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HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558



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TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

866

TARGET

SAMBRUCKEN

DATE

13 JULY 1944

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2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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- ANNEX 5 - COMMUNICATIONS
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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
MF 147 APO 558
 : : : : : : : :
 : S E C R E T :
 : By Auth of CG :
 : 2d Bomb Div :
 : Initials *WJG* :
 : Date *13 Aug 1944* :
 : : : : : : : :

12 August 1944

SUBJECT : Tactical Report of Mission, 13 July 1944.

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

1. Data.

- a. Date of Mission - 13 July 1944.
- b. Primary Target - Saarbrucken M/Y.
- c. Secondary and Last Resort Targets - Any military objective positively identified in Germany or any military objective in an occupied country not adjacent to a built-up area and a visual sighting must be made.
- d. Units Participating - 2nd CBW (389th, 453rd, 445th BG).
14th CBW (44th, 392nd, 492nd BG).
20th CBW (93rd, 446th, 448th BG).
95th CBW (489th, 491st BG).
96th CBW (458th, 466th, 467th BG).

2. Narrative.

a. 366 aircraft were dispatched to attack the marshalling yards at Saarbrucken on H2X equipment, including fifteen H2X aircraft. Two Groups of P-51s provided fighter support.

b. Due to weather conditions in the base area, assembly had to be effected at an altitude of 22,000 feet. Some units encountered Lancasters returning from operations during assembly; otherwise, assembly difficulties were nil. The units departed on time and the route was flown as briefed.

c. All units attacked the assigned target on H2X equipment with unobserved results due to 10/10 cloud cover.

d. The lead Group encountered meager, very accurate predictor control "unseen" fire in the target area. All the other Groups encountered only fixed barrages which were inaccurate. Meager gunfire was encountered enroute at a few places, but none of it could be located accurately due to weather conditions. No enemy aircraft were encountered and fighter support was good. One aircraft was lost to anti-aircraft fire. Claims were nil.

For the Commanding General:

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

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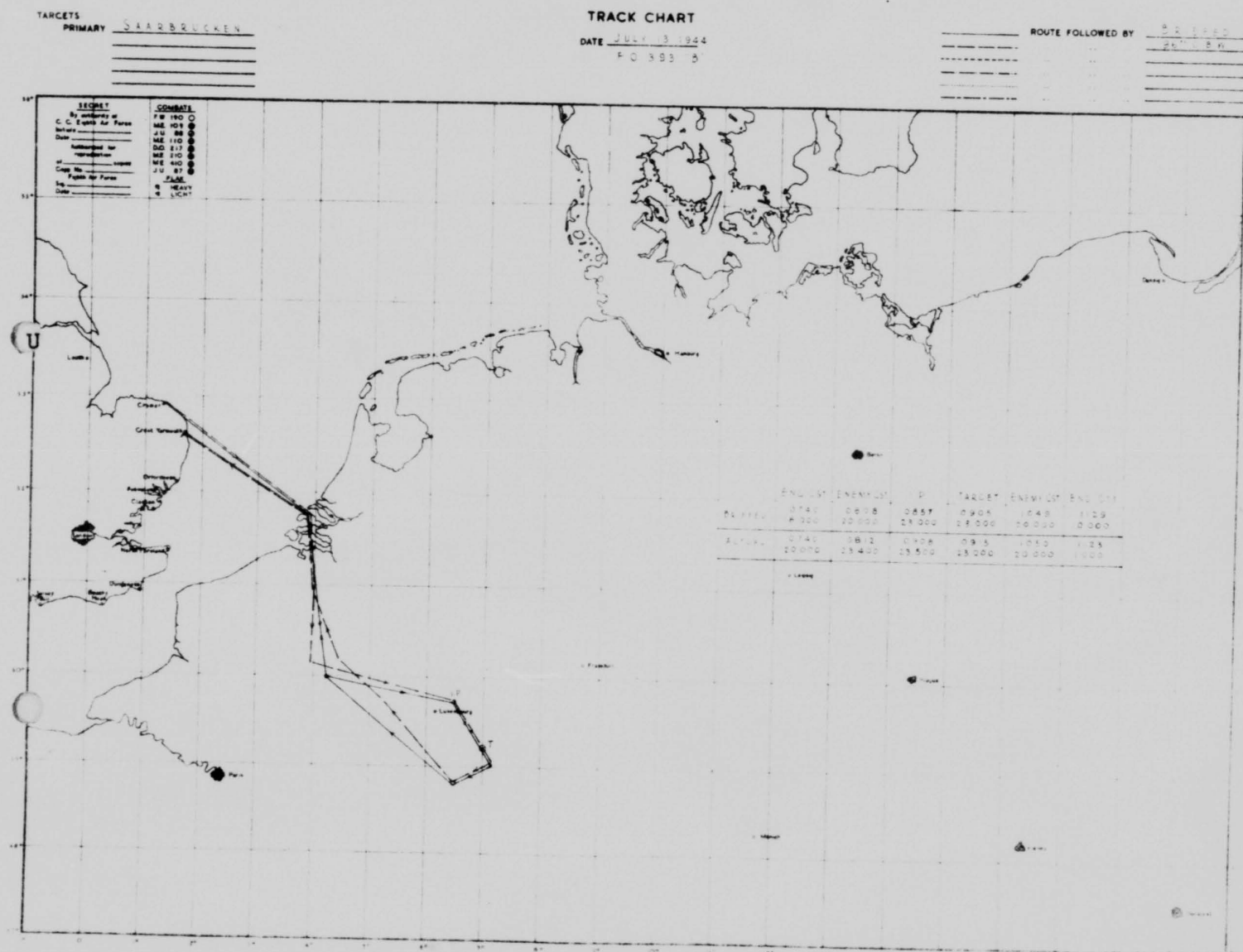
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Tactical Bombing Report of Mission, 13 July 1944

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DIRECT LENGTH			TIME OF FLEW AUTO FLEW RANGE &				TOTAL BOMBS & TYPE	NO. A/C BOMBED	DROPPED ON H2X or GH
GROUP	OF RUN	OF RUN	ALTITUDE	RELEASE	PILOT	MANL DEFLECT RANGE			
								SAARBRUCKEN H.E.	INCEND.
93	154	5 min.	22,000	0907	X		240x500	20 7 2	H2X
446	158	4 min.	22,000	0908	X		324x500	27 7 1	H2X
448	164	2 min.	23,500	0908		X	251x500	21	93rd Gp
392	165	10 min.	23,000	0911	X		276x500	23 7 2	H2X
44	170	10 min.	22,600	0916	X		191x500	16 7 1	H2X
492	156		23,800	0917	X		156x500	13	44th Gp
389	155	8 min.	23,000	0913	X			247x500	21 7 2
453	165	5 min.	23,000	0914	X			384x500	32 7 1
445	150	8 min.	23,200	0915		X		240x500	20
489	154	7 min.	23,300	0914	X		107x500-55x2000	23 7 2	H2X
491	154	6 min.	23,000	0912	X		92x2000	23	392nd Gp
458	175	8 min.	23,000	0915	X		48x2000	16 7 2	H2X
467	174		23,500	0916		X	38x2000	13	458th Gp
466	180		24,000	0918	X		27x2000-130x500	17	Flares

- a. The assigned primary target for this mission was Saarbrucken, Germany.
- b. Fourteen Groups attacked Saarbrucken in Group formation through 10/10 cloud on H2X equipment. 2 A/C dropped 24x500 GP bombs at 4847N-0630E and one A/C dropped 12x500 GP bombs on a railroad crossing at Blois, Holland.
- c. 2 A/C did not bomb due to bomb bay door malfunctions.
- d. Tabulation of bombs dropped by H2X A/C:
- | | | |
|-------|-------------------|-------------|
| 6 A/C | 12x500 incendiary | Saarbrucken |
| 5 A/C | 18x500 GP | " |
| 2 A/C | 4x2000GP | " |
- e. The results of bombing were unobserved due to 10/10 clouds.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 13 July 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. The 93rd Group led the Division and encountered meager but very accurate predictor control "unseen" fire in the target area, and also a fixed barrage which was put up behind the formation. All the other Groups encountered only fixed barrages which were inaccurate, generally being too low. Some crews estimated that these barrages were approximately 5000 ft. in depth, usually ranging from about 18000 ft to 23000 ft. A number of red AA bursts were seen in the target area but no enemy fighters were encountered. A number of rockets were also seen.
- b. Meager gunfire was encountered at a few places on route, but none of it could be located accurately on account of the weather conditions.
- c. Balloons.
- (1) A few balloons were observed flying from 20000 ft to 25000 ft between 5000N-0410E and 5000N-0450E. Some of these balloons were white or silver while others were black, and they resembled normal barrage balloons. At approximately 4940N-0650E about 50 small white balloons were seen at the same altitude. These balloons were round and were approximately 3 feet in diameter, and they appeared to have some object about 12 inches long hanging beneath them. A few black balloons were also seen in the target area flying at approximately 21000 ft, one of which was seen coming up from the ground during the attack.
- d. Losses.
- (1) One A/C of the 448th Group was damaged by AA in the target area and did not return. This A/C was last seen heading towards Switzerland.
- e. Anti-Aircraft Officer's Comment.
- (1) The attack on the target took place within 11 minutes and was very concentrated. It is interesting to note that the enemy defenses were able to engage the leading Group quite accurately by predictor control "unseen" fire, which indicates that this Group received little protection from the "Chaff". However, the weight and speed of the attack plus the liberal use of "Chaff" quickly overwhelmed the defenses and forced them to revert to very inaccurate fixed barrage fire.
- (2) It is very improbable that the balloons observed were moored to the ground. However, it is quite possible that they had some form of explosive attached to a cable hanging from them and that they were intended to act as a form of aerial minefield.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 13 July 1944 (AA fire cont'd)

Note: (on the day after this operation the Swedish wireless reported that a foreign barrage balloon with a drum holding inflammable liquid and an explosive charge suspended from it had landed in that country).

It does not seem likely that this weapon will prove to be a serious danger during daylight operations, but they might succeed in having some measure of success during night operations. The fact that some of the balloons were painted black probably indicates that they were originally intended for use at night.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 13 July 1944

5. Communications.

- a. 15 H2X aircraft were dispatched, of which only one reported H2X equipment difficulties. Other communications facilities were satisfactory.

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FORM V-11		Saarbrücken		13 July							1944
UNIT		280	389	389FTT	445	453	44	44FTT	392	492	
AIRCRAFT	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	366	22	7	24	35	22	6	28	12	
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	366	22	7	24	35	22	6	28	12	
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	301	21	6	20	32	16	5	23	11	
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	65	1	1	4	3	6	1	5	1	
	NO. A/C DOWNED	308	21	6	20	32	16	5	24	11	
BOMBERS	NO. A/C	298	21	6	20	32	16	5	23	8	
	NO. & TYPE	264x2000GP 1699x500GP 877x500IB	247x500IB	6x500GP 6x500IB	240x500IB	384x500IB	191x500GP	18x500GP	276x500GP	96x500GP	
	TONNAGE	908.0	61.8	3.0	60.0	96.0	47.7	4.5	69.0	24.0	
	TARGET									LR- A & B A-2 B-1	
	NO. OF A/C	3									
	NO. & TYPE	36x500GP								24x500GP 12x500GP	
	TONNAGE	9.0								9.0	
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	917.0	61.8	3.0	60.0	96.0	47.7	4.5	69.0	33.0	
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	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 SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, MIA	22-1-1-19	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0-0-9	-	
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	3-3-1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0-0-0	-	
	CAT. A-AC-B-E										

A-4847N, 0630E B-Crossing at Eluis

Tactical Report of Mission
6. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONSPrepared by:
STATISTICAL CONTROL
2d Bombardment Division

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FORM V-11 Page 2		13 July 1944								
UNIT		Comp 492	93	446	448	489	491	458	466	466PTT
AIRCRAFT	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	6	22	34	26	35	27	22	23	2
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	6	22	34	26	35	27	22	23	2
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	5	20	27	21	23	23	16	17	2
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	1	2	7	5	12	4	6	6	-
	NO. A/C SORTIES	5	20	27	21	25	24	17	19	2
BOMBERS	NO. A/C	5	20	27	21	23	23	16	17	2
	NO. & TYPE	60x500GP	240x500GP	324x500GP	251x500GP	107x500GP 55x2000GP	92x2000GP	48x2000GP	130x500GP 24x2000GP	4x2000GP
	TONNAGE	15.0	60.0	81.0	62.8	81.7	92.0	48.0	59.5	4.0
	TARGET									
	NO. OF A/C									
OTHER	NO. & TYPE									
	TONNAGE									
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	15.0	60.0	81.0	62.8	81.7	92.0	48.0	59.5	4.0
BATTLE	A/C LOST TO FLAK	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RESULTS	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, MIA	-	0-0-1-0	-	0-0-0-10	9-1-0-0	3-0-0-0	-	9-0-0-0	-
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB. DAM., NO CLAIM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	-	0-3-0-0	-	-	1-0-1-0	-	-	1-0-0-0	-
CAT. A-AC-B-E										

Tactical Report of Mission
C. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONSPrepared by:
STATISTICAL CONTROL
2d Bombardment Division

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FORM V-11 Page 3

13 July

1944

UNIT		467
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	13
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	13
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	13
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	-
	NO. A/C SORTIES	13
B O M B S	NO. A/C	13
	NO. & TYPES	38x2000GP
	TONNAGE	38.0
	TARGET	
	NO. OF A/C	
B A T T L E	NO. & TYPE	
	TONNAGE	
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	38.0
	A/C LOST TO FLAK	
	A/C LOST TO E/A	
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 SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, MIA	
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM, A/C BATTLE DAMAGE CAT. A-AC-B-E	

Tactical Report of Action
6. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONSPrepared by:
STATISTICAL CONTROL
2d Bombardment Division

HEADQUARTERS
STATION 123 APO 558
OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

13 JULY 1944

SUBJECT: S-2 REPORT, MISSION 13 JULY 44 (SAARBRUCKEN)
TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, AAF 123, APO 558

ENEMY AIRCRAFT OPPOSITION

1. NO E/A ENCOUNTERED.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE

2. MODERATE TO INTENSE AA OF THE NOB VISUAL BARRAGE VARIETY WAS ENCOUNTERED OVER SAARBRUCKEN. A BARRAGE OF SIX INACCURATE SMOKE ROCKETS REPORTED OVER SAARBRUCKEN. ONE CREW BELIEVES THAT PARACHUTE FLARES OR BOMBS WERE RELEASED BY THE EXPLODING ROCKETS. NO AA ENCOUNTERED TO OR FROM SAARBRUCKEN.

3. ONE OF OUR A/C SUFFERED MINOR BATTLE DAMAGE.

OBSERVATIONS

4. FIFTEEN TO TWENTY A/C OBSERVED AT METZ A/D AT 0939. THREE OF THE A/C WERE SILVER AND WERE PARKED NEAR CENTER OF THE FIELD. OTHERS WERE IN WOODS ALONG EDGES OF THE FIELD AND WERE GREEN IN COLOR.

MILITARY DUMP WITH NETWORK OF CONCRETE ROADS OBSERVED 20 MILES WEST OF SAARBRUCKEN IN VICINITY OF SARREBOURG.

TWELVE TO FIFTEEN OIL TANKS OBSERVED IN WOODS 3 MILES SE OF SARREBOURG WITH A DUMMY AREA JUST WEST OF THE TANKS.

UP TO SIX BALLOONS OBSERVED BY VARIOUS CREWS ENROUTE FROM 3 DEGREES EAST TO THE TARGET AREA FROM 0755 TO 1040. SOME WERE BLACK, SOME SILVER; SOME WERE OF THE BARRAGE SIZE, SOME SMALLER. THE ALTITUDE OF THE BALLOONS RANGED FROM 20 TO 25000 FEET AND THEY WERE APPARENTLY UNANCHORED SINCE A FORMATION PASSED DIRECTLY UNDER ONE BALLOON.

JOHN H. DAVIS,
CAPT. AC,
GROUP S-2

S E C R E T

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

1. Group	458
2. Division F.O.	393 B
3. Date of Operation	13 July 1944
4. Ordered Primary Target.	Saarbrucken
5. A/C Airborne.	22
6. A/C Sorties	17
7. A/C Attacking	16
8. A/C Not Attacking	6
9. A/C Attacking Primary Target.	16 - 48 X 2000 GP
	9 X 2000 GP - Jettisoned
	9 X 2000 GP - Returned
10. A/C Attacking Secondary Target.	Nil
11. A/C Attacking Last Resort Target.	Nil
12. A/C Attacking Opportunity Target.	Nil
13. A/C Lost - Flak	Nil
14. A/C Lost - Flak and G/A	Nil
15. A/C Lost - E/A.	Nil
16. A/C Lost - Accident	Nil
17. A/C Lost - Cause Unknown.	Nil
18. Time of Take Off.	0514
19. Time of Attack	0916
20. Average Time of Flight.	6:55
21. Altitude of Attack.	22,500
22. Visual or PFF	PFF
23. Enemy Resistance. a	I
	b MO
	c Nil
24. Un A/C Engaged by E/A	Nil
25. Degree of Success	Unobserved
26. Comments: Nil	

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

S E C R E T

13 JULY 1944

ASSEMBLY: Davis
MARSHAL: Watson

SECTION I

-Feeling

-1

Walker303:7VH ABORT

K-20

Gabriel

1:25V

K-22

Hooper

-1

Andrew

305:25N

Roberts

457:7VJ

K-21

Warner

314:7VL

McArdle

097:J3T

Speer

285:J4H

McCormick

163:J4nd

K-29

Ruark

320:J3W

Blum

120:J3I

K-21

SECTION II

Lockridge-Hinckley

578:25F -21

McCarthy

342:J3S

K-21

Martin183:J3U ABORTMcNamara

184:J3F

Judge

163:25K

Pickin

682:25I

Matze

712:J3

K-21

Zimmerman

117:7VM

K-21

Cook

705:25W

K-20

Hooven

108:25M

K-21

682:25I

712:J3

K-21

117:7VM

K-21

705:25W

K-20

108:25M

K-21

Covle

179:7VX

Thompson

942:7VU

340N

MARSHALLING PLAN

EAST	WEST	EAST	WEST
Disp	A/C	Disp	A/C
2	69725Z	1	184J3F
10	11625V	4	183J3U
30	30525N	7	1177VM
30	163J4M	8	342J3S
37	285J4H	9	9427VU
		10	1797VX
		11	712:J3
		12	340N
		13	

Note: 682 25
PFF ships will be used in
number 2 and 3 positions.

SPARE A/C

340 425

455 366

407

441

RUNWAY 23

If Runway 05 used reverse
East and West.

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
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	ANDREW	90	20			41-29305	305	N	Z5	28	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	BLUM	90	1			42-95120	120	M	J3	23	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	COOK	90	ABT			41-28705	705	W	Z5	--	YE OLDE HELLGATE	ABORT - LOST FORM IN CLOUDS - TURN BACK SHORT E.C.
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	COYLE	90	9			42-95179	179	X	7V	26	HERE I GO AGAIN	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	DAVIS	90	ASSY			--		--	--	--		ASSEMBLY - NO A/C LISTED
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	GABRIEL	90	4			42-95116	116	V	Z5	20	JUNIOR	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	HOOVEN	90	ABT			42-95108	108	M	Z5	--	ENVY OF 'EM ALL II	ABORT - LOST FORM IN CLOUDS - TURN BACK SHORT E.C.
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	JUDGE	90	21			42-95163	163	K	Z5	28	DIXIE BELLE	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	LOCKRIDGE	90	9	HINCKLEY	L2	42-50578	578	F	Z5	1	SKY ROOM	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	MARTIN, L	90	8			42-95183	183	U	J3	19	BRINEY MARLIN	ABORT - SORTIE CREDIT #1 ENG INTERNAL FAILURE
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	MATZE	90	ABT			41-29340	340	N	7V	--	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	ABORT - #2 SUPER CHG PROB - SHIP #719 Q J3 t OUT
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	McARDLE	90	14			42-51097	097	T	J3	31	UNKNOWN 022	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	McCARTHY	90	8			41-29342	342	S	J3	29	ROUGH RIDERS	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	McCARTHY	90	ABT			41-29342	342	S	J3	--	ROUGH RIDERS	ABORT - PILOT RPT GAS LEAK #4 ENG
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	McCORMICK	90	6			42-110163	163	M	J4	8	TIME'S A WASTIN	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	McNAMARA	90	26			42-110184	184	F	J3	11	GWEN	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	PISKIN	90	4			41-28682	682	I	Z5	44	UNKNOWN 003	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	ROBERTS, J	90	17			42-52457	457	Q	7V	39	FINAL APPROACH	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	RUARK	90	12			42-50320	320	W	J3	28	UNKNOWN 018	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	SPEER	90	6			44-40285	285	H	J4	9	TABLE STUFF	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	THOMPSON	90	22			41-28942	942	U	7V	17	HEAVENLY BODY	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	WALKER	90	ABT			41-29303	303	H	Z5	--	LIBERTY LIB	ABORT - #2 GEN INOP, #2 SUPER CHG OSCILLATING
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	WARNER	90	15			42-50314	314	L	7V	32	ETO PLAYHOUSE	
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	WATSON	90	MSHL			--		--	--	--		MARSHALLING CHIEF
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	WEBER	90	29		D1	--		--	T9	--	466BG/784SQ	WEBER CMD-P?
13-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	ZIMMERMAN	90	32			42-95117	117	M	7V	30	YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU	