

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
AAF STATION 101
APO 634

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 258

AAA OFFICER	☒
EXCLUSIVE	☐
BOMBER	☐
FIGHTER	☐
	☐
	☐
	☐

PERIOD: 0001 hours 13 January 1945 to 2400 hours 13 January 1945.

A. STATISTICS

	Missions	Disp.	Sorties	Atkg.	Tonnage	Claims	Losses				
							E/A	AA	N/E	OT	Tot
Heavy Bomber Atks.	9	958	923	909	2439.2	0-0-0	0	2	1	30	33a
Fighter Escort	7	280	270	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	3	5	8b
Fighter Sweeps	5	148	108	0	0	3-0-0A 3-0-1G	0	0	1	1	2
Fighter Bombing	1	45	45	45	11.3	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Photo Recon.	3	11	10	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Weather Recon.	5	38	28	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	1	1c
Air/Sea Rescue	4	8	8	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Operations	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0-0-0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	36	1497	1401	954	2450.5	3-0-0A 3-0-1G	0	2	5	37	44

- (a) Approximately 23 believed safe on Continent.
(b) Includes 2 believed safe on Continent, 2 Cat "E".
(c) Believed safe on Continent.

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY1. Bomber Attacks

.958 a/c (682 B-17s, 276 B-24s) from three Air Divisions dispatched in three forces against seven Rhine RR bridges and two M/Ys in the tactical area. 909 a/c dropped 2439.2 tons GP on all assigned primaries, one secondary and several T/Os. Assigned targets bombed on Pathfinder in most instances. Majority of a/c from 1st Air Division diverted on return to base. No enemy air opposition. Claims: nil. Losses: 24 B-17s, 9 B-24s (2 to AA, 1 Cat. "E" 30 to unknown causes - approximately 23 of which are believed safe.)

SECRETFirst Force

Ten group formations (367 B-17s - 3rd Air Division) dispatched against RR bridges at Gustavsborg and Mainz, and Bischofsheim M/Y. 339 a/c dropped 801 tons GP on assigned targets and several T/Os at 1240-1319 hours from 24,000-27,000 feet. Leaflets dropped on Mainz, Bischofsheim and Euskirchen. Assigned targets bombed on Micro-H with one group on Bischofsheim visually. Weather: generally 6/10-10/10 over all targets. Flak: moderate to intense, accurate at Bischofsheim and Mainz. Battle Damage: 119 minor, 7 major. E/A Opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 3 B-17s (2 to AA, 1 Cat. "E").

Fighter Support: Two groups (80 P-51s) dispatched. Up 1018-1022 hours, down 1430-1439 hours. 79 sorties. E/A Opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 2 P-51s - Cat "E".

Details of bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacking</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Results</u>
Mainz RR Br.	77	31	61.0	Poor
Mainz-Gustavsborg RR Br.	147	95	238.5	Poor
Bischofsheim M/Y	143	119	294.5	Fair to Good
Mainz M/Y (Sec)		74	160.5	Poor
<u>Other Targets</u>				
Euskirchen RR Junction		13	29.5	Fair
T/Os		7	17.0	Unobserved
Totals	367	339	801.0	

Second Force

Twelve group formations (276 B-24s, 2nd Air Division) dispatched against RR bridges at Worms and Rudesheim and Kaiserslautern M/Y. 263 a/c dropped 718.2 tons GP on assigned targets and one T/O at 1354-1535 hours from 20,000 to 25,000 feet. Leaflets dropped on Worms and Kaiserslautern. Assigned targets bombed on Geo-H with a few visual assists. Weather: generally 5/10-10/10 in all target areas. Flak: moderate, accurate at Worms. Battle Damage: 39 minor. E/A Opposition: nil. One jet a/c sighted in Charleroi Area. No combat. Claims: nil. Losses: 9 B-24s (8 believed safe on Continent, 1 to unknown causes).

Fighter Support: Three groups (118 P-51s) dispatched. Up 1114-1125 hours; down 1520-1617 hours. 114 sorties. One group diverted to other bases in UK on return. E/A opposition: nil. Three Me-262s sighted, one south of Mons, one south of Linguyan and one vicinity of Worms. Claims: nil. Losses: 4 P-51s (2 believed safe on continent, 1 ditched in Channel, 1 to unknown causes).

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Details of bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacking</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Results</u>
Worms RR Bridge	92	86	235.0	Very Good
Kaiserslautern M/Y	89	87	248.7	Unobserved
Rudesheim RR Bridge	95	89	231.5	Unobserved
<u>Other Target</u>				
T/O - 4935N-0703E	_____	<u>1</u>	<u>3.0</u>	Unobserved
Totals	276	263	718.2	

Third Force

Eight group formations (315 B-17s, 1st Air Divisions) dispatched against RR Bridges at Germersheim, Mannheim and Maximiliansau. Forces on two latter targets encountered 200-400 foot low ceiling and poor visibility on return to base and were diverted to other bases in U.K. Figures on these targets are approximations and details are incomplete. 307 a/c dropped 920.0 tons GP on three assigned targets. Germersheim bombed on Gee-H at 1318-1324 hours from 23,800-26,700 feet. Other targets bombed visually - time, altitude, flak and e/a opposition unknown. On Germersheim only - weather: 8/10-10/10. Flak: meager, accurate to inaccurate. Battle Damage: 7 minor, 2 major. E/A Opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Total Losses: 21 B-17s, approximately 15 believed safe on Continent).

Fighter Support: Two groups (82 P-51s) dispatched. Up 1040-1050 hours, down 1520-1614 hours. 77 Sorties. One group (35 P-51s) unable to land on return diverted to bases on Continent. E/A Opposition: nil. Report on a/c diverted to Continent not available. Losses: 2 P-51s (1 to weather, 1 to unknown causes).

Details of bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacking</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Results</u>
Germersheim RR Bridge	73	71	212.0	Unobserved
Mannheim Rd & RR Bridge	78	76	228.0	Unknown
Maximiliansau RR Bridge	164	159	477.0	Unknown
<u>Other Target</u>				
T/O	_____	<u>1</u>	<u>3.0</u>	Unobserved
Totals	315	307	920.0	

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2. Fighter Escort

Seven groups (280 P-51s) dispatched as support for heavy bomber forces. Up 1018-1114 hours; down 1430-1614 hours. 270 sorties. One group diverted to other U.K. bases on return. Another group (35 a/c) diverted to bases on Continent. E/A Opposition: nil. Three scattered sightings of Me-262s. Claims: nil. Losses: + 8 P-51s (2 Cat. "E", 2 believed safe on Continent, 1 ditched in Channel, 1 to weather, 2 to unknown causes).

+ Of the 35 a/c diverted to Continent, 30 are accounted for as of 0500 hours, 14 January 1945.

3. Fighter Sweeps

Three groups (75 P-51s, 37 P-47s - 112 a/c) dispatched on free lance support for bomber forces. 102 sorties. Up 0907-1050 hours; down 1338-1515 hours. One group strafed Giebelstadt A/F. E/A Opposition: 1 Me-262 encountered taking off and 2 Me-109s about to land. Claims: 3-0-0 Air (1 jet); 3-0-1 ground, also 3 locomotives destroyed, 4 locomotives, 15 goods wagons damaged. Losses: 2 P-51s (1 Cat. "E", 1 to unknown causes).

Two groups based on Continent (36 P-51s) dispatched. Up 1440, down 1605 hours. 36 sorties. 25 P-51s of one group gave area support to RAF bombers in Saarbrücken area. 11 P-51s from other group on general area patrol. Missions uneventful. E/A opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: nil.

4. Fighter Bombing

One group based on Continent (45 P-51s) dispatched on fighter bombing patrol Mannheim-Trier, Coblenz-Frankfurt-Karlsruhe areas. 45 sorties. Up 1010-1208 hours; down 1300-1430 hours. 45 a/c strafed and dropped 11.3 tons fragmentation bombs on M/Y and a convoy destroying 3 trucks, damaging 36 goods cars, 2 trucks, 1 tank, 1 half-track and 1 factory. No c/a opposition. Claims: nil. Losses: nil.

5. Photo Reconnaissance

11 a/c (6 F 5s, 1 Spitfire, 4 P-51s) dispatched. D/A photos obtained of Dortmund, Siegen and Frankfurt areas. 1 a/c recalled because of failure to contact escorting fighters. One F-5 escorted by 4 P-51s. All a/c returned safely.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

38 a/c (4 B-17s, 6 Mosquitoes, 28 P-51s) dispatched as follows:

2 B-17s flew routine flights to and from Azores
2 B-17s flew routine flights over Atlantic to west of England
4 Mosquitoes completed special flights over Holland, Belgium and Germany.
2 Mosquitoes dispatched on special flights aborted due to mechanical failure.
28 P-51s dispatched as weather scouts for bomber forces. 20 sorties.
Losses: 1 P-51 (scout) believed safe on Continent.

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7. Air/Sea Rescue

8 P-47s dispatched on routine patrol missions. Located pilot who bailed out off Clacton. All a/c returned safely.

8. Special Operations

9 a/c dispatched as follows:

6 B-24s dispatched on RCM patrol. 6 a/c completed mission, jamming from 0705-1040 hours. No losses.

3 Mosquitoes dispatched on Chaff dispensing mission for heavy bombers. 3 a/c completed mission. No losses.

C. INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Air Opposition

Weather conditions, although not favorable, should not have prohibited an e/a reaction against the heavy bombers. It seems likely that German fighters were being held for defensive and offensive tactical operations later in the day under improving weather conditions.

The only e/a encountered were in the vicinity of Giebelstadt A/F, where a small formation of sweeping P-51s destroyed one Me-262 shortly after take-off and two Me-109s as they were coming in to land. There were a few scattered sightings of individual Me-262s flying at 30,000-33,000 feet and probably serving as observer a/c.

2. Flak

Worms - moderate, accurate.
Rudesheim - nil to meager, inaccurate.
Kaiserslautern - nil to meager, inaccurate.
Germersheim - meager, accurate to inaccurate.
Mainz - meager to moderate, fairly accurate, tracking.
Bischofsheim - moderate to intense, accurate, tracking.

3. Observations

Nil.

4. Damage to Enemy Installations

Worms RR Bridge - Very Good Results

At least four patterns of 1000 pound bombs on or near the bridge and its approaches. Smoke and long shadows make observation difficult and it is not possible to say definitely that the bridge has been knocked down. However, the tight patterns on and around the bridge and its approaches and the eastern viaduct definitely insures severe damage. Hits were also scored on industrial type buildings on the western bank with very good results and possible hits on rail line at this point.

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Rudesheim RR Bridge - Unobserved Results

Target was attacked through 8/10-10/10 cloud. No bursts were observed but the calculated trajectories of the bombs from a visible release point places the patterns on or near the target.

Kaiserslautern M/Y - Unobserved Results

Target attacked through 8/10-10/10 cloud. Two patterns calculated to burst within three miles of the target in the case of two squadrons.

Euskirchen RR Junction - Fair Results

Between two and four hits on target, but scattered bursts in the extreme edge of the village.

Bischofsheim M/Y - Fair to Good Results

Target attacked by 12 squadrons carrying 500 pound GPs. Of these, 12 squadrons only one had a pattern squarely on the center of the yard. Hits scored on the NW - SE choke points and most of one pattern and part of another fell in the town of Bischofsheim. One pattern fell on a dam just NW of the target, possibly one hit and near misses to the dam itself.

Mainz-Gustavsburg RR Bridge - Poor Results

Mainz RR Bridge - Poor Results

Mainz M/Y - Poor Results

Clouds cover this area at time of the attack and bomb hits cannot be spotted. Photos taken by one of the last groups over the M/Y shows most of this area, and it is believed that neither bridge has been hit. There is one pattern in central part of Mainz along the river bank by the highway bridge, another pattern in the south part of Wiesbaden M/Y, one pattern hit the south-east corner of the village of Bierstadt about two miles east of Wiesbaden. Some scattered bursts observed in open country west of Mainz and part of one pattern observed near the Wiesbader F with possible 6 - 10 hits on the field itself, doing no damage except to a few small buildings.

NOTE: The foregoing is based on preliminary reports and is not to be used for record purposes.

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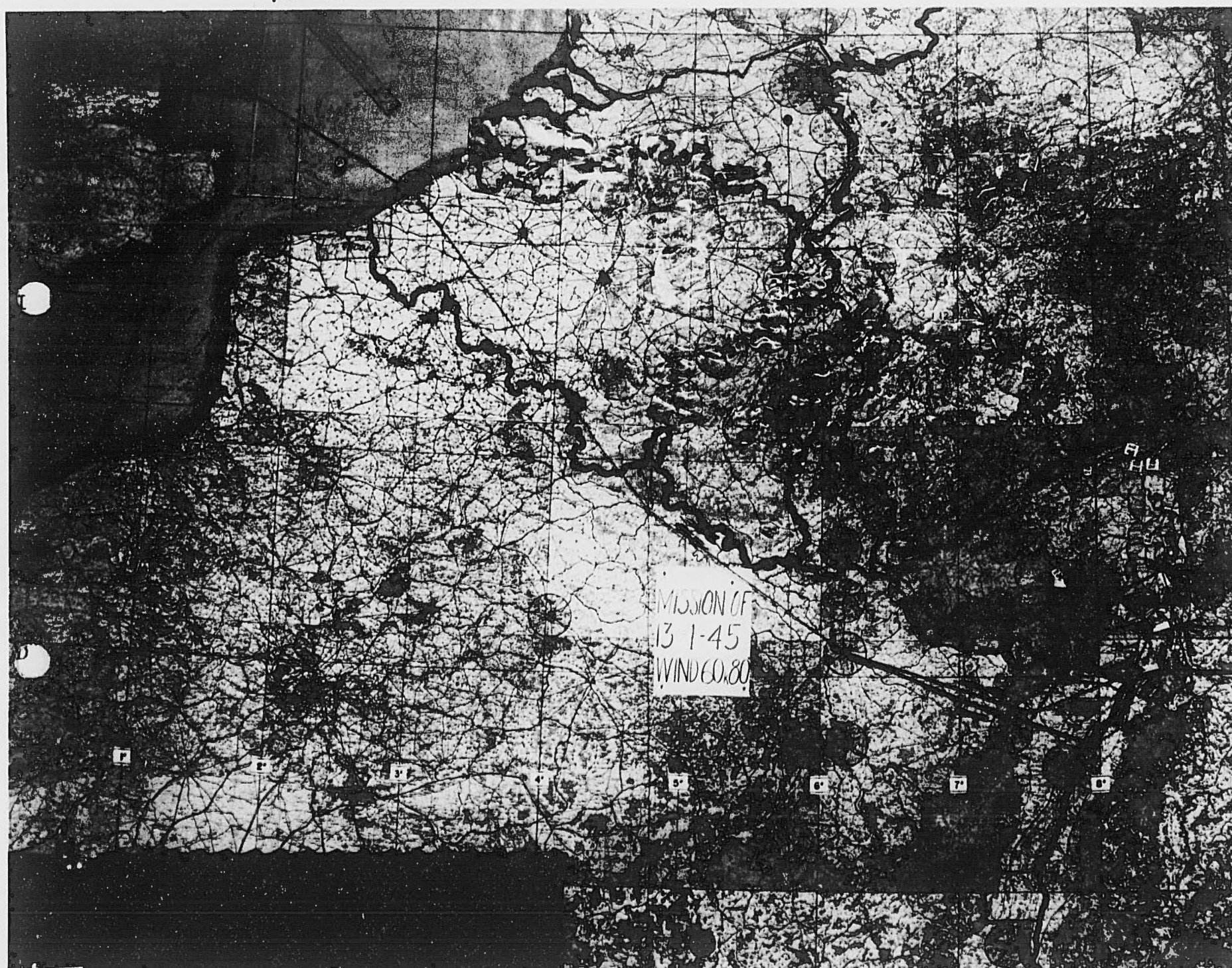
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BRIEFED TARGETS ROUTES.



1. MANNHEIM. 2. GERMERSHEIM 3. MAXIMILIANSAU.

2088

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 2d AIR DIVISION
Office of Assistant Chief of Staff A-2
APO 558

: : : : : : : : : :
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: Auth: AC of S, A-2 :
: Hq. 2d Air Division :
: Initials W :
: Date 18 Jan 45 :
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D-V-63

18 January 1945

373.91

SUBJECT: AA Report, 2d Air Division, No. FLO/2AD/467.

TO : Director of Intelligence, Headquarters Eighth Air Force, AAF 101,
APO 634, Attention: AA Officer.

1. GENERAL: TARGET : a. Rudesheim
b. Worms
c. Kaiserslautern

DATE : 13 January 1945

CONDITIONS : b. 3-6/10th Cloud
a. 9-10/10th Cloud
c. 10/10th Cloud

ROUTE ORDERED : 50°21'N, 04°00'E - 49°46'N, 04°43'E - 49°26'N,
05°56'E - 49°42'N, 06°48'E
(a) 50°12'N, 06°58'E - 50°19'N, 07°22'E - Rudesheim -
49°50'N, 08°07'E - 49°18'N, 07°55'E - 49°00'N,
07°40'E - 48°53'N, 07°00'E
(b) 50°05'N, 07°10'E - 50°07'N, 08°00'E - Worms -
49°32'N, 08°08'E - 49°18'N, 07°55'E - 49°00'N,
07°40'E - 48°53'N, 07°00'E
(c) 49°53'N, 07°20'E - Kaiserslautern - 49°18'N,
07°55'E - 49°00'N, 07°40'E - 49°00'N, 07°00'E

ALTITUDE ORDERED : 22000 ft

AXIS OF ATTACKED ORDERED: (a) 130°, (b) 145°, (c) 140°

FORECAST WIND : 60 mph from 90°

2. NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS: Worms was attacked visually by squadrons. Rudesheim and Kaiserslautern were attacked by GH methods.

3. FLAK: En route, meagre to moderate fairly accurate Flak was encountered at Zweibrücken(A). Meagre inaccurate Flak was encountered in the vicinity of Trier(B) and Landau(B).

At the targets, moderate accurate predictor control fire was encountered at Worms, and meagre to moderate and fairly accurate Flak was also encountered during the bombing run on this target from Bingen and Wiesbaden.

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FLO/2AD/467 (continued)

Meagre inaccurate Flak was encountered at Kaiserslautern; and very meagre Flak was encountered at Rudesheim by two Groups, the others not being engaged.

[Signature]
LT. COLONEL, R.A.

c.c.: AC of S, A-2, 1st and 3rd Air Divisions
Attn: AA Officers
M.I.15, War Office, Whitehall, London



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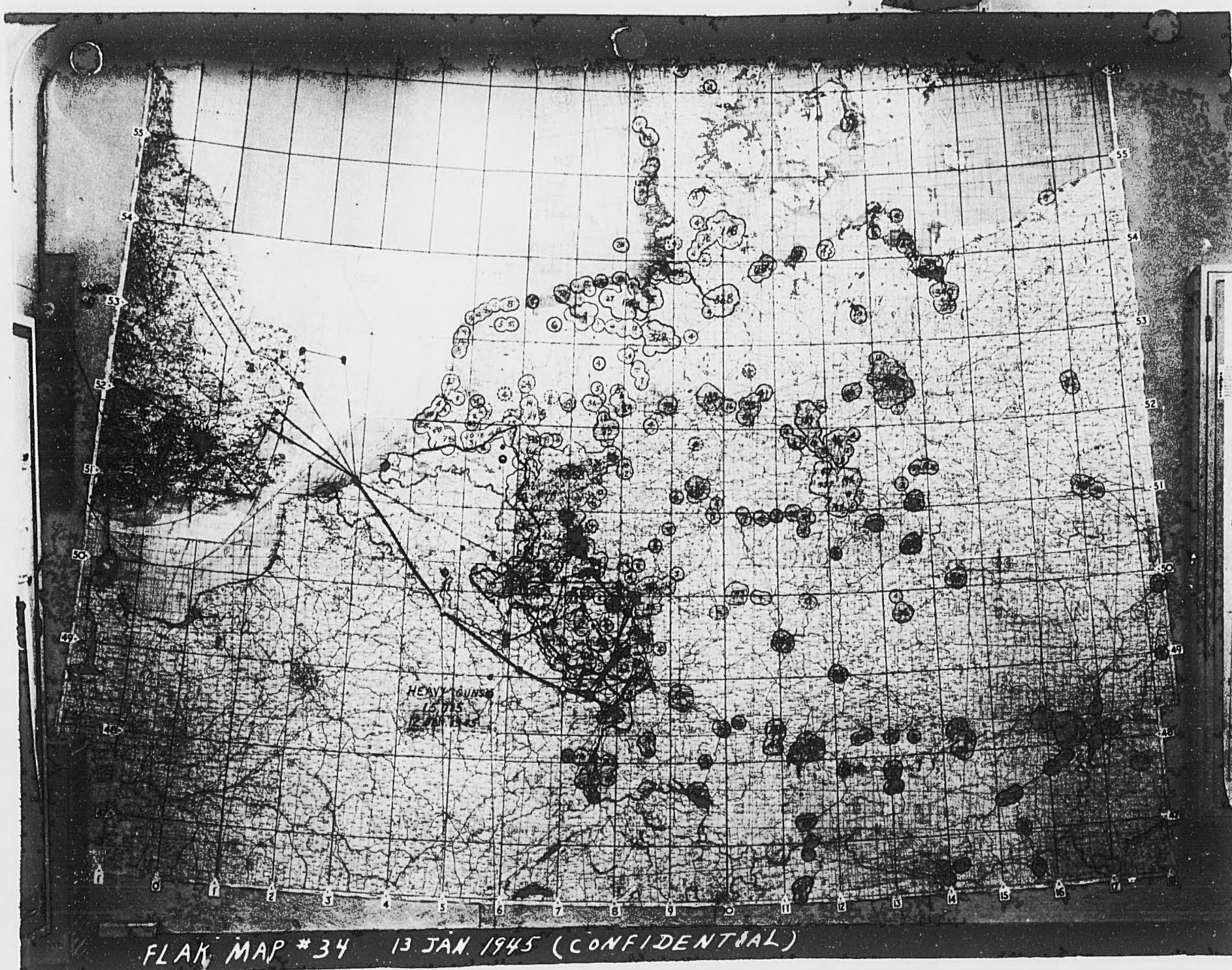
TARGET: KAISERSLAUTERN

EFFECTIVE NUMBER OF GUNS: 46

CW	GROUP	SORTIES	DAMAGED		A/C LOST				Axis Attack	Axis With- drawal	T.O.T.	Altitude
			SLI	Ser.	Flak	P.A.	Acc.	Unkn				
96	458	16	1	-	-	-	-	-	150°- 160°	140°	1357	22000 ft
96	466	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	135°- 145°	-	1358	22000 - 22500 ft
14	491	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	130°- 140°	170°	1358	22000 ft
14	44	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	130°- 145°	150°	1358 - 1400	22500 - 23000 ft
14	392	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	135°- 145°	160°	1400	22000 ft
TOTALS:		86	1	-	-	-	-	-	130°- 160°	140°- 170°	1357- 1400	22000 - 23000 ft
Percentages:			1.2%									

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2103

13 Jan

ORDERED TARGET: Primary ~~Kaiserslautern~~ M/Y
Second ~~Kaiserslautern~~ M/Y (H2X)

DIVISION ORDER 572

13 Jan

DIVISION FIELD ORDER 572

BOMB TYPE	EXPENDED					FUSES				AMMUNITION				PYROTECHNICS	
	INITIAL LOAD	ON TGT	JETT	UNACTD FOR	RETD	NOSE FUSE	NOSE DELAY	TAIL FUSE	TAIL DELAY	CALIBER	LINKAGE	LINKAGE RATIO	AMOUNT EXPND.	TYPE	AMOUNT EXPEND.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
500 RDX	75	63	-	-	12	M 103	.1	M 101	.025	.50	API-T	2-1	1360	-	-
500 M64	135	123	-	-	12	M 103	.1	M 101	.025	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHB Skymarker	2(1)	2	-	-	-	M100 Al	.1	M100 Al	.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
M47 Smokemarker	2(1)	2	-	-	-	M 125	Inst	-	-	-	-	-	-	M-8 Grenade	8

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-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	ALLEN, G	169	MSHL			--		--	--	--		MARSHALING CHIEF- 755TH
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	BECHTEL	169	16			42-50912	912	D	J4	1	THE TRAVLIN' BAG	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	BLUM	169	23	PHILLIP	L21	42-50740	740	Q	J3	15	OUR BURMA	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	BURMAN	169	4			42-95179	179	X	7V	71	HERE I GO AGAIN	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	DIEHL	169	ABT			42-50449	449	W	J4	--	HEAVENLY HIDEAWAY	ABORT - CO-PILOT SINUS TROUBLE
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	EIDELSBURG	169	8			44-40118	118	S	J4	27	WE'LL GET BY	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	HATHORN	169	ABT		DL	42-50575	575	O	J3	--	UNKNOWN 020	ABORT - LEAKING GAS - DEFECTIVE CAP
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	HELFRECHT	169	MSHL			--		--	--	--		MARSHALING CHIEF- 755TH
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	HERDTI	169	MSHL			--		--	--	--		MARSHALING CHIEF- 754TH
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	HOFFMAN	169	5			42-51514	514	B	7V	1	BIG CHIEF LIL' BEAVER	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	JACKSON, WL	169	2			42-50502	502	E	7V	24	LARRUPIN' LINDA	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	JOSEPHSON	169	20			44-40424	424	F	7V	1	MONYA	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	LaJEUNESSE	169	7			42-110141	141	U	J4	34	BREEZY LADY / MARIE / SUPERMAN	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	LEHR	169	23			41-28963	963	T	7V	15	UNKNOWN 007	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	McCORMICK	169	21			44-40134	134	R	J4	42	UNKNOWN 039	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	MORFORD	169	25	JAMISON	L1	42-51669	669	J	J3	3	UNKNOWN 026	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	O'REGAN	169	2			42-51561	561	G	7V	1	LUCKY 13	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	SPRATT	169	4			42-52457	457	Q	7V	78	FINAL APPROACH	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	WARRELL	169	14			42-110163	163	M	J4	48	TIME'S A WASTIN	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	WELCH	169	1	RUE	D1	717	717	Y	GH	--		NOT 458TH SHIP
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	WILLIAMS, DG	169	6			42-50768	768	Y	J4	22	ARISE MY LOVE AND COME WITH ME	
13-Jan-45	KAISERLAUTERN	WILLIAMS, DK	169	7			41-28980	980	V	J4	17	UNKNOWN 009	