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HEADQUARTERS 2d A.R. DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

TARGET

DATE

1471

Koblenz Area

31 December 1944

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HEADQUARTERS 2d AIR DIVISION
APO 558

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 : Auth: C. G. :
 : Hq 2d Air Division :
 : Initials AW :
 : Date 21 Feb 45 :
 : : : : : : : : : :

15 February 1945

SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, BRIDGES IN THE KOBLENZ AREA, 31 December 1944.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, APO 558.

SUMMARY OF MISSION1. Data

a. Date of Mission - 31 December 1944.

b. Primary Targets and Order of Battle -

2nd Combat Wing

445th, 453rd BG - Koblenz/Guls Bridge

389th BG - Koblenz/Lutzel Bridge

96th Combat Wing

458th BG - Koblenz/Lutzel Bridge

466th, 467th BG - Engers Bridge

14th A and B Combat Wings

14th A - 44th, 491st BG - Neuwied Bridge

14th B - 392nd BG - Euskirchen Bridge

20th A and B Combat Wings

20th B - 93rd BG - Euskirchen Bridge

20th A - 446th, 448th - Remagen Bridge

c. Secondary Target - Koblenz M/Y - All Units.

d. Last Resort Target - Any military objective positively identified as being in Germany and not restricted by existing instructions.

2. Narrative

a. Planning

(1) Eighth Air Force called for a force of thirty-six Squadrons to attack six bridges in the Koblenz area on GH equipment.

b. Execution

(1) Assemblies were effected without incident.

(2) The mission was flown generally as planned with the following exceptions:

(a) The 392nd Group made a 360 degree turn in the target area so that the H2X deputy leader could take over the lead after the GH equipment of the lead aircraft had failed. Due to high winds encountered, this maneuver placed this Group approximately forty miles south of course.

3. Bombing Tactics and Results

a. Bombing was accomplished on GH equipment.

b. All units attacked their assigned targets except the following:

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Tactical Report of Mission, 31 December 1944

(1) The deputy lead aircraft of the 466th Group had an accidental release just prior to the target and the remainder of the Group dropped on this release.

(2) The 392nd Group jettisoned its bombs in the vicinity of 4928N-0754E when attacked by enemy fighters due to being separated from the bomber column and without fighter support.

(3) One Squadron of the 389th Group attacked Bingen, a target of opportunity, on H2X equipment due to the failure of GH equipment at the primary target.

c. No strike photographs are available due to cloud cover at the targets.

4. Anti-Aircraft Gunfire

a. Enroute anti-aircraft gunfire was encountered at various scattered points in the battle area which could not be pinpointed on account of the weather conditions.

b. At the targets, meager fairly accurate predictor control "unseen" fire was encountered at Koblenz, Euskirchen and Engers. No anti-aircraft gunfire was encountered at Bingen, Neuweid or Remagen.

5. Enemy Aircraft Encountered and Fighter Support

a. At 1120 the 392nd Group was making a bomb run on its secondary target, Koblenz, when the low Squadron was attacked by approximately twelve greyish colored FW190's. The enemy aircraft came out of the clouds from below at six o'clock and two elements of three enemy aircraft each pressed home the attack from six o'clock. After this attack, the enemy aircraft assembled out of range, made one or two feints at the formation, but did not attack again. There was no escort present at time of the attack; however, escort appeared later.

b. Fighter support was good except for the 392nd Group, which was separated from the bomber column.

6. Losses and Claims

a. Losses were nil.

b. Claims are one enemy aircraft probably destroyed.

W. E. Kepner
W. E. KEPNER
Major General, U.S.A.
Commanding

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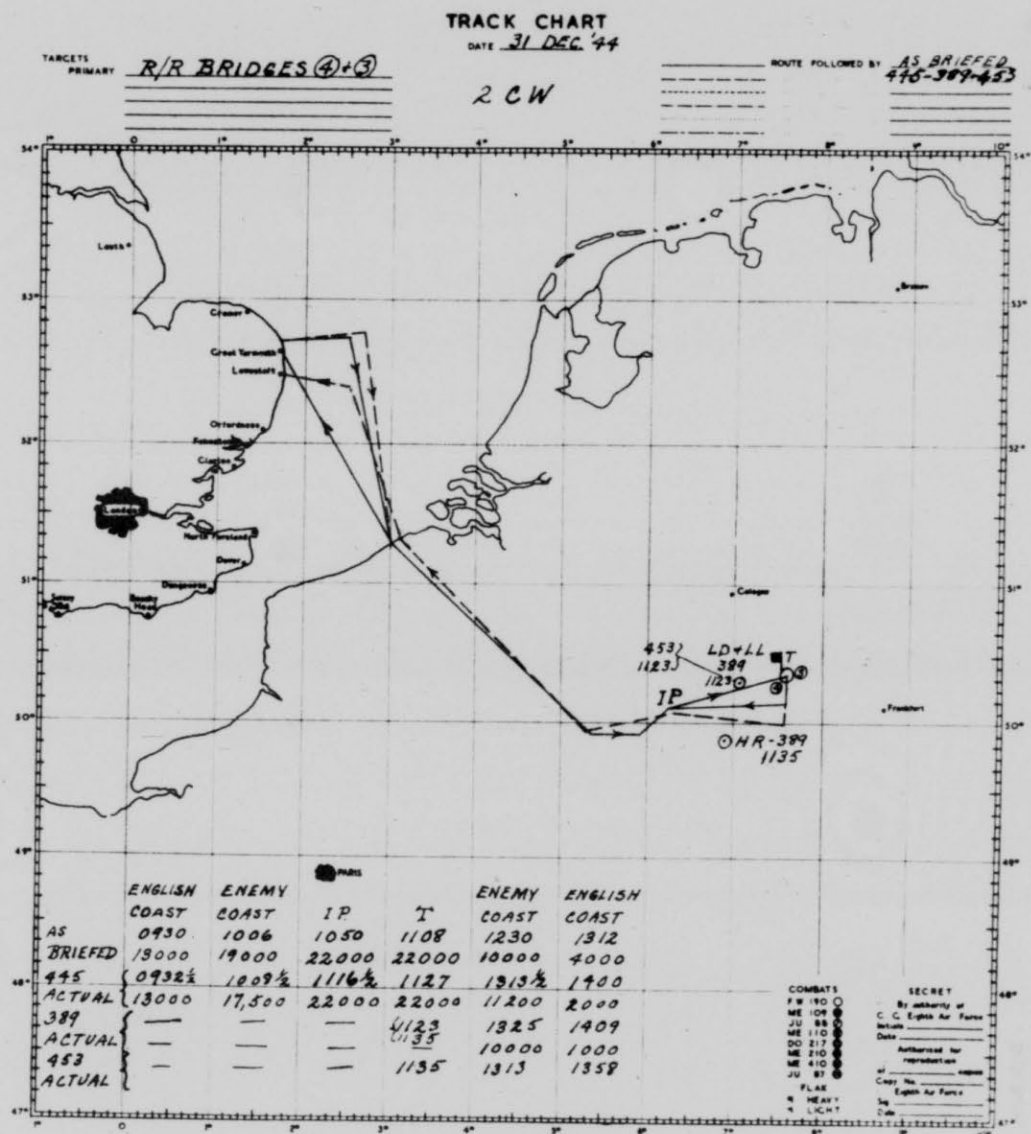
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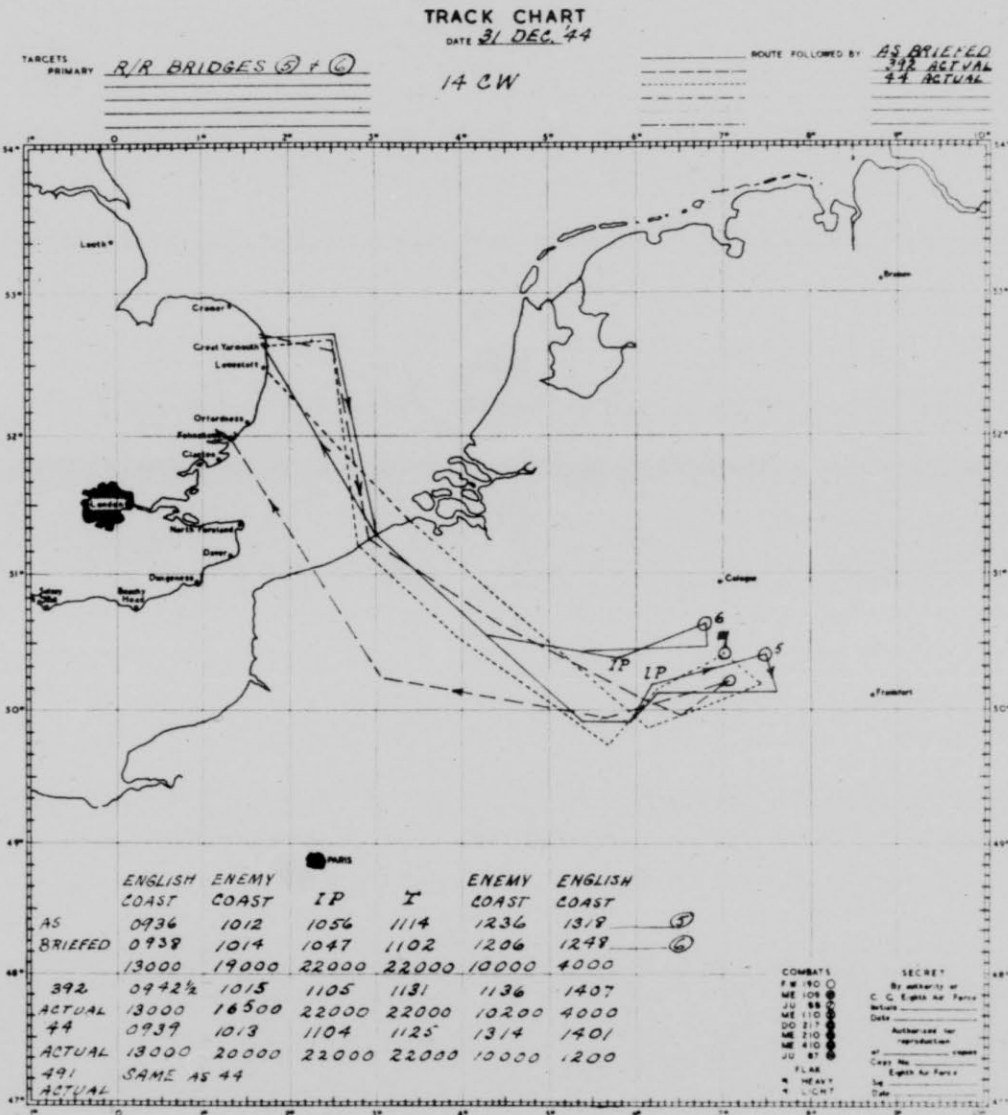
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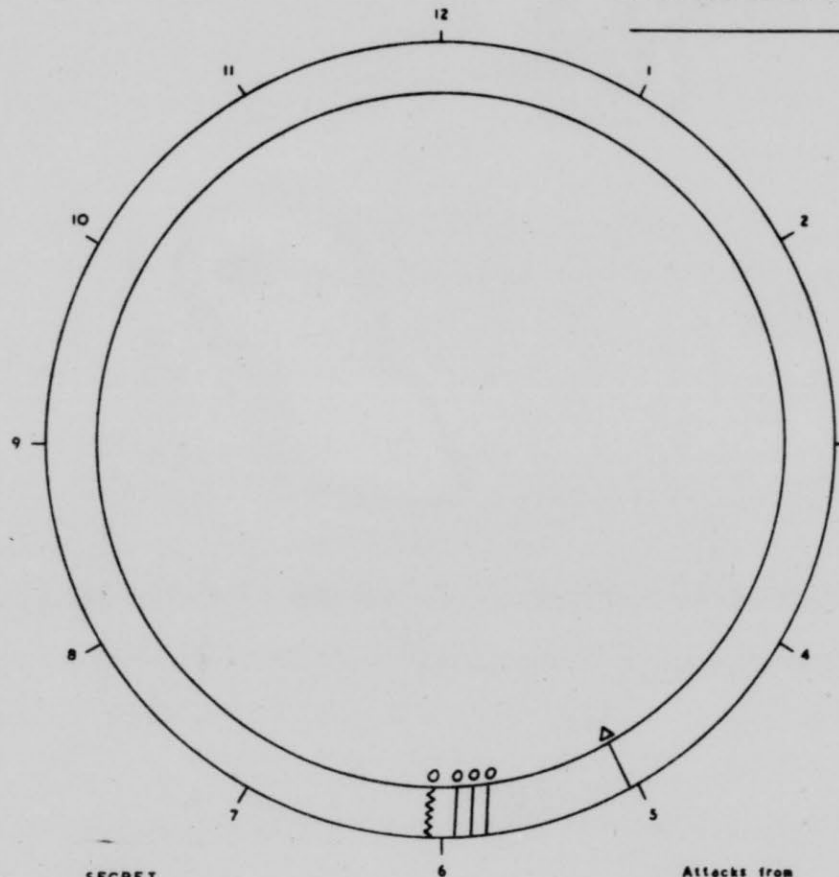
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TACTICAL BOMBING MISSION REPORT - 31 DECEMBER 1944

GROUP	DIR. OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	PILOT	FLEW AUTO- MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLEC. RANGE	TOTAL BOMBS AND TYPE	NO. A/C BOMBING	DROPPED ON H2X OR GH	VISUAL
389	51°	15 min.	24,000'	1123	X		<u>KOBLENZ/LUTZEL BRIDGE</u> GH 1	H.E. 77x2000; 2x1000	22	GH	
458	69°	--	22,300'	1133	X		GH 1	56x2000; 16x1000	18+1 GH A/C	GH	
458	63°	---	23,000'	1136	X		GH 1	24x2000; 8x1000	10+1 GH A/C	GH	
44	61°	15 min.	22,000'	1127	X		<u>KOBLENZ/CULS BRIDGE</u> GH 1	113x2000; 2x500; 2x1000	31+1 GH A/C	GH	
453	--			1123½	X		0 0	109x2000; 4x500	29+1 GH A/C	Smoke Markers	
							<u>BINGEN T/O</u>				
389	160°	---	24,600'	1135½	X		H2X 1	35x2000; 1x1000	10	H2X	
44	55°	15 min.	22,000'	1125			<u>NEUWIED BRIDGE</u> GH 1	170x1000	29	GH	
491	55°	15 "	22,000'	1125½	X	X	0 0	142x1000; 2x500	26+1 GH A/C	Smoke Markers	
							<u>BUSKIRCHEN BRIDGE</u>				
392	Jettisoned in vicinity of 4928N-0754E							328x500	29+1 GH A/C	Jettisoned	
93	18°	3 min.	22,220'	1132	X		GH 1	103x500	9	GH	Assist
93	358°	2 "	21,200'	1133	X		GH 1	122x500	11	GH	"
93	22°	2 "	23,400'	1133½	X		GH 1	100x500	9	GH	"
							<u>RELLAGEN BRIDGE</u>				
446	26°	12 min.	22,000'	1150	X		Accidental Release GH 1	63x2000; 6x1000; 2x500	25+1 GH A/C	GH	
448	28°	12 "	22,900'	1148	X		GH 1	65x2000; 6x1000	24+1 GH A/C	GH	
							<u>WINGERS BRIDGE</u>				
467	48°	--	23,000'	1138	X		GH 1	94x2000; 16x1000	29+1 GH A/C	GH	
466	58°	--	22,000'	1135		X	GH 1	91x2000; 20x1000	28	GH	

SECRET**COMBAT REPORT FORM**

TARGET _____ BOMB DIV. _____ DATE 31 DEC. 44
 TIME OF ATTACKS 1120 VICINITY OF ATTACKS KOBLENZ



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Attacks from
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 Probable - Δ
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HEADQUARTERS 24 BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

RELATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF GUN POSITIONS - F-24's

	Total	of	Des-	Prob.	Dam.	No	Des-	T	T	No
		Total	troyed			Claim	troyed	Prob.	Dam.	Claim
Nose										
Top T.	1					1				
Ball T.										
Tunnel										
Waist										
R. Waist										
Tail T.	4			1		3				
Other										
TOTAL	5			1		4				

VULNERABILITY OF E/A

	Total	of	Des-	Prob.	Dam.	No	Des-	%	%	No
		Total	troyed			Claim	troyed	Prot.	Dam.	Claim
FW190	5			1		4				
TOTAL	5			1		4				

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

GROUP 458
 DATE OF OPERATION 31 December 1944
 DIVISION FIELD ORDER 561
 ORDERED TARGET: Primary: Koblenz RR Bridge
 Secondary: Koblenz M/Y

31 Dec

SQUADRON	A/C Airborn		A/C SORT.	A/C NOT ATKG.	A/C ATKG.	TGT	NAME OF TARGET	NO. & TYPE BOMBS ON TARGET	IRC OF LOST						TIME OF T.O.	AVG. TIME FLIGHT	COMMENTS
	TOTAL	LESS FUSE SPARE							TO- TAL	FLAK	FLAK & E/A	E/A	ACC	UN- KN.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
A L	8	8	8	-	8	PT	Koblenz RR Bridge	27 X 2000 GP 4 X 1000 GP	1	-	-	-	1*	-	0800	6:40	Bombed GH
A LL	10	10	10	-	10	PT	Koblenz RR Bridge	29 X 2000 GP 8 X 1000 GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bombed GH
A HR	9	8	8	-	8	PT	Koblenz RR Bridge	24 X 2000 GP 4 X 1000 GP	2	-	-	-	1*	1	-	-	Bombed GH
Totals	27	26	26	-	26	PT	Koblenz RR Bridge	80 X 2000 GP 16 X 1000 GP	3	-	-	-	2*	1	0800	6:40	Bombed GH * - A/C AOC

GROUP 458
 DATE 31 December 1944
 DIVISION FIELD ORDER 561

FORM 458		DATE 31 December 1944				DIVISION FIELD ORDER 381									
BOMB TYPE	EXPEND					FUSES				AMMUNITION				PYROTECHNICS	
	INITIAL LOAD	ON TGT	JETT	UNACTD FOR	RETD	NOSE FUSE	NOSE DELAY	TAIL FUSE	TAIL DELAY	CALIBER	LINKAGE	LINKAGE RATIO	AMOUNT EXPEND.	TYPE	AMOUNT EXPEND.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
2000# M34	92	80	7	-	5	M 103	1/10	M 102	ND	.50	API-T	2-1	1035 (3500X.50)	-	-
1000# M44	16	16	-	-	-	M 103	1/10	M 102	ND	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHB Skymarker	7 (4)	7	-	-	-	M100 A1	1/10	M 100 A1	1/10	-	-	-	-	-	-

31 December 1944

Lead SquadronBrumby-O'Neill

J3 : 557H

(Scope)

RCM

Sealy

J4 : 200B

K-22

8AF Spare

Beckstrom

J4 : 134A

Johnson-Simes

OH : 109A

RCM

Boucek

J4 : 449W

McCormick

J4 : 287J

Heed

J4 : 555A

2BD Cont.

Heey

J4 : 277P

K-21

8AF Cont.

Hadden

J4 : 281Q

K-20

K-21

Low Left SquadronMatze-Betzold

J3 : 743F

(Scope)

2BD Spare

Skidmore

Z5 : 6400

K-21

RCM

Sherrill

Z5 : 456D

K-22

Dyer

J3 : 939G

(Scope)

Klien

Z5 : 183U

K-21

Everett

Z5 : 126L

Fletcher

Z5 : 120M

RCM

Hess-8AF Cont.

Z5 : 196Q

8AF Spare

Dahn

Z5 : 199A

Gabriel

Z5 : 596A

High Right SquadronAnderson-Booth

J3 : 837L

(Scope)

2BD Spare

Glass

77 : 206G

RCM

Tabbs

7V : 179X

Saunders-Williams

OH : 531V

Burman

7V : 407A

K-21

8AF Cont. K-22

RCM

Craver

7V : 352K

Grice

7V : 110M

Haynes

7V : 567G

Farriell

7V : 963T

2BD Cont.

Josephson

7V : 165L

K-20

SPARESDISP

684B (PFF) 26

487R (Lead) 25

285H 49

163M 41

305N 7

108B 4

457Q 27

ASSEMBLY: 754th Sqdn.

697E - Lt. Boyle

MARSHALLING:

Chief: Dane - 755th Sqdn.

Crews: Goode - 754th Sqdn.

Healy - 755th Sqdn.

WEATHER A/C: Hayzlett - 499U-755th.

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
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	ANDERSON	162	12	BOOTH	L3	44-48837	837	L	J3	1	UNKNOWN 041	458TH PILOT???
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	BECKSTROM	162	14			44-40134	134	R	J4	38	UNKNOWN 039	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	BOUCEK	162	15			42-50449	449	W	J4	28	HEAVENLY HIDEAWAY	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	BOYLE	162	ASSY			41-28697	697	Z	Z5	A42	SPOTTED APE	ASSEMBLY CREW - 754
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	BRUMBY	162	24	O'NEILL	L1	42-95557	557	H	J3	16	LADY PEACE	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	BURMAN	162	3			42-100407	407	R	7V	62	LITTLE LAMBSY DIVEY	CRASH LANDED ON CONT
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	COODE	162	MSHL			--		--	--	--		MARSHALING CREW - 754TH
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	CRAVER	162	8			41-29352	352	K	7V	63	WOLVE'S LAIR	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	DAHM	162	16			42-51199	199	A	Z5	22	UNKNOWN 023	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	DANE	162	MSHL			--		--	--	--		MARSHALING CHIEF-755TH
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	DYER	162	12		D2	42-51939	939	G	J3	11	UNKNOWN 028	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	EVERETT	162	4			44-40126	126	L	Z5	37	SPITTEN KITTEN / SKY TRAMP	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	FLETCHER	162	4			42-95120	120	M	Z5	59	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	GABRIEL	162	25			41-29596	596	R	Z5	75	HELL'S ANGEL'S	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	GLASS	162	24			42-51206	206	S	7V	29	THE PIED PIPER	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	GRICE	162	17			42-51110	110	M	7V	60	TOP O' THE MARK	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	HADDEN	162	13			44-40281	281	Q	J4	25	A DOG'S LIFE	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	HAYNES	162	18			41-29567	567	G	7V	11	MY BUNNIE / BAMBI	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	HAYZLETT	162	WTHR			42-50499	499	U	J3	--	COOKIE/OPEN POST	WEATHER SHIP - 755
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	HEALY	162	MSHL			--		--	--	--		MARSHALING CREW - 755TH
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	HESS	162	22			42-51196	196	Q	J3	21	THE GYPSY QUEEN	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	HOEY	162	14			44-40277	277	P	J4	30	MISS USED	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	HOOD	162	17			42-50555	555	A	J4	9	BABY SHOES	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	JOHNSON	162	2	SIMES	D1	109	109	A	GH	--		NOT 458TH SHIP/PILOT
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	JOSEPHSON	162	17			42-95165	165	L	7V	53	COOKIE	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	KLEIN	162	24			42-95183	183	U	Z5	68	BRINEY MARLIN	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	MATZE	162	25	BETZOLD	L2	44-49743	743	F	J3	5	EASTERN BEAST	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	McCORMICK	162	18			44-40287	287	J	J4	30	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	SAUNDERS	162	--	WILLIAMS	D3	531	531	V	GH	--		NOT 458TH SHIP
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	SEALY	162	15			42-51200	200	B	J4	5	STINKY	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	SHERRILL	162	6			42-50456	456	D	Z5	24	DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	SKIDMORE	162	18			42-50640	640	O	Z5	23	BUGS BUNNY	
31-Dec-44	KOBLENZ	TEBBS	162	18			42-95179	179	X	7V	67	HERE I GO AGAIN	