

TH

HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

917

TARGETS

LA CHAPELLES JUGAR
MONTREUIL
HEBECREYON

DATE

25 JULY 1944

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2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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: By Auth of CG :
: 2d Bomb Div :
: Initials [Signature] :
: Date 1 Dec 1968 :

17 August 1944

SUBJECT : Tactical Report of Mission, 25 July 1944.

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

1. Data.

- a. Date of Mission - 25 July 1944.

b. Primary Targets:

La Chapellesen Jugar (Area "A") - 491st, 467th, 445th, 441th, 448th BG,
Montrieul (Area "B") - 389th, 492nd, 93rd, 489th, 458th BG;
Hebecreyon (Area "C") - 453rd, 392nd, 446th, 489th, 466th BG

c. Secondary Target - None.

- d. Last Resort Target - Any airdrome, any marshalling yard, any railroad bridge, any road bridge, any enemy column or convoy on the road, any concentration of troops or equipment. All above targets must not be adjacent to a built-up area, must be positively identified as one of the above objectives, and must not be inside the current bomb line and a visual sighting must be made.

e. Units Participating - 2nd CBW "A" - 445th BG

2nd CEW "B" - 389th BG
2nd CEW "C" - 453rd BG
14th CEW "A" - 44th BG
14th CEW "B" - 492nd BG
14th CEW "C" - 392nd BG
20th CEW "A" - 93rd BG
20th CEW "B" - 448th BG
20th CEW "C" - 446th BG
95th CEW "A" - 491st BG
95th CEW "B" - 489th BG
95th CEW "C" - 489th BG
96th CEW "A" - 467th BG
96th CEW "B" - 458th BG
96th CEW "C" - 466th BG

2. Narrative.

- a. 554 aircraft were dispatched to visually attack in support of ground forces an area centered around 4908N-01127. The target area was divided into three areas: La Chapellesen Jugar (Area "A"), Montrieul (Area "B"), and Hebecreyon (Area "C"). Area fighter cover was provided for this operation.

- b. Assemblies were accomplished without incident and the routes were flown as briefed.

- c. Three assigned areas were visually attacked with good results by forty-five Squadrons. Two Squadrons bombed short, one due to faulty operation of the bombsight and the other due to a mistaken belief that the target had been positively identified. Six aircraft of one Group failed to attack due to a collision course with another Group which resulted in too short a bomb run.

- d. Moderate and accurate predictor control fire was encountered by all Groups approximately one minute after bombs were released. A few inaccurate rockets were also encountered in the target area. Meager and moderate predictor control fire was encountered continuously in a triangle bounded by St. Lo -

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Tactical Report of Mission, 25 July 44 (cont'd)

Coutances - Gouville. Gunfire was encountered southwest of Lessay and from the vicinity of Periers. One Group encountered a few single-engined enemy aircraft in the target area but these made only one pass. Fighter support was good throughout the mission. Losses were four to enemy 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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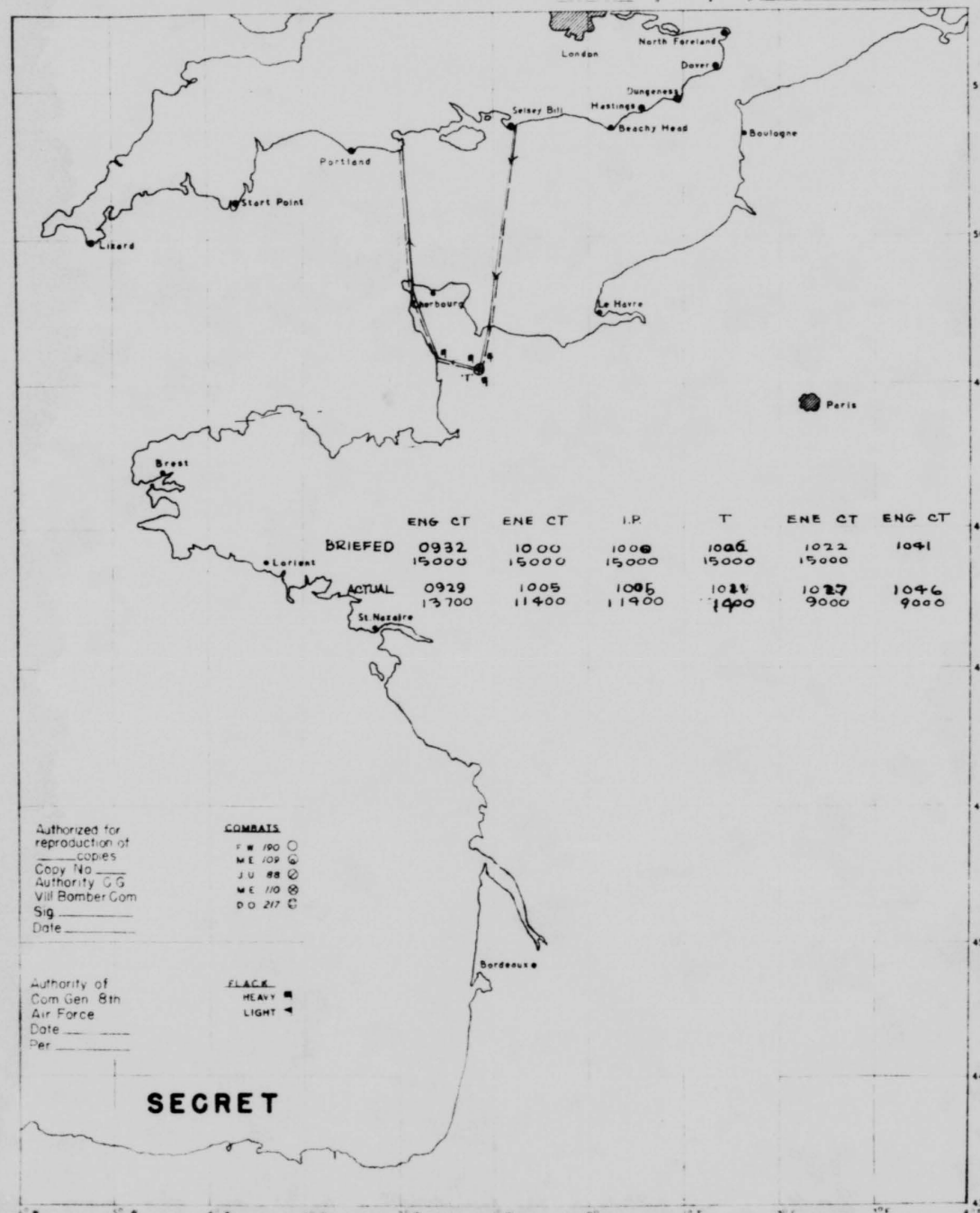
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SECRET**TRACK CHART**TARGET
PrimaryGround SupportDATE JULY 25, 44
96 C.W.Route followed by BRIEFING
96 C.W.

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Tactical Bombing Report of Mission, 25 July 1944

GROUP	DIRECT OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF FLEW AUTO RELEASE	FLEW PILOT	RANGE & DEFLECT RANGE	TOTAL BOMBS & TYPE	NO. A/C BOMBING	DROPPED ON HZX or GH	VISUAL
LA CHAPELLESEN JUGAR (AREA "A")										
H.E. Frag.										
445	202	2 min.	12,400	1003	X	1 5	1079x260	45		X
44	210	10 sec.	13,000	0959 $\frac{1}{2}$	X	1 4	1864x100	36		X
448	211		12,000	1008	X	1 3	970x100	25		X
448	208		11,200	1009		X 1 1	438x100	13		X
489)							518x100- 489	11 - 489		X
491)	214	1 min.	11,500	1010	X	1 2	622x100- 491	12 - 491		X
467	218	6 min.	11,400	1011	X	1 4	1416x120	37		X
MONTREUIL (AREA "B")										
492	215	1 min.	12,500	1001	X	1 4	1472x100	29		X
389	200	3 min.	12,300	1003	X	1 4	1764x100	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	HZX	X
392	220	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ min.	12,500	1000	X	1 5	762x260			
93	194	4 min.	12,000	1006	X	1 4	80x100	48		X
489	214	1 min.	12,200	1011	X	1 1	144x100	37		X
489 *	222	30 sec.	11,400	1010	X	1 1	440x120	13		X
458	216	1 min.	12,000	1007	X	1 4	352x260	12		X
							1867x100	36		X
HUBECREYON (AREA "C")										
453	228	2 min.	12,000	1007		X 1 5	2631x100	51		X
446	220	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ min.	12,000	1009	X	1 4	1402x100	36		X
446 *	220	2 min.	12,700	1011	X	1 1	520x100	13		X
491	222	6 min.	13,000	1017	X	1 3	1227x100	24		X
466	222	45 sec.	12,500	1014	X	1 4	831x260	26		X

*Squadrons resulting in gross error

- a. The assigned primary target for this mission was an area south of the St. Le-Pierers road in support of ground forces. Three area MPI's were assigned to fourteen attacking Groups.
- b. Bombing was done in Group formation. The Group leader sighting for range and deflection and the Squadron leaders sighting for range only. One A/C did not bomb because it was too far behind the formation. 6 A/C of one Squadron of the 492nd Group held their bombs due to the bomb run being too short when they were flying a collision course with another Group. One PFF A/C led the 389th Group and dropped 10x100 GP bombs on the target. Two Squadrons' bombing resulted in gross errors, one due to faulty operation of the bombsight and failure to identify the target area, and the other due to faulty target identification. A few bombs in the bomb patterns of some Squadrons fell outside the northern boundary of the target area, but eliminating these few cases the bombing was good.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 25 July 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. Targets - Troop concentrations 3 to 7 miles west northwest of St. Lo.
- b. (1) Moderate and accurate predictor control fire was encountered by all Groups approximately one minute after bombs were released. No AA fire was encountered during the bombing runs. Some automatic weapon fire, self-destroying at approximately 1000 ft, and a few inaccurate rockets, were also encountered in the target area.
- (2) Meager and moderate predictor control fire was encountered continuously in a triangle bounded by St. Lo - Coutances - Gouvillle. A number of gun positions were observed close to the main road running from St. Lo to Coutances, and it was estimated that there were 20-30 guns in the vicinity of this road. A gun position was also observed approximately 2 miles west of Tessy sur Vire.
- (3) Gunfire was also encountered southwest of Lessay and from the vicinity of Periers.
- (4) The four missing A/C were shot down in the target area shortly after bombs were released.
- c. Anti-Aircraft Officer's Comment.
- (1) Considering the low altitude at which this attack was carried out, the efforts of the enemy defenses were singularly unsuccessful. However, it must be admitted that their drill was excellent, as in spite of the concentration of the attack, each formation was accurately engaged. The task of the enemy gunners must have been made more difficult by the fact that our A/C were apparently out of their range during the bombing runs, and they could therefore only engage them after bombs had been released when formations were free to take evasive action. The fact that their gun positions were being shelled by our artillery must also have hampered their efforts to some extent, and it is possible that their forward positions were put out of action by this means which would account for the lack of AA fire on the bombing runs.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 25 July 1944

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5. Communications.

- a. Communication channels operated very well. Communication with weather scouting A/C in the target area was very good. All A/C used RCM "Window" in the target area. Six A/C equipped with RCM "carpet blinker" were used.

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FORM V-11

25 July

1944

UNIT		300	309	309TH	445	452	44	392	492	93
AIRCRAFT	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	54	34	1	47	51	36	48	34	39
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	54	34	1	47	51	36	48	34	39
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	53	34	1	45	51	36	48	29	37
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	15			2				5	2
	NO. A/C SORTIES	54	34	1	46	51	36	48	33	37
BOMBERS	NO. A/C	59	34	1	45	51	36	48	29	37
	NO. & TYPES	1552-26000 372-26000 285-26000	176-26000	10-26000	1079-26000	2631-26000	186-26000	762-26000 960-26000	1472-26000	700-26000 80-26000
	TONNAGE	143.9	88.2	.5	140.3	131.6	93.2	1576.7	73.6	95
	TARGET									
	NO. OF A/C									
OTHER TARGETS	NO. & TYPE									
	TONNAGE									
	TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	143.9	88.2	.5	140.3	131.6	93.2	1576.7	73.6	95
BATTLE	A/C LOST TO FLAK	4	2		1					
	A/C LOST TO E/A									
	A/C LOST TO FLAK - E/A									
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT									
REMARKS	A/C LOST UNDER FIRE									
	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, ETC.	0-5-38	0-0-19		0-1-29		0-0-1-0	0-0-1-0		0-2-1-0
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM									
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE	23-10-20	1-0-0-0		3-0-1-0	3-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	5-0-0-0		0-1-0-0
CAT. A-AC-B-R										

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

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FORM V-11		25 July 1944								
UNIT		446	448	452	Comp. 459	Comp. 491	Comp. 491	453	466	467
AIRCRAFT	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	50	39	26	12	24	12	36	28	37
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	50	39	26	12	24	12	36	28	37
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	49	38	25	11	24	12	36	26	37
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	1	1	1	1				2	
	NO. A/C SORTIES	49	38	25	11	24	12	36	26	37
BOMBERS	NO. A/C	49	38	25	11	24	12	36	26	37
	NO. & TYPES	192-20000	1408-10000	1408-10000	1408-10000	1227-10000	622-10000	1867-10000	831-10000	1416-10000
	TONNAGE	96.1	70.4	79.3	28.3	61.4	31.1	93.3	108	84.9
	TARGET									
	NO. OF A/C									
OTHER TARGETS	NO. & TYPE									
	TONNAGE									
	TARGET									
	NO. OF A/C									
	NO. & TYPE									
TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS		96.1	70.4	79.3	28.3	61.4	31.1	93.3	108	84.9
BATTLE	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									
REMARKS	CASUALTIES-KILLED, WOUNDED			0-0-1-0						
	SERIOUSLY, SLIGHTLY, KIA									
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM									
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE									
	CAT. A-AC-B-E	2-0-0		1-0-0		1-0-1-0		0-2-0-0		1-0-0-0

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

25 JULY 1944

SUBJECT: S-2 REPORT, MISSION 25 JULY 44 (AREA "B", ST. LO)
TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, AAF 123, APO 558.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT OPPOSITION

1. NO E/A ENCOUNTERED.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE

2. MEAGER TO MODERATE AA OF FAIR ACCURACY WAS ENCOUNTERED SOUTH OF THE TARGET INFLECTING MINOR BATTLE DAMAGE TO ELEVEN OF OUR A/C.

OBSERVATIONS

3. ONE CREW REPORTS MOTOR TRUCK CONVOYS BEHIND THE ALLIED LINES BUT NO ACTIVITY ON THE ENEMY SIDE.

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

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HEADQUARTERS
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
AAF 123 APO 558

27 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 25 July 1944.

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

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A.	Group	458
B.	Division F.O. No.	408
C.	Date of Operation	25 July 1944
D.	Ordered Primary Target.	St Lo Tactical Area Map 4902W - Print D22 and F22 Map 4250 - Series 5F2 and 6F2
E.	A/C Airborne.	36
F.	A/C Sorties	36
G.	A/C Attacking	36
H.	A/W Not Attacking	Nil
I.	A/C Attacking Primary Target.	36 - 1867 X 100 GP 1 bomb returned
J.	A/C Attacking Secondary Target.	Nil
K.	A/C Attacking Last Resort Target.	Nil
L.	A/C Attacking Opportunity Target.	Nil
M.	A/C Lost - Flak	Nil
N.	A/C Lost - Flak and E/A.	Nil
O.	A/C Lost - E/A.	Nil
P.	A/W Lost - Accident	Nil
Q.	A/C Lost - Cause Unknown.	Nil
R.	Time of Take Off	0731
S.	Average Time of Flight.	4:25
T.	Comments: This Group provided 3 Sqdns, 12 a/c each, comprising "B" Wing.	

For the Commanding Officer:

JOSEPH B. WILLIAMS
1st Lt, AC
Statistical Officer

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137

OPERATIONAL MISSION

Mission #137

25 July 1944

SECTION I

Whitlow-LaRoche

J3 :059E K21

Piskin

J4 :273T

Boyle

J3:359J

Hayzalett-Gillem *SWARTZ*

7V:311A

Hoover

Z5:10cm

Fuson

J4 :288S

Matze

J4 :134L

Walker

7V:340N K22

Cook

Z5 :01EJ

Canady

Z5:30E

Loy

7V :110FK20

Thompson

7V:352K K21

SECTION II

Lamers-Brooks

Z5 :126D K21

Bradley

Z5:276G

Ash

J4 :431b

Hayden

7V:4550 K22

McCardle

J3 :097T

Newell

Z5 :366BK21

Gabriel

Z5:596R K20

Evans

J4 :285H

Hausser

J4 :179F

Glass

J3 :1320

Morford

J4 :275L

McCormick

J4 :267J

SECTION III

Wber-Chamberlain

7V:499F

Blum

J3 :342S

McCarthy

J4 :163M

Brumby

J3 :433B K21

Brown

7V :709I

Prevost

J3 :441I

Wagner

J3 :286L K20

Judge

Z5 :116V K22

Sullivan

J4 :408D K21 7V:17

Barnhart

Z5 :682I

Newman

Z5:070E

SPARE A/C

425 D Dispersal 26

ASSEMBLY:

Brudos 697 Z Disp. 2

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
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	ASH	98	5			42-100431	431	B	J4	30	BOMB-AH-DEAR	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	BARNHART, E	98	2			41-28682	682	I	Z5	49	UNKNOWN 003	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	BLUM	98	6			41-29342	342	S	J3	34	ROUGH RIDERS	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	BOYLE	98	12			41-29359	359	J	J3	51	TAIL WIND	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	BRADLEY	98	17			41-29276	276	G	Z5	20	URGIN VIRGIN/The ROTTEN SOCK	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	BROWN, W	98	8			41-28709	709	I	7V	28	LUCKY STRIKE	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	BRUDOS	98	ASSY			41-28697	697	Z	Z5	A4	SPOTTED APE	ASSEMBLY CREW
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	BRUMBY	98	9			42-100433	433	B	J3	35	BIG DICK HARD TO HIT	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	CANADY	98	3			41-29305	305	N	Z5	32	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	COOK	98	6			42-95018	018	J	Z5	28	OLD DOC'S YACHT	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	COYLE	98	13			42-95177	177		7V	9	BO II	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	EVANS	98	10			44-40285	285	H	J4	16	TABLE STUFF	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	FUSON	98	9			44-40288	288	S	J4	8	BAD GIRL	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	GABRIEL	98	7			41-29596	596	R	Z5	31	HELL'S ANGEL'S	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	GLASS	98	3			42-50320	320	?	J3	29	UNKNOWN 018	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	HAUSER	98	20			42-51179	179	P	J3	23	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	HAYDON	98	24			42-52455	455	O	7V	47	PLUTOCRAT	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	HAYZLETT	98	10	SCHWARTZ	D1	42-100311	311	A	7V	39	YOKUM BOY	OLLUM CROSSED OUT
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	HOOVEN	98	8			42-95108	108	M	Z5	26	ENVY OF 'EM ALL II	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	JUDGE	98	27			42-95116	116	V	Z5	26	JUNIOR	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	LAMERS	98	13	BROOKS	L2	44-40126	126	D	Z5	15	SPIITTEN KITTEN / SKY TRAMP	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	LOY	98	17			42-51110	110	P	7V	27	TOP O' THE MARK	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	MATZE	98	9			44-40134	134	L	J4	6	UNKNOWN 039	RCL s/b "R" ?
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	McARDLE	98	18			42-51097	097	T	J3	34	UNKNOWN 022	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	McCARTHY	98	12			42-110163	163	M	J4	14	TIME'S A WASTIN	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	McCORMICK	98	9			44-40287	287	J	J4	6	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	MORFORD	98	10			44-40275	275	L	J4	6	SHACK TIME	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	NEUMANN	98	3			42-110070	070	E	Z5	22	ELMER / LADY LUCK	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	NEWELL	98	16			42-100366	366	B	Z5	36	MIZPAH	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	PISKIN	98	7			44-40273	273	T	J4	6	HOWLING BANSHEE	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	PREVOST	98	5			42-52441	441	I	J3	43	LAST CARD LOUIE	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	SULLIVAN, E	98	5			42-100408	408	D	J4	24	BEASTFACE	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	THOMPSON	98	26			41-29352	352	K	7V	41	WOLVE'S LAIR	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	WAGNER	98	12			41-29288	288	L	J3	40	BIG-TIME OPERATOR	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	WALKER	98	19			41-29340	340	N	7V	40	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	WEBER	98	30	CHAMBERLAIN	L3	42-50499	499	F	7V	2	COOKIE/OPEN POST	
25-Jul-44	ST. LO AREA "B"	WHITLOW	98	30	LaROCHE	L1	42-110059	059	E	J3	30	UNKNOWN 056	