strung out. Flak encountered over the target was inaccurate due to ten-tenths cloud coverage. The only flak encountered was on the way out near Munster, which was very meager and inaccurate. The briefed route was followed out and the enemy coast was crossed four (4) minutes late.

2. No enemy fighters were encountered.

3. The fighter escort was very good--considerably better than briefed.

4. The formation let down over Splasher #5 and landing was accomplished without incident. No planes were lost.

James M. Keck
 JAMES M. KECK
 1st Lt, Air Corps
 Lead Pilot

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Keck (David) FELLING

K21 : 341 A

C

R ouble

K 21:311A

Umpirey

: 962 N

Clark (Maloney) FREEMAN

K 21 : 408 D

Weber

K21 : 365B

D

Gulick

:709I

Zimmerman

:455 O

Manker

K20 : 735 S

DeNeffe

K22 : 320J

Shaw

: 705H

Stout

: 050J

Nedrow

: 314L

Tooman

: 431 B

SLaton(Farmer)MOORE

L

K 21 : 407 A

Burtis

:288L

Glenn

K21 : 433B

D

Stillson

K21: 404Q

Simes

: 005 H

Woodward

K 21 : 366 B

Davis

: 279 T

King ley

K 20: 682 I

Whitlow

:059 E

Olney

: 359 J

Curtis

K21 : 441 I

Vogel

K20 : 342 S

FORMATION ATTACHED TO 2ND COMBAT WING

TAYLOR

K 21 : 177 M

Stewart

: 516 K

Watson

K 20 : 697 P

Gentry

: 719 Q

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
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	BURTIS	36	19			41-29288	288	L	J3	15	BIG-TIME OPERATOR	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	CLARK	36	14	FREEMAN	L	42-100408	408	D	J4	14	BEASTFACE	MALONEY (LEAD NAV?)
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	CURTIS	36	5			42-52441	441	I	J3	26	LAST CARD LOUIE	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	DAVIS	36	20			42-50279	279	T	Z5	7	ENVY OF 'EM ALL	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	DeNEFFE	36	19			42-50320	320	J	J4	7	UNKNOWN 018	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	ENGLEHARDT	36	6			41-28738	738	O	Z5	18	MEAT AROUND THE CORNER	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	GENTRY	36	7			41-28719	719	Q	J3	21	PADDLEFOOT	ATTACHED TO 2ND CBW
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	GLENN	36	16			42-100433	433	B	J3	18	BIG DICK HARD TO HIT	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	GULICK	36	16			41-28709	709	I	7V	13	LUCKY STRIKE	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	KECK	36	16	FEILING	L	42-100341	341	A	J4	15	SATAN'S MATE	DAVID (LEAD NAV?)
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	KINGSLEY	36	12			41-28682	682	I	Z5	26	UNKNOWN 003	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	MANKER	36	16			41-28735	735	S	J4	21	UNKNOWN 005	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	NEDROW	36	14			42-50314	314	L	7V	3	ETO PLAYHOUSE	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	OLNEY	36	12			41-29359	359	J	J3	24	TAIL WIND	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	ROUBAL	36	20			42-100311	311	A	7V	19	YOKUM BOY	(SP ROUBLE)
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	SHAW, C	36	18			41-28705	705	H	J4	24	YE OLDE HELLGATE	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	SIMES	36	5			42-95005	005	H	Z5	7	UNKNOWN 034	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	SLATON	36	10	MOORE	L	42-100407	407	A	J3	12	LITTLE LAMBSY DIVEY	FARMER (LEAD NAV?)
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	STEWART	36	17			42-7516	516	K	J3	5	GATOR	ATTACHED TO 2ND CBW
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	STILSON	36	14			42-52404	404	Q	Z5	12	BELLE OF BOSTON	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	STOUT	36	3			42-95050	050	J	7V	3	GAS HOUSE MOUSE	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	TOOMAN	36	11			42-100431	431	B	J4	16	BOMB-AH-DEAR	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	UMPHREY	36	18			41-28962	962	N	J4	1	FLAK MAGNET II	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	VOGEL	36	17			41-29342	342	S	J3	17	ROUGH RIDERS	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	WATSON	36	18			41-28697	697	P	Z5	7	DIXIE BELL II	ATTACHED TO 2ND CBW
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	WEBER	36	17			42-100365	365	B	7V	22	WOLFGANG (maybe)	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	WHITLOW	36	14			42-110059	059	E	J3	11	UNKNOWN 056	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	WOODWARD	36	16			42-100366	366	B	Z5	15	MIZPAH	
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	ZIMMERMAN	36	ABT			42-52455	455	O	7V	--	PLUTOCRAT	ABORT - TAIL G NERVOUS BREAKDOWN
07-May-44	OSNABRUCK	TAYLOR, O	36	22			42-95177	177	M	7V	1	BO II	117? - INFO FROM OPS REC'S