

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

878

TARGET

SARBRUCKEN

DATE

16 JULY 1944

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2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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S E C R E T

COPY NO. 11

20 August 1944

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

a. Date of Mission - 16 July 1944.

b. Primary Target - Saarbrücken M/Y.

c. Secondary Target - City of Saarbrücken.

d. Last Resort Target - Any military objective positively identified as being in Germany, or in an occupied country, any military objective not adjacent to a built-up area that can be positively identified and a visual sighting must be made.

6. Units Participating - 2nd CBW "A" (445th BG).
2nd CBW "B" (453rd BG).
2nd CBW "C" (389th and 453rd BG).
14th CBW "A" (492nd, 392nd BG).
14th CBW "B" (44th, 392nd BG).
20th CBW "A" (93rd, 446th BG).
20th CBW "B" (448th, 446th BG).
95th CBW (489th BG).
96th CBW "A" (467th, 466th, 458th
96th CBW "B" (466th, 458th BG).

2. Narrative.

a. 442 aircraft were dispatched to attack by use of H2X equipment or visually, if possible, the marshalling yards at Saarbrücken. Two Groups of P-38s and two Groups of P-47s provided fighter support.

b. Assemblies were accomplished without difficulty. At approximately 5000N-0430E, the 446th Group, leading the 20th Combat Wing, made a slight dog-leg in course to the east and then resumed the briefed course and continued as briefed. Slightly before this, the 93rd Group had dropped somewhat behind and during the dog-leg got separated from the 446th Group. The 93rd Group, on seeing a formation of aircraft off to the east and believing it to be the 446th Group, turned to an easterly heading and went in on a course that carried them north of the IP. At this point, the target area was recognized and the 93rd Group made a 360 degree turn, crossed over the IP, bombed and returned along the briefed route. The 2nd Combat Wing, following the 20th Combat Wing in visual contact with the 93rd Group, turned and followed this course in order to maintain Division integrity. While the 93rd Group was making a 360 degree turn north of the IP, the 2nd Combat Wing went in and bombed ahead of the 93rd Group. The 2nd Combat Wing and the 93rd Group, after bombing, returned on the briefed route in visual contact with remaining units of the Division, which had flown the route to and from the target as briefed.

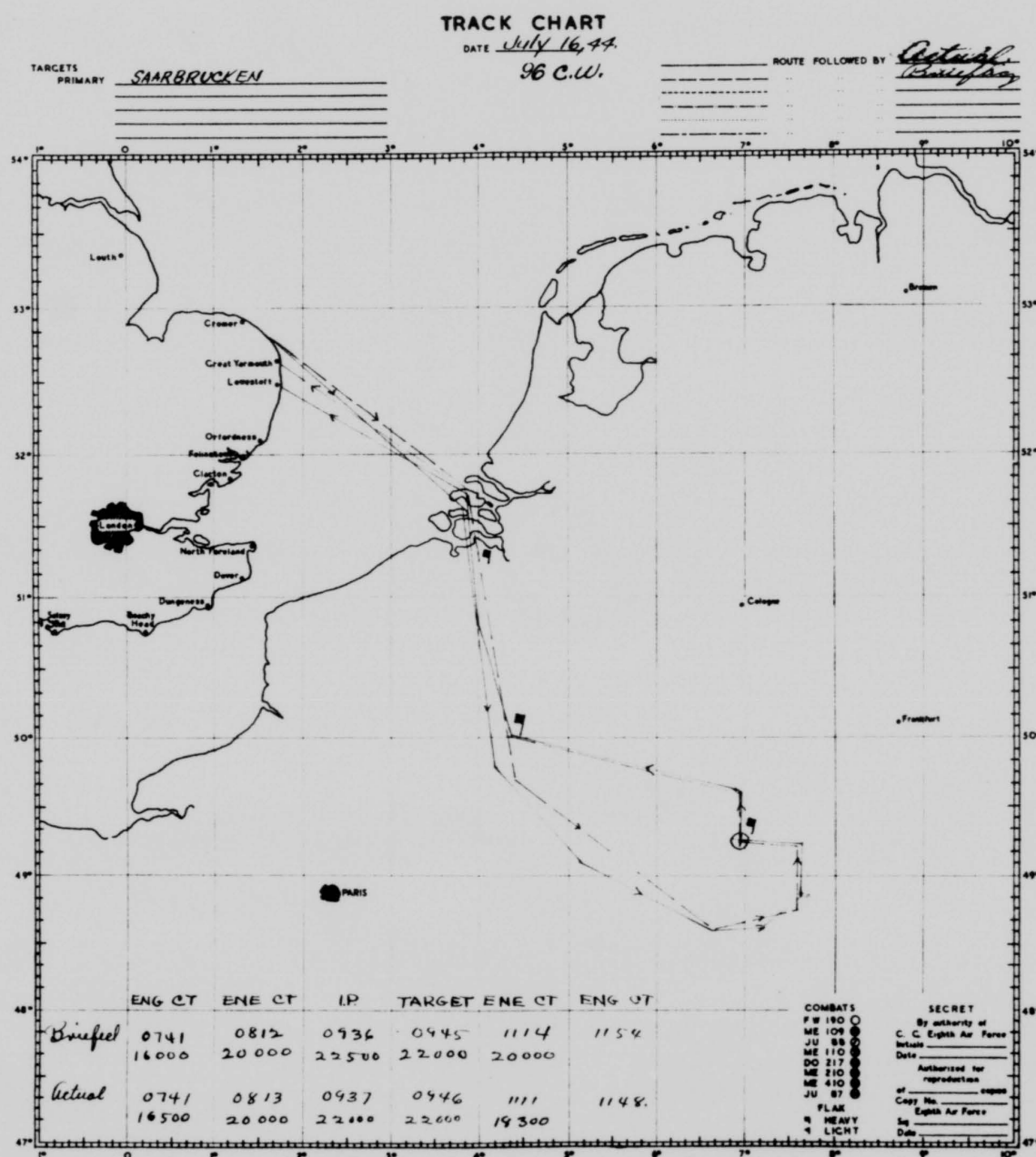
c. The target area was covered with 10/10 cloud and the assigned target was attacked by use of H2X equipment with unobserved results. Later FRU reports showed that severe damage was sustained in the marshalling yards at several points. Damage was done to the Rectangular Engine Shed, the Goods Depot, and the buildings adjoining the main station. In the city of Saarbrücken damage was accomplished in the built-up area, including fairly severe damage to the following: Halbergerhütte GmbH (Iron Castings etc), Saarlandisches Stahlwerke Dingler, Karcher and Co. GmbH (steel castings, railway equipment etc), and an unidentified factory (probably part of Saar Metallwerke, AG Copper Foundry).

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Tactical Report of Mission, 16 July 1944 (cont'd)

d. The first wave of bombers encountered moderate and fairly accurate predictor control "unseen" fire and also fixed barrages at Saarbrücken. The second wave encountered almost entirely fixed barrage fire, which was generally inaccurate. A number of rockets were seen in the target area, some of which resembled smoke markers. Moderate heavy flak was encountered enroute at Brussels and Antwerp. No enemy aircraft were encountered and fighter support was good. Losses and claims were nil.

For the Commanding General:

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

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Tactical Report of Mission, 16 July 1944

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3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. The attack was carried out in two distinct waves. The first wave consisted of two Combat Wings, and they encountered moderate and fairly accurate predictor control "unseen" fire and also some fixed barrages. The second wave, consisting of 3 Combat Wings, attacked the target 11 minutes later, and they encountered almost entirely fixed barrage fire which was generally inaccurate. A few Groups also encountered some inaccurate predictor control "unseen" fire. A number of rockets were also seen in the target area, some of which resembled PFF smoke markers.
- b. Moderate heavy flak was encountered on route at Brussels and Antwerp. A few balloons flying above 20,000 ft were seen at various places on route.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 16 July 1944

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5. Communications.

- a. Communication channels were very satisfactory. The VHF relay aircraft was used with good results. "Window" and "carpet-blinker" were used for RCM purposes. 14 H2X aircraft were dispatched with generally satisfactory performance. Two sets failed and one other aircraft encountered other difficulties which prevented its use in bombing.

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Tactical Bombing Report of Mission, 16 July 1944

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLY FLY AUTO RANGE & MANUAL PILOT DEFLECT RANGE	TOTAL BOMBS & TYPE	NO. A/C BOMBING	DROPPED ON H2X or GH
					<u>SAARBRUCKEN</u>			
						<u>H.E.</u>		
445	270	8 min.	22,400	0928	X	388x500 20xT-1 Leaf.	34 1/2	H2X
453	270	8 min.	22,150	0931	X	315x500	32 1/2	H2X
453	275	5 min.	21,200	0933	X	109x500	11	389th Group
389	276	10 min.	22,000	0933	X	256x500	22 1/2	H2X
448	276	10 min.	21,900	0926	X	299x500	31 1/2	H2X
446	280	7 min.	21,900	0931	X	336x500	28 1/2	H2X
446	282	10 min.	21,000	0936	X	132x500	11	93rd Group
93	270	10 min.	21,000	0935	X	252x500	21 1/2	H2X
467	280	8 min.	22,000	0946	X	358x500	30 1/2	H2X
466	275	6 min.	22,500	0947	X	330x500	29 1/2	H2X
458	292		23,000	0948	X	285x500	24	466th Group
492	260	8 1/2 min.	22,000	0944 1/2	X	216x500	18 1/2	H2X
392	320	8 min.	22,500	0949	X	420x500	35	Flares
44	287	2 min.	23,000	0951	X	410x500	34	Flares
489	270	8 min.	22,000	0949 1/2	X	396x500	34 1/2	H2X

- The assigned primary target for this mission was Saarbrucken, Germany.
- Thirteen Groups bombed in Group formation through 10/10 cloud on H2X equipment and sky marker flares.
- One A/C did not bomb due to a rack malfunction. One A/C bombed a target of opportunity, after aborting, a highway at 4905N-0650E, another A/C aborted and jettisoned 12x500 GP bombs at 5200N-0300E, and another A/C released 4 minutes short of Saarbrucken due to a personnel error.
- Tabulation of disposal of bombs by H2X A/C: 32x500 GP - Saarbrucken.
- The results of bombing at Saarbrucken were unobserved due to 10/10 cloud cover.

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FORM V-11		16 July 1944									
UNIT		2BD	389	389PFT	445	453	Comp. 453	44	44PFT	392	
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	442	23	5	34	35	12	35	7	36	
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	442	23	5	34	35	12	35	7	36	
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	409	22	5	34	32	11	34	6	35	
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	33	1			3	1	1	1	1	
	NO. A/C CONTINUED	421	22	5	34	33	11	35	7	36	
B O M B S	NO. A/C	407	22	5	34	32	11	34	6	35	
	NO. & TYPES	4562x500GP	256x500GP	10x500GP	398x500GP	305x500GP	119x500GP	408x500GP	22x500GP	420x500GP	
	TONNAGE	1140.5	64	2.5	99.5	76.3	29.7	102	5.5	105	
	TARGET										
	NO. OF A/C	2									
E A T T L E R S	NO. & TYPES	24x500GP									
	TONNAGE	4									
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	1144.5	64	2.5	99.5	76.3	29.7	102	5.5	105	
	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, KIA	1-1-0-0									
C A T	PLANE - E/A DESTROYED,										
	PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM										
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE										
CAT A-C-3-2		2-0-0-0									

6. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Prepared by:
STATISTICAL CONTROL
24 Bombardment Division

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FORM N-11		16 July 1944								
UNIT		492	99	446	Comp. 446	448	489	458	Comp. 458	466
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	22	23	31	11	35	40	24	6	27
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	22	23	31	11	35	40	24	6	27
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	18	21	28	11	30	37	18	6	27
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	4	2	3		5	3	6		
	NO. A/C SORTIES	19	22	30	11	32	37	20	6	27
B O M B S	NO. A/C	18	21	28	11	30	35	18	6	27
	NO. & TYPES	216x500GP	250x500GP	396x500GP	132x500GP	299x500GP	418x500GP	215x500GP	70x500GP	322x500GP
	TONNAGE	54	62.5	84	33	74.8	104.5	59.7	17.5	80.5
	TARGET						LR-Unknown			
	NO. OF A/C						2			
C O N T R O L L E R	NO. & TYPE						24x500GP			
	TONNAGE						4			
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	54	62.5	84	33	74.8	108.5	59.7	17.5	80.5
B A T T L E	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									
R E S U L T S	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED									
	SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, MIA						1-1-0-0			
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED,									
	PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM									
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE									
CAT. A-AC-B-E		1-0-0-0				1-0-0-0				

Tactical Report of Mission
6. Statistical Summary of OperationsPrepared by:
STATISTICAL CONTROL
24 Bombardment Division

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FORM N-11

16 July 1944

UNIT		466PFF	466
AIRCRAFT	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	4	32
	NO. A/C DISMATERED	4	32
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	4	30
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING		2
	NO. A/C SCRAMBLED	4	30
BOMBERS	NO. A/C	4	30
	NO. & TYPES	8x500GP	358x500GP
	TONNAGE	2	89.5
	TARGET		
	NO. OF A/C		
OTHER TARGETS	NO. & TYPE		
	TONNAGE		
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	2	89.5
	A/C LOST TO FLAK		
	A/C LOST TO E/A		
BATTLE	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A		
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT		
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN		
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED		
	SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, MIN.		
REMARKS	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED,		
	PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM		
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE		
	NOT A-C-B-E		

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Prepared by:
STATISTICAL CONTROL
24 Bombardment Division

HEADQUARTERS
STATION 123 APO 558
OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

16 JULY 1944

SUBJECT: S-2 REPORT, MISSION 16 JULY 44 (SAARBRUCKEN)
TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, AAF 123, APO 558.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT OPPOSITION

1. NO E/A ENCOUNTERED.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE

2. A MODERATE BARRAGE WAS OBSERVED OVER SAARBRUCKEN BUT WAS SUCCESSFULLY AVOIDED BY TURN AFTER BOMBS AWAY.
3. NONE OF OUR A/C SUFFERED BATTLE DAMAGE.

OBSERVATIONS

4. A STATIONARY SAUSAGE SHAPED BARRAGE BALLOON WAS OBSERVED FROM EIGHT MILES WWAY SOUTH OF BRUSSELS AT 0830 FROM 22,300 FEET.

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

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
AAF 123 APO 552

17 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 16 July 1944.

TO: Commanding General, 2d Bombardment Division.
 Attention: Statistical Control.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Composite with 466th

A. Group	458		458
B. Division F.O. No.	396		396
C. Date of Operation	16 July 1944		16 July 1944
D. Ordered Primary Target.	Seabrooken Marshalling Yards		Same
E. A/C Airborne.	24		6
F. A/C Sorties	20		6
G. A/C Attacking	18		6
H. A/C Not Attacking	6		Nil
I. A/C Attacking Primary Target.	18 - 191 A 500 GF - - - -	96 - 6	
	47 Jettisoned - - - -	Nil	
	24 Returned - - - -	Nil	
J. A/C Attacking Secondary Tgt	Nil		Nil
K. A/C Attacking Last Resort Tgt	Nil		Nil
L. A/C Attacking Opportunity Tgt	Nil		Nil
M. A/C Lost - Flak	Nil		Nil
N. A/C Lost - Flak and E/A	Nil		Nil
O. A/C Lost - E/A	Nil		Nil
P. A/C Lost - Accident	Nil		Nil
Q. A/C Lost - Cause Unknown.	Nil		Nil
R. Time of Take Off.	0519		0515
S. Average Time of Flight.	6:44		6:43
T. Comments.	Nil		Nil

For the Commanding Officer:

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

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129

Mission of 16 July 1944

Mission #128

Marshal:
Melton

LEAD SQUADRON

"B" GROUP "B" WING

Assembly Crew:
Wagner-Jamison

Hansen-Ollom
25 1578F

McCarthy

Prevost

Hemrich

Dane

K-20 J4 163M ABORT

J3 120M

K21 J3 1425D

25 682 I

Morford

Evans

Thompson

Judge

Nelson

K-21 07 J34

J4 285H ABORT

TV 942U

ABORT

25 1276G

K-21 TV 352K

Brown

Walker

K-20 TV 117M

57: TV Q

HIGH RIGHT SQUADRON "B" GROUP "B" WING

Lamers-Glenn

25 126D

LeBeuf

Gorrell

McNamara

McArdle

25 K-21 108M

K-21 TV 110P

K-20 184 J3 F

J3 097 T ABORT

Gabriel

Cook

Tracy

Ruark

French

ABORT 25 596R

25 305N

TV

709 I ABORT

TV 311A

J3 288L

Fuson

Pickin

25 366 B

K-21 TV 118E

COMPOSITE SQUADRON HIGH RIGHT "B" GROUP "B" WING

466

466

Haydon

TV 4550

Martin

J3 433 B

466

466

Warner

Loy

Hauser

Blum

J3 179P

K-22 J3 342S

K-22 314 TV L

K-20 340 TVN

466

466

SPARES:

719

441

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
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	BLUM	91	2			41-29342	342	S	J3	30	ROUGH RIDERS	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	BROWN, W	91	2			42-95117	117	M	7V	31	YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	COOK	91	5			41-29305	305	N	Z5	29	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	DANE	91	4			41-28682	682	I	Z5	45	UNKNOWN 003	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	EVANS	91	ABT			44-40285	285	H	J4	--	TABLE STUFF	ABORT - CP SEVERE STOMACH PAINS AT 18,000 FT
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	FRENCH	91	12			41-29288	288	L	J3	37	BIG-TIME OPERATOR	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	FUSON	91	5			42-100366	366	B	Z5	31	MIZPAH	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	GABRIEL	91	5			41-29596	596	R	Z5	29	HELL'S ANGEL'S	ABORT - SORTIE #2 ENG FEATHERED - METAL PARTICLES FOUND
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	GORRELL	91	14			42-51110	110	P	7V	21	TOP O' THE MARK	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	HANSEN	91	17	OLLUM	L1	42-50578	578	F	Z5	2	SKY ROOM	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	HAUSER	91	14			42-51179	179	P	J3	16	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	HAYDON	91	19			42-52455	455	O	7V	44	PLUTOCRAT	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	HEMRICH	91	15			42-100425	425	D	J3	18	THE BIRD	X'd OUT
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	JUDGE	91	22			41-29276	276	G	Z5	18	URGIN VIRGIN/The ROTTEN SOCK	ABORT - SORTIE #1 ENG OVERHEATING
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	LAMERS	91	10	GLENN	L2	44-40126	126	D	Z5	12	SPITTEN KITTEN / SKY TRAMP	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	LeBEUF	91	18			42-95108	108	M	Z5	22	ENVY OF 'EM ALL II	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	LOY	91	12			41-29340	340	N	7V	36	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	MARTIN, L	91	9			42-100433	433	B	J3	33	BIG DICK HARD TO HIT	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	McARDLE	91	ABT			42-51097	097	T	J3	--	UNKNOWN 022	ABORT - #1 ENG INTERNAL FAILURE
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	McNAMARA	91	27			42-110184	184	F	J3	12	GWEN	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	MELTON	91	MSHL			--		--	--	--		MARSHALLING CHIEF
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	MORFORD	91	4			42-100407	407	--	J3	32	LITTLE LAMBSY DIVEY	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	NELSON	91	7			41-29352	352	K	7V	35	WOLVE'S LAIR	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	PISKIN	91	5			42-95118	118	E	7V	10	ALFRED V (Trnsf to 392 nd BG)	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	PREVOST	91	ABT			42-95120	120	M	J3	--	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	ABORT - PILOT RPT ELEC SYST OUT
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	RUARK	91	13			42-100311	311	A	7V	34	YOKUM BOY	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	THOMPSON	91	23			41-28942	942	U	7V	18	HEAVENLY BODY	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	TRACY	91	ABT			41-28709	709	I	7V	--	LUCKY STRIKE	ABORT - #2 SUPER CHGR OPS RPT 41-28719 (SPARE)
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	WAGNER	91	ASSY	JAMISON		--		--	--	--		ASSEMBLY - NO A/C LISTED
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	WALKER	91	15			42-52457	457	Q	7V	40	FINAL APPROACH	
16-Jul-44	SAARBRUCKEN	WARNER	91	16			42-50314	314	L	7V	33	ETO PLAYHOUSE	