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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
AAF STATION 101
APO 634
INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 299

PERIOD: 0001 hours 23 February 1945 to 2400 hours 23 February 1945.

A. STATISTICS

	Total Sorties	Effective Sorties	Tonnage	Claims	Losses			Totals	NVR
					F/A	AA	OT		
Heavy Bomber Atks.	1274	1211	3316.4	0-0-0	0	0	1	1	47
Fighter Escort	521	492	0	7-0-0A	0	1	0	1	23
Fighter Sweeps (a)	150	141	0	5-0-2G					
Fighter Bombing	0	0	0	0-0-0A					
Photo Recon.	17	17	0	9-0-1(b)	0	0	1	1	1
Weather Recon.	40	36	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Air/Sea Rescue	19	19	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Operations	70	66	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	2072	1963	3316.4	7-0-0A	0	1	2	3	141

- (a) The two groups based on Continent did not operate.
(b) Includes 2-0-7 jet a/c.

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

Following up yesterday's assault upon the enemy's transportation facilities, 1274 a/c (906 B-17s, 368 B-24s) in three forces from the three Air Divisions sortied against rail centers in central Germany. 1211 a/c dropped 3316.4 tons GP on assigned targets and numerous T/Os. Bombing by the 1st and 2nd forces was mostly visual; the 3rd force, due to heavy cloud coverage, bombed on H2X. Flak: generally nil to meager, inaccurate. F/A opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 1 B-17 to causes unknown. NVR: 36 B-17s, 11 B-24s believed safe on Continent.

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Twelve group formations (446 B-17s - 3rd Air Division) sorties against rail centers in central Germany. 426 a/c dropped 1183.5 tons GP on assigned targets and several T/Os at 1118-1153 hours from 8,000-16,700 feet. All bombing visual. Leaflets dropped on Ansbach, Treuchtlingen, Crailsheim and Neumarkt. Weather: CAVU in target areas. Flak: nil to meager, inaccurate. Battle damage: 28 minor, 6 major. F/A opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 1 B-17 to causes unknown. NYR: nil.

Fighter Support: Four groups (203 P-51s) sorties. Up 0833-0900 hours. Down 1424-1500 hours. 194 effective sorties. F/A opposition: nil. Sighted 2 jet a/c near Ansbach, 1 FW-190 vicinity of Stuttgart, 1 Me-262 near Regensburg. 3 u/i jet a/c NW of Strasbourg - no combats. Strafed Kitzingen A/F, rail and highway transportation facilities near Strasbourg, Regensburg and in Stuttgart-Nurnberg areas. Claims: 5-0-2 ground. Losses: nil. NYR: 13 P-51s.

Details of bomber attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Effective Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Results</u>
Treuchtlingen M/Y	73	61	175.0	Good
Crailsheim M/Y	76	52	114.0	Good to very good
Neumarkt M/Y	79	74	210.7	Very good
Ansbach M/Y	75	109	297.0	Very good
Kitzingen M/Y	76	95	284.8	Very good
Forchheim M/Y	67	Did not attack		
<u>Other Targets</u>				
Nordlingen		2	5.0	Good
Schwabisch Hall		2	70.0	Very good
Winterhausen		7	21.0	Poor
T/Os		2	6.0	Unknown
Totals	446	426	1183.5	

Second Force

Twelve group formations (460 B-17s - 1st Air Division) sorties against rail centers in central Germany. 445 a/c dropped 1313.7 tons GP on one assigned target and numerous T/Os at 1203-1331 hours from 11,600-17,000 feet. Bombing visual with some H2X. Leaflets dropped on Kitzingen, Plauen, Bamberg, Ellingen and Hildburghausen. Weather: 10/10 over assigned targets. Flak: nil to meager, inaccurate. Battle damage: 14 minor, 2 major. F/A opposition: nil. Losses: nil. NYR: 36 B-17s believed safe on Continent.

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Fighter Support: Four groups (208 P-51s) sortied. Jp 0845-0907 hours; down 1452-1535 hours. 193 effective sorties. E/a Opposition: Engaged a formation of Me-109s south of Stuttgart - combat from 6,000 feet down to deck. Claims tentative and further details of combat unavailable due to group landing away from home base. Sighted one Me-262 vicinity of Nordhausen - no combat. One group strafed rail traffic in Kitzingen area. Claims: 7-0-0 air. Losses: 1 P-51 to AA. NYR: 65 P-51s.

Details of bomber attack as follows:

Assigned Targets	Sorties	Effective Sorties	Tonnage	Results
Hof M/Y	74	Did not attack		
Cheb-Eger M/Y	74	" " "		
Bamberg M/Y	78	" " "		
Bayreuth M/Y	78	" " "		
Zwickau M/Y	78	" " "		
Plauen M/Y	78	110	325.0	Unobserved
<u>Other Targets</u>				
Meiningen		49	145.5	Fair - Good
Adelsberg		12	35.5	Unknown
Hildburghausen		12	33.0	Fair-Good
Kitzingen		88	263.5	Fair-Good
Lichtenfels		13	38.7	Good
Schweinfurt		12	35.5	Unknown
Ellingen		25	70.0	Fair-Good
Ottlingen		48	140.5	Fair-Good
Wurzburg		37	111.0	Good-Very Good
Crailsheim		38	112.5	Very Good
Zwolle		1	3.0	Unknown
Totals	460	405	1 313.7	

Third Force

Thirty-six squadron formations (368 B-24s - 2nd Air Division) sortied against rail centers in central Germany. 340 a/c dropped 819.2 tons GP on two assigned targets and several T/O's at 1141-1315 hours from 17,500-24,000 feet. Bombing by H2X and in some cases visual. Leaflets dropped on Meiningen, Paderborn, Gera and Osnabruck. Weather: generally 10/10 over targets. Flak: Nil to major. inaccurate. Battle Damage: 6 minor, 3 Cat. "E" (one crashed on landing, 2 in mid-air collision). E/a Opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: nil. NYR: 11 B-24s believed safe on the Continent.

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Fighter Support: Two groups (110 P-51s) sortied. Up 0852-0906 hours; down 1500-1505 hours. 105 sorties. E/a opposition: nil. Strafed rail traffic in Marburg area. Claims: nil. Losses: nil. NYR: 15 P-51s.

Details of bomber attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Effective Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Results</u>
Weimar M/Y	61	57	135.7	Unobserved
Fulda M/Y	63	10	24.0	Unobserved
Gera M/Y	65	46	107.8	Unobserved
Naumburg M/Y	59	Did not attack		
Saalfeld M/Y	56	" " "		
Münchingen M/Y	64	" " "		
<u>Other Targets</u>				
Paderborn		104	231.0	Unobserved
Osnabruck		50	136.5	Unobserved
Jena		25	59.5	Unobserved
Schluchtern		20	56.5	Very Good
Fritzler		9	21.5	Unobserved
Reichenbach		9	20.5	Unobserved
Steinau		9	23.5	Very Good
RR Br. at 4953-1055E		1	3.0	Unobserved
Totals	368	340	819.2	

2. Fighter Escort

Ten groups (521 P-51s) sortied to support bomber forces. Up 0833-0907 hours; down 1424-1535 hours. 492 effective sorties. E/a Opposition: A formation of Me-109s south of Stuttgart. Sighted 1 Me-262 vicinity of Nordhausen, 2 jet a/c near Ansbach, 1 Me-262 near Bockingen, 3 u/i jet a/c NW of Strasbourg and 1 FW-190 vicinity of Stuttgart - no combat. Strafed rail and road transportation in central Germany. Claims: 7-0-0 air (tentative claims), 5-0-2 ground. Losses: 1 P-51 to AA. NYR: 93 P-51s believed safe on on the Continent.

Ground claims as follows:

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Locomotives	18	13
Goods Wagons	2	11.1
Oil Tank Cars	4	13
Flat Cars	3	0
Passenger Cars	0	6
Trucks	16	2
Automobiles	1	3

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Ground claims (continued)

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Road Maintenance Equipment	0	1
Misc. Buildings	1	14
Switch Towers	1	5
Radio Towers	0	4
Radio Stations	0	4
Power Houses	0	1
High Tension Towers	0	1
Radar Towers	0	3
Oil Storage Tanks	1	0
Lumber Yards	1 (burned)	0
High Tension Lines	2	0
Marshalling Yard	0	1

3. Fighter Sweeps

Three groups (33 F-47s, 117 F-51s - 150 a/c) sortied on free lance support to bomber forces. Up 0815-0920 hours. Down 1425-1458 hours. 141 effective sorties. E/A opposition: nil. Strafed A/Fs at Neuburg, Landsburg and Leipheim, rail and road traffic near Augsburg and near Frankfurt. Claims: 9-0-14 ground (includes 2-0-7 jets). Losses: 1 F-51 crashed while strafing. NYR: 1 F-51.

Ground claims as follows:

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Locomotives	6	11
Goods Wagons	6	52
Oil Tank Cars	16	0
Passenger Cars	0	8
Trucks	1	1
Flak Positions	0	2

4. Fighter Bombing

Nil.

5. Photo Reconnaissance

17 a/c (10 F-5s, 3 Mosquitoes, 4 F-51s) sortied as follows:

8 F-5s on mapping of Bonn, Frankfurt, Euskirchen, Nurnberg, Siegen and Weisbaden area, and damage assessment of Nurnberg town.

4 F-51s as escort to the above.

2 F-5s on D/A of Nurnberg town, factory and M/Y.

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3 Mosquitoes sortied on night photos in Frankfurt and Hanau area.

All a/c returned safely.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

40 a/c (3 B-17s, 7 Mosquitoes, 30 P-51s) sortied on weather flights.

1 B-17 on routine weather flight to Azores.

1 B-17 on routine weather flight from Azores.

1 B-17 on weather flight over sea NW of Lands End.

7 Mosquitoes on special weather reconnaissance over Holland, Germany, Denmark, U.K., and Irish Sea.

30 P-51s sortied as weather scouts for bomber forces.

Losses: nil. MYR: 3 P-51s.

7. Air/Sea Rescue

19 a/c (17 P-47s, 2 Catalina flying boats) sortied on routine search and patrols.

All a/c returned safely.

8. Special Operations

70 a/c (53 B-24s, 16 P-51s, 2 P-47s) sortied as follows:

19 a/c (16 P-51s, 2 P-47s, 1 B-24) as radio relays. 16 effective sorties.

1 P-51 MYR - cause unknown.

7 B-24s on RCM, jamming from 0606-0845 hours. All a/c landed away from base. No losses.

5 B-24s on special supply mission. All a/c returned safely.

12 B-24s dropped leaflets over Germany and Holland, night 22/23 February. All successful. No losses.

27 B-24s sortied on special bombing operation against Neuss M/V. 24 a/c dropped 59.2 tons GP on primary through 10/10 cloud with unobserved results. 2 a/c attacked ineffectively in target area.

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C. INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Air Opposition

Once again the enemy failed to exploit a good opportunity to intercept heavier flying at low altitude, although today unfavorable weather conditions could have been the cause of his failure to react.

A small number of jet a/c were sighted at heights varying from 4,000 to 30,000 feet, scattered between the target area and Strasbourg. One of these jets flew parallel to the bomber stream near Nordhausen, but was lost in the haze when escorting P-51s closed to engage.

The only combat with orthodox s/e fighters was between a fighter group escorting the third force and a formation of Me-109s. E/a were bounced in Stuttgart area where they were sighted at 6,000 feet carrying bombs. In the ensuing combat seven were shot down.

2. Flak

Osnabruck - meager to moderate, inaccurate.
Gera - nil to meager, inaccurate.
Along route - nil to meager and inaccurate.
South of Mersburg - meager and inaccurate.
South of Strasbourg - meager and accurate.
Plauen - meager and inaccurate.
Offenburg - meager and accurate.
Schweinfurt - intense and accurate.
Battle Line - meager and generally inaccurate.

3. Observations

8 e/a on Bondorf A/F.
25 - 30 s/e e/a, possibly dummies, on Ottingen A/F.
10 s/e e/a on Deinzingen A/F.
Schwabisch-Hall A/F had approximately 32 a/c on it and field was marked UA-4.
At 4825-0903E, a long concrete runway with four hangars on one side.
At the end of runway there was a large circular pool.
15 e/a, believed to be t/e or 4-engine a/c, on Kitzingen A/F.
Several a/c on Crailsheim A/F.
Reutlingen M/Y (4830-0913E) approximately 300 freight cars.
Tublingen M/Y (4832-0904E) approximately 400 cars.
Gieslingen M/Y (4836N-0950E) approximately 40 tank cars.
Schwabisch-Hall M/Y, large number of flat cars loaded with tanks.
Eutingen M/Y (4927N-0847E) approximately 1000 cars.
Lahr M/Y (4822-0753E) 50 cars.
Nordlingen M/Y (4851N-1030E) well loaded.
Sidings at 4830N-0850E well loaded.
Flochingen M/Y (4842N-0922E) very active.

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M/Y at 4827N-0842E loaded with approximately 400 cars, many of which were tank cars. This M/Y is flanked by high cliffs on E and W and a river to the north.

M/Ys at Routlingen were full of rolling stock.

At 4828N-0912E, a number of roads were observed to converge in a wood which appeared to have an underground installation of either a military stores or ammunition dump.

4. Damage to Enemy Installations

Schluchtern - Very Good Results

Both patterns seen to fall across the small railway siding.

Steinau Railway Siding - Very Good Results

Approximately ten bursts are seen on siding and three bursts on adjacent highway.

Wurzburg - Good to Very Good Results

Target was (A) town station and yards and (B) main yards 22 miles SW of Schweinfurt.

(A) Two concentrations of approximately 260 GP bombs bursting in and adjacent to central portion of target. At least two large engine roundhouses received direct hits. One received four direct hits and the other two direct hits. Near misses will damage a third roundhouse in the area. Two of the three turntables will be severely damaged. Main RR station blanketed by bombs, at least 20 hits on the building. Intense damage. Station platform will be severely damaged as a result of 25 direct hits. Car repair shops adjacent to engine roundhouse severely damaged from direct hits and near misses. Three direct hits on road over rail bridge. Damage in central portion of yard will be extremely severe and residential district will also be damaged.

(B) Main Yards - One concentration of 120 GP bombs bursting in the south-central portion of M/Y. At least 70 hits on rail lines near a vital switch point area. At least four u/i buildings received direct hits and severe damage will result to the convergence point and south end of the yard. The damage will be severe. Road over rail bridge received at least four direct hits. At least one building in the barracks area and five buildings in u/i factory area received direct hits.

Crailsheim - Very Good Results (Second Force Attack)

Two concentrations - approximately 260 GP bombs - bursting in and adjacent to target area. At least 140 bursts on rail lines and installations in M/Y. Combined with damage caused by a/c of 3rd Air Division, this yard can be considered completely knocked out.

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Littenfels M/Y - Good Results

One concentration of 125 GP bombs in and adjacent to south end of M/Y. Approximately 80 bursts on rail lines and installations in yard. Engine roundhouse received at least six direct hits. One probable hit on the turntable. Large warehouse received five direct hits and should be severely damaged. Main weight of bombs fell into holding sidings adjacent to roundhouse and rail lines in yards. The holding sidings were heavily loaded and severe damage can be expected in this area.

Ottingen (traffic center) - Fair to Good Results.

One concentration of 100 GP bombs in the small station yards near the SW edge of town. Approximately 50 bombs on rail lines and installations in the yards. Moderate damage in storage sidings. Approximately 250 GP bombs fell in NE edge of town area. RR Bridge on Wornitz river received at least two direct hits. SW approach hit by at least five bombs cutting rail line. Road bridge over Wornitz river received one probable hit and may have been hit by another concentration. Damage to NE edge of town and small yard can be considered severe.

Kitzingen - Fair to Good Results (Second Force Attack)

Six concentrations of GP bombs bursting in town of Kitzingen. Portion of each of these concentrations fell into M/Y and rail lines leading into yards. At least 120 bursts on rail lines and installations in yards. Two direct hits to railway overpass at south end of yard. Rail lines on north approach to large RR bridge over river Main were cut by at least two bombs. Large unidentified factory heavily hit. At least one direct hit made on west approach to RR bridge on east edge of town, with several direct hits on rail lines leading to approach. One concentration of 125 bombs fell on open areas 3300 feet west of M/Y adjacent to barracks area. Prior to attack by this Division, attack was made by bombers of another Division. Entire area was seen to be severely damaged when bombers reached target. The attacks of both Divisions resulted in almost complete destruction of yards and a large percentage of industries in town. Residential area adjacent to eastern edge of yard was also severely damaged.

Meiningen - Fair to Good Results

Through heavy cloud, it was possible to plot two complete and two partial concentrations in and adjacent to southern portion of yards. Station sidings, goods depot and road over rail bridge were well covered with bursts. One explosion in sidings area and fires burning late in attack. Severe damage to residential area along east and west sides of yards.

Ellingen - Fair to Good Results

Two concentrations of bombs in and adjacent to target area. 120 bursts in traffic center. Ellingen will be severely damaged.

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Hildburghausen - Fair to Good Results

Through 8/10 - 10/10 cloud one concentration of bombs bursting in this town 70 miles N-NW of Nuremburg. Severe damage can be expected in residential areas.

Crailsheim - Good to Very Good Results (First Force Attack)

This yard was bombed by four squadrons using 500 lb. GP. At the beginning of the attack there were 200 cars in the yard proper and about 100 on siding south of the town. Photo shows that yard was hit by parts of three patterns - probably the equivalent load of one squadron. The main lines through the center of the yard and the goods shed were heavily hit. Parts of two and probably three patterns fell in the built-up area of the town.

Swabisch-Hall - Very Good Results

Pattern was very well placed on siding in this town.

Ansbach - Very Good Results

Bombed by nine squadrons carrying 500 lb. GPs. Of these patterns seven hit the main yard and one pattern fell across the main line leading out to the northeast, the other pattern fell in the smoke and is estimated to have dropped on the town. It is estimated that there were 100 - 200 cars in the main part of the yard under the pattern, with an additional 60 or more on sidings at the eastern edge of the town. The patterns on the yards were very tight and the photo coverage just before the last group bombed showed that damage was very severe and one fire was burning.

Neumarkt - Very Good Results

This M/Y bombed by two groups using 500 lb. GP bombs. Four of the six patterns blanketed all but the west end of the yard. One pattern is seen in open area between the M/Y and the Canal and the other in open field 1-1/2 miles S-SW of the MPI. PRU furnished by the last group indicates all lines and sidings cut by several bursts, about one-third of the loading shed destroyed, numerous buildings near the tracks destroyed, and two probable gas holders hit.

Kitzingen - Very Good Results (First Force Attack)

Bombed by 8 squadrons using 500 lb. GPs. 6 squadrons placed patterns on M/Y and built-up area of the town. One pattern is seen in the town just east of the M/Y and one pattern blankets the RR bridge SE of town. The M/Y was almost entirely blanketed by bursts and PRU from the last squadron over shows the north and center portion of the yard practically destroyed. One possible hit was secured on the RR bridge but photos show the bridge still standing.

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Winterhausen - Poor Results.

One squadron's pattern seen blanketing road bridge connecting the east and west portions of this small village. Poor results.

Treuchtlingen - Good Results

This M/Y was bombed by five squadrons using 500 lb. GPs. Two patterns and part of a third blanket the yard. One pattern is seen 6/10 of a mile east, blanketing farmhouse and another 5/10 of mile NE. another 3/10 mile NE and one part of a pattern 4/10 of mile SE in the built up area of the town. PRU indicates that station received several hits, that an explosion occurred in the yard obliterating a number of wagons and in addition, the center of the yard was well cut up. This yard had 100 - 250 cars in it at the time of the raid.

Nordlingen - Good Results

One a/c bombed the M/Y at Nordlingen placing a pattern squarely on the RR station and across the yard.

5. Ground Situation

21st Army Group

: Canadian Army: An advance of 1000 yards was made southwest of Bucholt E 9544. Two companies are fighting in Moyland E 9651 with elements in Till E 9852. Goch has been re-reported completely cleared.

Ninth U.S. Army: Operations started according to plan at 23/0330 hours. Preliminary reports are that five bridgeheads have been secured with assault troops on sector Julich-Linnich.

12th Army Group

: Third U.S. Army: Saar river being crossed in vicinity of L 1806 and Toben L 1849. Fighting is going on in vicinity of Serrig L 1609. Remainder of zone up to line Obirbillig L 1124 along Moselle and Saar rivers to Saarburg L 1413 was cleared. River crossing in vicinity Ockfen L 1614 began and was met by enemy fire. The following towns have been reported captured: Affler P 8658, Preischeld P 8660, Irthausen P 9166, Holzchen P 9055, Saarburg L 1412, Pellerich L 1020, Tomels L 0821, Damm P 8665, Dasburg P 8562, Reipeldingen P 8865, Zooleiden P 8964, Reiff P 9167, Richfeld P 9069, Hieteshausen P 9368, and Hallenbach P 9468.

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6th Army Group:

: Seventh U.S. Army: Approximately two-thirds of Forbach Q 3965 now cleared. Spicheren Q 4466 has been captured. Zenemy is being cleared from woods South of Stieringundel Q 4167.

Miscellaneous

: Recent German Reactions to the Foreign Worker Problem.

As the internal situation in Germany deteriorates, foreign workers constitute an increasing menace to the German authorities. Already they have become a source of great anxiety to the Nazi leaders, and it is well known that the Germans themselves fear these foreigners and expect them to turn against their employers as soon as occasion arises. Recent information leads us to believe that the workers are well organized and disciplined, especially the French and Russians, and that they manage to keep themselves well informed on events outside the Reich. This report, a paraphrase of a recently captured German document was issued by Foreign Workers of the National Department of Security Reaction of Native Germans to Foreign Workers.

A German secret report complains that many native Germans "encourage and assist the foreigners through generosity and sympathy". Begging foreigners constantly receive money, ration stamps or food from the German populace, who thus aid fugitive foreigners or give support to Allied agents. Furthermore, some Germans try, by considerate treatment of foreigners, to buy some sort of "insurance", but this only strengthens the foreigners in their opinion that the German people have lost all hope of victory.

6, G.A.F. Activity over England

Flying Bombs - To 2400 Hours - 23 February 1945

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D. OPERATIONS OF OTHER AIR FORCES

1. Tactical Air Forces

	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Claims</u>	<u>Losses</u>
Ninth Air Force	2453	4-1-1 A	18
RAF Fighter Command	186	0-0-0	0
First US T.A.F.	903	12-1-4 A	2
Second T.A.F.	254	0-0-0	2
Totals	3796	16-2-5 A	22

Ninth Air Force

Night 22/23 February

Sorties : 92 a/c

Missions : Communication centers and towns attacked and Intruder patrols over First and Third US Army Fronts.

Claims & Losses : Nil

Day - 23 February

Sorties : 413 Medium bombers
1709 Fighters & Fighter-Bombers
239 Reconnaissance
2361 a/c

Missions : 9th Bomb Division: 591.2 tons dropped on Com. centers in west Germany. Claims: nil. Losses: 2 a/c.

9th T.A.C: Armed reconnaissance N and S of Stockholm and N of Duren; air cooperation to ground forces. E/a Claims: nil. Losses: 6 a/c

19th T.A.C: Armed reconnaissance in Cologne, Trier, Bonn, Mannheim and Homburg areas. E/a Claims: 3-1-1 air. Losses: 6 a/c.

29th T.A.C: Armed reconnaissance in Venlo area; air cooperation to ground forces. E/a Claims: Nil. Losses: 3 a/c.

A/C on reconnaissance claim 1-0-0 air to a loss of 1 a/c.

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E/A Claims : 4-1-1 Air

Other Claims :	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Locos	89	33
RR Cars	1514	1513
M/T	903	414
AFV	179	126
4DV	34	7
Buildings	453	283
Bridges	4	5
Barges	5	15
Guns	31	28
Rail Cuts	115	0

Losses : 18 a/c.

RAF Fighter Command

Night - 22/23 February

Sorties : 21 a/c

Missions : Offensive patrols in support of RAF Bomber Command and Interception Patrols.

Claims : Nil

Losses : 1 a/c

Day - 23 February

Sorties : 165 a/c

Missions : Offensive Patrols over The Hague area, escort to bombers and routine patrols.

Claims & Losses : Nil

First U.S. TAF

Sorties : 905 a/c

Missions : Fighter sweeps, armed reconnaissance, rail interdiction, bridges, fuel dumps, gun positions attacked in western Germany.

E/A Claims : 12-1-4 Air

Losses : 2 a/c

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Other Claims	:	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Locos	:	3	4
RR Cars	:	59	264
M/T	:	12	26
Bldgs.	:	126	50
Guns	:	6	1
Rail cuts	:	67	0

Second T.A.F.

Night - 22/23 February

Sorties : 45 a/c

Missions : Armed reconnaissance in Grevenbroick, Kempen, Geldern areas; other routine patrols.

Claims & Losses : Nil

Day - 23 February

Sorties : 179 a/c

Missions : Armed reconnaissance in Dulmen, Paderborn, Cologne, Duren, Munster areas; RR bridges and ammo. depots attacked.

E/A Claims : Nil

Losses : 2 a/c.

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2. Fifteenth Air Force

Night - 21/22 February

1 B-17 and 19 B-24s sortied on supply dropping mission over N Italy. 1 B-17 and 15 B-24s dropped 45 tons of supplies and a half million leaflets on assigned targets.

Day - 22 February

231 B-17s, 543 B-24s, escorted by 99 P-38s and 201 P-51s sortied against communication targets in SW Germany. 133 B-17s, 246 B-24s, with 95 P-38s and 185 P-51s as escort, dropped 311 tons on M/Ys at Rosenheim, Memmingen, Immenstadt, Kempten, Landshut, Weilheim, Markt, Grafing; 570 tons on M/Ys at Rattenburg, Jenbach, Reuthe, Vipiteno, Kellmünz, Moguelfo, Lienz, Bichl, Nepstadt, Wörgl, Altenmarkt, Gredstadt, Spittal, Piesendorf, Sillian, Landeck, Kirchberg, Bischofshofen, St. Johann, Kufstein, Torge, Utendorf, Grafenstein, Saint Vert, and rail bridges at Maniago and Casarsa. Claims: 0-0-1 Ground. Losses: 7 a/c (2 B-24s, 4 P-51s, 1 P-38). NYR: 6 a/c (1 B-24, 5 P-51s).

NARRATIVE

All targets were attacked with 500 RDX bombs between 1121-1351 hours from 9,000-26,000 feet. Tactical aspects of the plan envisaged simultaneous visual attacks on a large number of communications targets by all available striking power aimed at widespread and general disorganization of enemy communications and transportation. A successful attack would overwhelm capability of enemy repair organization and greatly extend repair time. This would force utilization of motor transport during disorganization and repair with consequent depletion of enemy's carefully conserved fuel reserves. Also probable that the attack would provoke some redeployment of flak defenses and possibly precipitate a rail labor crisis. Bomber saturation of this area with careful grouping of targets, aided by well-planned escort cover, could neutralize successfully any enemy fighter threat. Strict adherence to route and timing would minimize possible losses from jet opposition. Low altitude of attacks would submit bombers to light flak, but routes were well planned to avoid all known heavy flak. The plan did not involve deep penetration and the fighters would have sufficient fuel to strafe the target area following escort mission. Vulnerability of bombers to light flak caused delegation of strafing assignment to fighters. Reduced bombing altitudes allowed B-24s to carry overloads of bombs.

Actual enemy air defense consisted of only 1 jet and 3 Me-109s and 1 Me-210 which made 1 nonaggressive pass at small bomber formations and damaged 1 bomber. Considerable light accurate flak was reported throughout the target area, particularly by the fighters. Moderate accurate heavy flak was reported by the bombers at Casarsa and Udine. The escort conducted highly successful

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Strafing attacks after the bombing, destroying 50 locos and 40 oil cars and damaging 60 locos and over 300 RR cars, plus considerable other rolling stock. One enemy a/c was also damaged on the ground.

Joint bombing and strafing attacks were considered generally successful although handicapped by extremely adverse winds and by nearly solid cloud cover in some target areas which caused PFF bombing or necessitated attacks on alternate targets. Late photo reports confirm success of operation and show excellent results obtained at most targets attacked.

Bombers

Sorties : 794 a/c (562 B-24s, 232 B-17s)
Effective Sorties: 397
Tonnage : 881
Claims : Nil
Losses : 2 B-24s
MYR : 1 B-24

Fighters

Sorties : 383 a/c (250 P-51s, 133 P-38s)
Effective Sorties: 350
Claims : 0-0-1 Ground
Losses : 5 a/c (4 P-51s, 1 P-38)
MYR : 5 P-51s

3. R.A.F. Bomber Command

<u>Day - 23 February 1945</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Losses</u>
133 Lancasters	Gelsenkirchen (Alma Flute Benzol Plant)	0
297 Halifaxes		1
27 Lancasters	Essen	0
18 Mosquitoes		0
2 Mosquitoes	Photo Reconnaissance	0
2 Mosquitoes	Weather Reconnaissance	0
479 a/c		1
<u>Night - 23/24 February 1945</u>		
362 Lancasters	Pforzheim	12
13 Mosquitoes		

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<u>Night - 23/24 February 1945 (cont'd)</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Losses</u>
73 Lancasters	Horten (U-Boats &	1
10 Mosquitoes	Shipping)	0
70 Mosquitoes	Berlin	1
6 Mosquitoes	Worms	0
4 Mosquitoes	Darmstadt	0
4 Mosquitoes	Frankfurt	0
4 Mosquitoes	Essen	0
1 Mosquito	Weather Reconnaissance	0
22 Lancasters	Minelaying	0
27 Mosquitoes	Bomber Support	0
8 Sterlings		0
16 Halifaxes		0
12 Fortresses		0
7 Liberators		0
8 Halifaxes	Signals Investigation	2
1 Mosquito	Patrols	0
13 Sterlings	Special Operations	—
661 a/c		

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

CHARLES V. BANFILL,
Brig. General, U.S.A.,
Director of Intelligence.

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

SECRET

Auth: A.C. of S., A-2

2d AIR DIVISION

Initials: *AK*

Date: 28 Feb 1945

D-V-11

28 February 1945

373.91

SUBJECT: AA Report, 2d Air Division, No. FLO/2AD/493.

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

1. GENERAL: TARGET : Various railway targets as listed
DATE : 23 February 1945
CONDITIONS : 10/10ths cloud at all targets with the
exception of Steinau and Schluchtern which
had 2/10th cloud.
ROUTE ORDERED : 52°45'N, 04°37'E - 52°36'N, 08°00'E -
52°17'N, 08°30'E - 51°43'N, 10°00'E -
51°37'N, 11°13'E - Targets - 50°20'N,
10°20'E - 50°22'N, 09°32'E - 50°45'N,
08°45'E - 52°25'N, 08°15'E - 52°36'N,
08°00'E - 52°45'N, 04°37'E.

2. NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS: All targets were attacked by squadrons by means of H2X equipment with the exception of Steinau and Schluchtern which were attacked visually. Some Groups were forced to attack targets of opportunity on account of the weather conditions.

3. FLAK: Meagre flak was encountered on route at Giessen and at 52°52'N, 04°43'E. Meagre and generally inaccurate predictor control "unseen" fire was encountered at Osnabruck. Meagre and fairly accurate predictor control "unseen" fire was encountered by one squadron during the bomb run on Gera, but this flak probably came from the outskirts of Zeitz. No flak was encountered at any of the other targets.

4. PHENOMENA: Rockets were seen coming up in pairs to the north of Weimar. Objects appeared to fall from these rockets when they burst leaving smoke trails resembling our smoke markers.

SORTIES: : 353
A/C LOST TO FLAK : NIL
A/C DAMAGED BY FLAK : 8 (2.3%)

Hz King
LT. COLONEL, R. A.

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cc: D of I, 1st and 3rd Air Divisions,
Attn: AA Officers
M.I.15, War Office, Whitehall, London

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TARGET: OSNAERUCK

EFFECTIVE NUMBER OF GUNS: 68

NW	GROUP	SORTIES	DAMAGED		A/C LOST				Axis Attack	Axis With- drawal	T.O.T.	Altitude
			Sli.	Ser.	Flak	E.A.	Acc.	Unkn				
20	448th	31	1	-	-	-	-	-	260°- 325°	355°	1308-1310	20000-20500 ft.
20	446th	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	275°- 290°	325°	1314-1315	23000-24000 ft.
TOTALS:		62	1	-	-	-	-	1	260°- 325°	325°- 355°	1308- 1315	20000 - 24000 ft.
Percentages:												

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TARGET: PADERBORN EFFECTIVE NUMBER OF GUNS: Possibly 4

CW	GROUP	SORTIES	DAMAGED		A/C LOST				Axis Attack	Axis With- drawal	T.O.T.	Altitude
			Sli.	Ser.	Flak	E.A.	Acc.	Unkn				
14	491st	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	315°- 320°	335°	1246	19000 ft.
2	453rd	30	0	-	-	-	-	-	315°- 320°	05°	1246- 1247	17500-20000 ft.
2	389th	32	1	1	-	-	-	-	285°- 320°	335°	1247	19000-20500 ft.
2	445th	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	325°- 330°	310°	1247- 1248	19500-20500 ft.
TOTALS:		114	1	1	-	-	-	-	285°- 330°	310°- 05°	1246- 1248	17500-20500 ft.
Percentages:												

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TARGET: FULDA

EFFECTIVE NUMBER OF GUNS: Possibly 4

W	GROUP	SORTIES	DAMAGED		A/C LOST				Axis Attack	Axis With- drawal	T.O.T.	Altitude
			Sli.	Ser.	Flak	E.A.	Acc.	Unkn				
14	491st	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	245°- 255°	215°	1210	18500-19000 ft.
		10	-	-	-	-	-	-	245°- 255°	215°	1210	18500-19000 ft.
TARGET NO. GUNS												
	Schluchtern	Nil										
20	93rd	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	250°- 255°	330°	1221	21000-21500 ft.
		20	-	-	-	-	-	-	250°- 255°	330°	1221	21000-21500 ft.
TARGET NO. GUNS												
	Steinau	Nil										
20	93rd	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	275°	330°	1246	18000-18500 ft.
		10	-	-	-	-	-	-	275°	330°	1246	18000-18500 ft.
TARGET NO. GUNS												
	Gera	Nil										
96	467th	27	1	-	-	-	-	-	145°- 155°	180°	1142- 1143	18500-19500 ft.
96	458th	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	140°- 155°	155°	1143	20000-20500 ft.
TOTALS:		46	1	-	-	-	-	-	140°- 155°	155°- 180°	1142- 1143	18500-20500 ft.
Percentages:												

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TARGET: WEDMAR

EFFECTIVE NUMBER OF GUNS: NIL

W	GROUP	SORTIES	DAMAGED			A/C LOST			Axis Attack	Axis With- drawal	T.O.T.	Altitude
			Sli.	Ser.	Flak	E.A.	Acc.	Unkn				
14	44th	30	4	-	-	-	-	-	165°- 195°	175°	1144- 1148	18000-19500 ft.
14	392nd	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	150°- 175°	170°	1147	17500-18500 ft.
		57	4	-	-	-	-	-	150°- 195°	170°- 175°	1144 - 1147	17500-19500 ft.
TARGET NO GUNS												
Reichenbach Nil												
96	458th	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	155°- 160°	245°	1149	19500 ft
		9	-	-	-	-	-	-	155°- 160°	245°	1149	19500 ft.
TARGET NO GUNS												
Jena												
96	466th	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	160°- 185°	140°	1141	21000-21500 ft.
		26	-	-	-	-	-	-	160°- 185°	140°	1141	21000-21500 ft.
TOTALS:												
Percentages:												

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TARGET: OSNABRUCK

NUMBER OF GUNS: 68

W	GROUP	SORTIES	DAMAGED		A/C LOST				Axis Attack	Axis With- drawal	T.O.T.	Altitude
			Sli.	Ser.	Flak	E.A.	Acc.	Unkn				
20	448th	31	1	-	-	-	-	-	260° 325°	355°	1308- 1310	20000-20500 ft.
20	446th	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	275° 290°	325°	1314- 1315	23000-24000 ft.
TOTALS:		62	1	-	-	-	-	-	260° 325°	325° 355°	1308- 1315	20000- 24000 ft.
Percentages:												

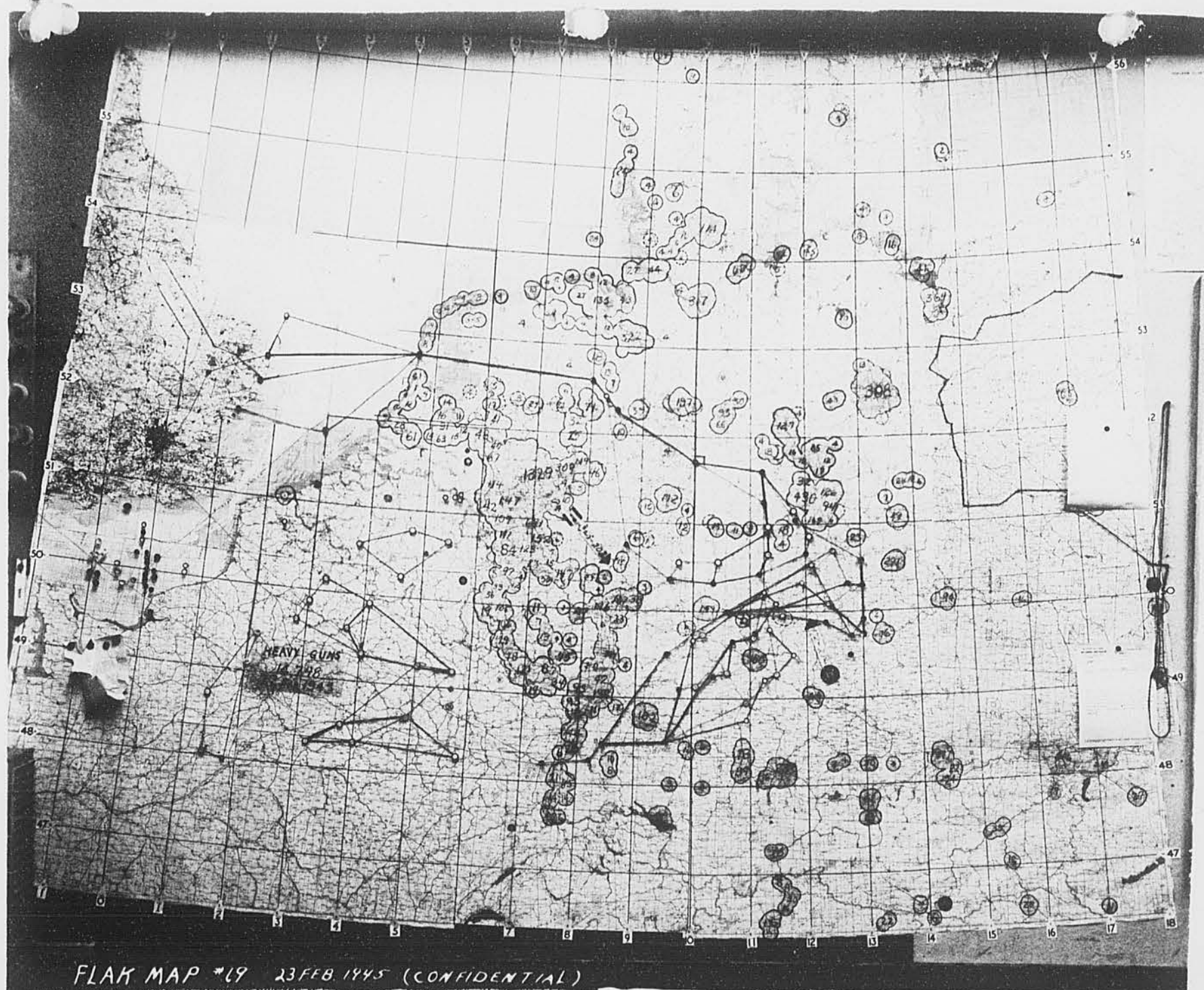
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Group **458th**

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

(Part 1)

Primary: Saalfeld M/V

Ordered Targets: Secondary: ~~None Specified~~

Date of Operation 23 February 1945

Division Field Order No. 609

[illegible]

NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIE SUMMARY (Part 3)

Total Eff Sort ies	Causes of Non-Effectives					Incidents of Mechanical and Equipment Failures																Comments
	Weather	Personnel	Enemy Action	Other Non Mech.	Mech. & Equip.	Total	Engine	Oil System	Fuel System	Super- charger	Propeller & Governor	Commun- ication System	Guns & Turrets	Bomb Release	Bomb Bay Doors	Elect- rical System	Instru- ments	Oxygen System	Bomb- sights	A/C in general		
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	
1	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Footnote 1 Nil Footnote 2 1 Deputy Lead - 3rd Sqdn Footnote 3 42-50518																						

Intervalometer Setting: Electric Salvo

Method: Visual by Squadrons

H2X - Last Resort Only

Bootleg Whiskey will report Target Weather on "B" at TOT minus 20

Bootleg Bourbon " W Route Weather 30 min. ahead of Div.

Jettison Point: 5220-0247

Recall: "WALK"

Two Mosquito observers will be with force. Maypole 2 & 3

Bombers: Vinegrove 2-3 & 3-4 Fighters: Bal. 3

8 AF Fighters

Chaff: Lincoln Daisy Way from IP minus one minute thru target.

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Authority: 100-745205

By: J. NARA Date: 9-11-07

Lead Squadron - Lincoln Red # 1

<u>Beno-Simes</u> J3 : 936I (Scope)	8AF-RCM <u>Bechtel</u> J4 : 273T K-21	8AF <u>LaJeunesse</u> J4 : 141U K-22	8AF Cont. <u>Wilburn</u> J4 : 768Y K-21
<u>Dyer-Williams</u> J3 : 669J (Scope)	2AD <u>Hadden</u> J4 : 277F K-21	2AD <u>Hoey</u> J4 : 408I K-20	
8AF <u>Gardner</u> J4 : 555A	2AD Cont. <u>Widelsberg</u> J4 : 118S		

2nd Squadron - Lincoln Red # 2

<u>Hathorn</u> J3 : 557H	8AF-RCM <u>Tarpley</u> 25 : 456D K-21	2AD <u>Everett</u> 25 : 578F K-22	2AD <u>Hunt</u> 25 : 596R
<u>Wiser</u> J3 : 516V	8AF <u>Skidmore</u> 25 : 120M K-20		
<u>Besten</u> 25 : 126L K-21	8AF <u>Whodes</u> 25 : 199A		
<u>Lanquist</u> 25 : 018J	8AF <u>Hodge</u> 25 : 366H		

3rd Squadron - Lincoln Red # 3

<u>Ellis</u> J3 : 628K K-20	2AD <u>Jackson, W.L.</u> 7V : 514B K-21	2AD-RCM <u>Grice</u> 7V : 110M K-21	
<u>Hoffman</u> J3 : 602P	8AF <u>O'Reagan</u> 7V : 502E K-21	2AD <u>Josephson</u> 7V : 206S	<u>Ferriell</u> 7V : 4250
2AD <u>Barnhart</u> 7V : 316H	8AF-RCM <u>Burman</u> 7V : 270A	8AF <u>Lehr</u> 7V : 457Q K-21	8AF-RCM <u>SP-339</u> J3 - 557H (PFF) J3 - 487R (Vis) J4 - 449W J4 - 134R 7V - 340N J3 - 740J
			DISP. R/W 28 R/W 28 38 47 44 18

Assembly A/C - 697Z - W.E. Jackson 752nd.
 Marshalling Chief - McCormick - 753rd.
 Marshalling Crews - 752nd & 753rd Sqdns.

MARSHALLING ORDERR/W 23

All Ships will be marshalled on the EAST

NO.	A/C	DISP	NO.	A/C	DISP
1	936I	17	16	126L	Hgr. 2
2	697Z	2	17	578F	6
3	669J	13	18	199A	8
4	273T	Hgr. 1	19	018J	10
5	277F	43	20	596R	3
6	141U	40	21	120M	9
7	118S	40	22	366H	11
8	555A	45	23	514B	51
9	768Y	38	24	502E	53
10	408I	42	25	110M	39
11	557H	R/W 28	26	270A	46
12	516V	20	27	316H	35
13	628K	11	28	4250	37
14	602P	R/W 28	29	206S	Hgr. 1
15	456D	4	30	457J	44

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
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	BARNHART, L	187	11			42-95316	316	H	7V	81	PRINCESS PAT	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	BECHTEL	187	26			42-50449	449	W	J4	47	HEAVENLY HIDEAWAY	COLLIDED w/HUNT 596R
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	BENO	187	11	SIMES	L1	42-51936	936	I	J3	14	UNKNOWN 027	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	BESTEN	187	30			44-40126	126	L	Z5	54	SPITTEN KITTEN / SKY TRAMP	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	BURMAN	187	10			42-51270	270	A	7V	12	MY BUNNIE II	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	DYER	187	17	WILLIAMS	D1	42-51669	669	J	J3	9	UNKNOWN 026	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	EIDELSBERG	187	16			44-40118	118	S	J4	39	WE'LL GET BY	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	EISERT	187	ABT			42-50516	516	V	J3	--	STARDUST	ABORT - #1, 2 TURBOS
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	ELLIS	187	7		L3	42-95628	628	K	J3	12	UNKNOWN 038	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	EVERETT	187	12			42-50578	578	F	Z5	31	SKY ROOM	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	FERRIELL	187	12			42-100425	425	O	7V	57	THE BIRD	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	GARDNER	187	6			42-50555	555	A	J4	21	BABY SHOES	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	GRICE	187	27			42-51110	110	M	7V	75	TOP O' THE MARK	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	HADDEN	187	25			44-40277	277	P	J4	41	MISS USED	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	HATHORN	187	21		L2	42-95557	557	H	J3	25	LADY PEACE	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	HODGE	187	5			42-100366	366	H	Z5	63	MIZPAH	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	HOEY	187	23			42-100408	408	I	J4	42	LADY LUCK / THE BEAST	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	HOFFMAN	187	10			44-10602	602	P	J3	30	TEN GUN DOTTIE	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	HUNT	187	6			41-29596	596	R	Z5	87	HELL'S ANGEL'S	COLLIDED w/BECHTEL 449W
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	JACKSON, WE	187	ASSY			41-28697	697	Z	Z5	A63	SPOTTED APE	ASSEMBLY CREW - 752
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	JACKSON, WL	187	7			42-51514	514	B	7V	15	BIG CHIEF LIL' BEAVER	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	JOSEPHSON	187	26			42-51206	206	S	7V	39	THE PIED PIPER	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	LaJEUNESSE	187	14			42-110141	141	U	J4	42	BREEZY LADY / MARIE / SUPERMAN	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	LANQUIST	187	6			42-95018	018	J	Z5	80	OLD DOC'S YACHT	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	LEHR	187	31			42-52457	457	Q	7V	91	FINAL APPROACH	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	McCORMICK	187	MSHL			--		--	--	--		MARSHALING CHIEF- 753RD
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	O'REGAN	187	8			42-50502	502	E	7V	36	LARRUPIN' LINDA	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	RHOADES	187	12			42-51199	199	A	Z5	27	UNKNOWN 023	BELIEVED TO LAND IN BELG
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	SKIDMORE	187	30			42-95120	120	M	Z5	72	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	TARPLEY	187	1			42-50456	456	D	Z5	32	DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL	
23-Feb-45	GERA-REICHENBACH	WILBURN	187	11			42-50768	768	Y	J4	30	ARISE MY LOVE AND COME WITH ME	