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HEADQUARTERS 23 AIR DIVISION  
APO 558

EE-N-29

373.2

9 March 1945

SUBJECT: Tactical Analysis of Mission 1 March 1945 - F. O. 614.

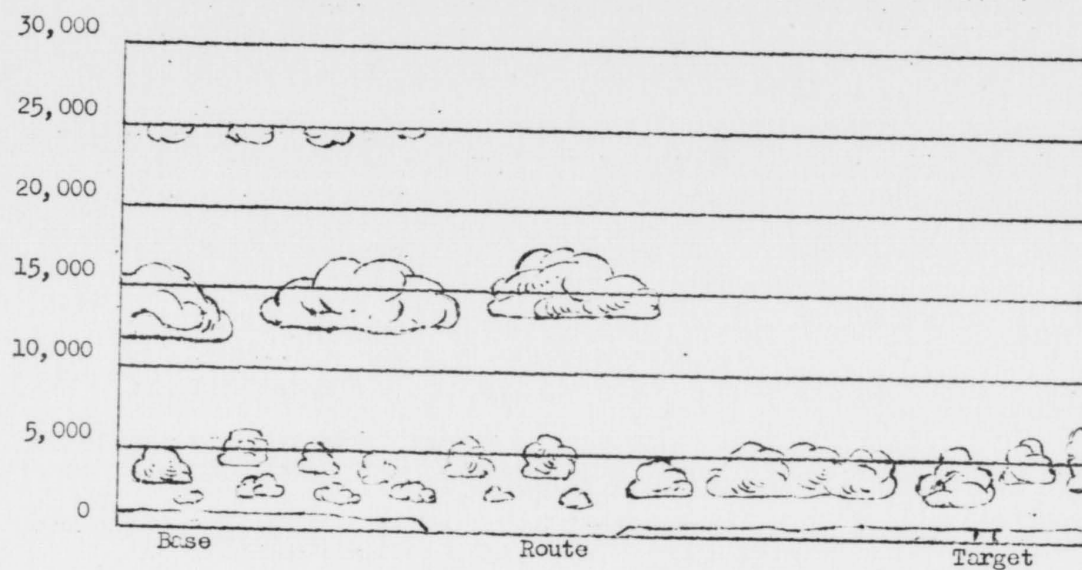
TO : Commanding Generals, All Combat Bomb Wings, This Division, APO 558.

This information is submitted for your consideration and any action you deem necessary. The deductions and remarks made below are the results of the study of mission reports and information obtained from Combat Wings and Groups.

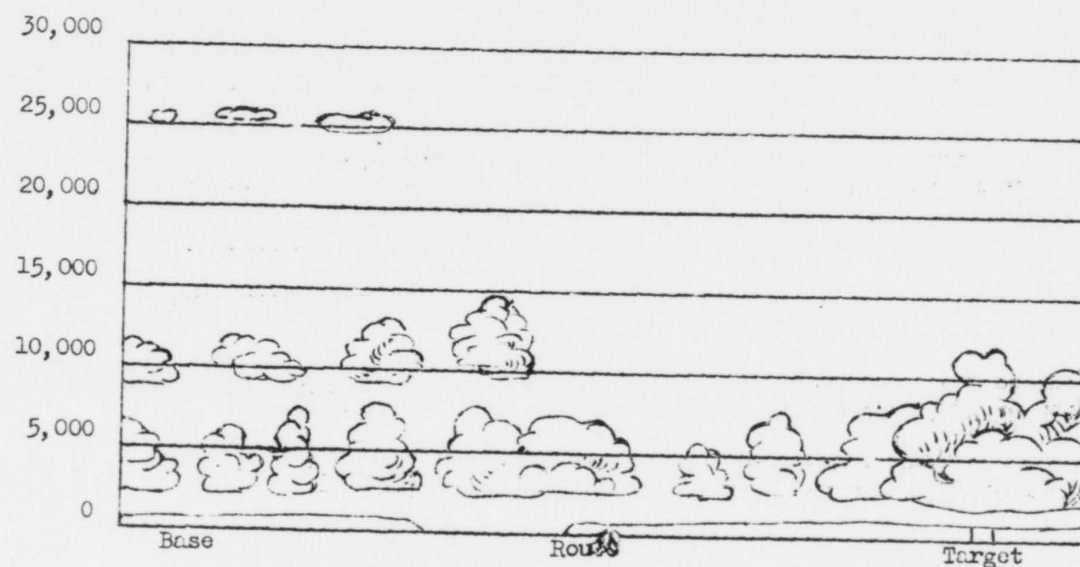
BATTLE ORDER	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	A/C DISPATCHED	A/C OVER TARGET
14th CBW	Ingolstadt (Vis.)	Ingolstadt (H2X)	76	72
2nd CBW	Neuburg M/F "	" "	94	92
96th CBW	Baumenheim "	" "	94	90
20th CBW	Schwabmunchen "	Augsburg M/Y "	67	65
		TOTAL	331	319

1. Weather Summary

## a. Forecast



## b. Actual



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## c. Remarks

- (1) Forecast - Contrails moderate persistent above 15,000 feet in medium cloud. Target winds: at 15,000 - 250/35, at 20,000 - 250/40.
- (2) Actual - Winds and temperatures as forecast. Light to moderate semi-persistent contrails at 18 - 20,000 feet between 0300E and 0500E on the route in.

2. Takeoff and Assembly

## a. Takeoffs - Times

<u>Combat Wings</u>	<u>Assembly Altitude</u>	<u>First Actual Takeoff</u>	<u>Briefed Time For CP 1</u>	<u>Assembly Time</u>
14th	13,000	0827	1034	2:07
2nd	13,000	0840	1037	1:57
96th	13,000	0845	1040	1:55
20th	13,000	0853	1043	1:50

- (1) Takeoffs were normal.

b. Assemblies - Originally set at 10,000 feet, but raised to 13,000 feet one hour before takeoff due to pre-frontal cloud moving into the area.

- (1) Units departed from on time to three minutes late, but with all units visual and in good order.

(2) 491st Group required two hours and seven minutes for assembly, which was ten minutes longer than any other unit. The operation was at maximum range and made under weather conditions engendering potential difficulty upon return.

3. Navigation - Penetration

a. Landfall - At landfall the Division column was eleven minutes in length. All Wings were on course except the 14th Combat Wing, which was ten miles south due to poor navigation. The winds over the Channel caused the Wings to be four and five minutes early.

b. Landfall to IP - The 14th Combat Wing flew south of course and was about twenty miles south at 0600E. It then corrected and proceeded through flak gap over the battle line. The 2nd Combat Wing in order to maintain Division column integrity followed the 14th Wing. The 96th and 20th Combat Wings flew the briefed route to the IP.

c. IP to Target - All Wings made good their respective IP's. Bomb runs were made on briefed headings.

4. Bombing Analysis

a. The 14th, 2nd and 96th Combat Wings bombed Ingolstadt M/Y through 10/10 clouds with unobserved results. H2X plots show hits in the northern and central sections of the city, but none on the assigned target. The High Right Squadron of the 389th Group had conflict on the bomb run with units of the 96th Wing. This Squadron released on smoke markers of the 467th Group. The 14th Combat Wing flew six-aircraft Squadrons on this operation.

b. The 20th Combat Wing bombed Augsburg M/Y by H2X with unobserved results. H2X plots show hits in the southern section of the city, bordering the marshalling yard. One aircraft dropped at the IP due to engine failure. No other difficulty was reported.

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5. Navigation - Withdrawal

- a. The rally was good. All Wings made good the briefed course and no trouble was reported.
- b. Weather was the big problem on the withdrawal. After passing over the battle line on course, the Wings flew north of the briefed route in order to stay away from high clouds that were building up along the route.
- c. Landfall was made good by all but two Groups of the 2nd Combat Wing which elected to stay north of course in order to save gas.
- (1) The Division column was fifteen minutes in length at landfall.

6. Fighter Support

- a. 2d Air Division was assigned the 355th A and B, 361st A and B, 479th A and B and the 4th A and B Fighter Groups on close support. The Fighter Groups R/V from Metz to the target area. The R/V was not effected as briefed due to the Bombers being early.
- (1) The 96th Wing was reported as being in spread out formation, thus making escort difficult.

7. Enemy Action Encountered

- a. The only enemy reaction reported was a flight of six jet planes that approached the Bombers. Two of these enemy aircraft made a half-hearted attack that was discouraged by the 355th Group and the Scouting Force with resultant claims of 1-0-0 for the 355th and 1-0-1 for the Scouting Force.
- b. Light to moderate, inaccurate, barrage type flak at Augsburg - nil at Ingolstadt.

8. Losses

- a. There were no losses.

Note: One aircraft, 467th Group, previously reported as lost (mission of 26 February 1945) has since returned.

9. Scouting Force

- a. Plan - For one force to report target weather twenty-five minutes before Bomber time over target. This time was so set to enable the 20th Wing to let down to 20,000 feet if visual conditions existed and to continue the climb to 22,000 feet if the secondary attack became necessary.

- b. Bomber Reports - Scouting Force information very good for all Wings.

- c. Scout Reports

(1) Communications good.

(2) 10/10 low cloud in target area.

- d. An additional P-51 was dispatched to scout route weather ahead of the Bomber Force across the Channel. This scout advised a climb from the end of the DAL to above 15,000 feet.

10. Screening Force

- a. Plan - Three primary targets were flak free and one only lightly defended. However, the 20th Wing secondary at Augsburg was heavily defended and,

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as indications of visual conditions were slight, the Screening Force was set up for use on that target. The plan was normal, with the Screening Force preceding the main force over and through the target area.

b. Execution - The Screening Force functioned as planned.

11. Radar

a. H2X Analysis

<u>A/C</u>	<u>A/C Over</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>
<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>For Navigation</u>	<u>For Bombing</u>
44	42	41	38

b. Set operation for this mission was very satisfactory. One aircraft of the 458th Group was unsatisfactory for navigation because of a set malfunction. Minor malfunctions caused the four bombing failures. The 2nd Combat Wing had no failures.

By command of Major General KEPNER:

FRANCIS H. GRISWOLD

Brigadier General USA

Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

*Robert H. Terrill*  
ROBERT H. TERRILL

Colonel GSC

Dep C of S for Operations

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Group 458th

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

(Part 1)

Primary: Boumenheim A/C Factory  
Ordered Targets: Secondary: Ingolstadt M/YDate of Operation 1 March 1945Division Field Order No. 615

Squadron	Sorties		Credit Sorties	Effective Sorties	Non Effective Sorties	No. A/C Bombing	Type of Tgt	Name of Target	Number and Type of Bombs on Targets	Aircraft Lost						Time of Take off	Total Time of Mis'n	Comments
	Total	Less Unused Spares								Total	Flak	Flak & E/A	E/A	Acc	U N K			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	19	25	27	40
1A	9	9	9	9	-	9	ST	Ingolstadt M/Y	82 500 RDX	-	-	-	-	-	-	0920	243	
2	10	10	9	9	1	9	ST	Ingolstadt M/Y	94 500 M17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
3	9	9	9	9	-	9	ST	Ingolstadt M/Y	86 500 RDX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTALS	28	28	27	27	1	27	ST	Ingolstadt M/Y	168 500 RDX 94 500 M17	-	-	-	-	-	-	0920	243	

## NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIE SUMMARY (Part 3)

Total Non Effective Sorties	Causes of Non-Effectives					Incidents of Mechanical and Equipment Failures															Comments
	Weather	Personne	Enemy Action	Other Non Mech.	Mech. & Equip.	Total	Engine	Oil System	Fuel System	Super-charger	Propeller & Governor	Communication	System Guns & Turrets	Bomb Release	Bomb Bay Doors	Electrical System	Instruments	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	2			1			1									
Footnote 1	N11																				
Footnote 2	N11																				
Footnote 3																					

29 February 1945

Lead Squadron - Lincoln Red # 1Allen-Betzold

J3 : 669J

(Scope)

2AD

RCM

Hathorn-Rue

J3 : 837L

(Scope)

LaJeunesse

J4 : 134R

McCormick

J4 : 287J

2AD Cont.

K-22

2AD

D.G. Williams

J4 : 285H

K-20

Wilburn

TV : 514B

RCM

Kelly

J4 : 277P

8AF Cont.

Sealy

J4 : 273T

K-21

2AD

Hood

J4 : 163M

K-21

2nd Squadron - Lincoln Red # 2Chimples

J3 : 743F

K-20 &amp; (Scope) 8AF

RCM

Helfrecht

J3 : 516V

Tarpley

Z5 : 456D

Besten

Z5 : 126L

K-21

2AD

Skidmore

Z5 : 120M

8AF

Rosen

Z5 : 366H

Herdtt

Z5 : 018J

2AD

Minor

Z5 : 578F

K-21

8AF

Rhoades

Z5 : 179P

RCM

Krogh

Z5 : 196Q

3rd Squadron - Lincoln Red # 3Eisert

J3 : 939G

(Scope)

2AD

Lehr

TV : 316H

K-20

8AF

Perry

TV : 457Q

K-21

2AD

Healy

J3 : 504S

K-21

Sievertson

TV : 352K

2AD-RCM

Barnhart

TV : 110M

Josephson

TV : 206S

8AF

Simpson

TV : 270A

8AF

Craven

TV : 475D

2AD

K-22

W.E. Jackson

TV : 340N

Assembly A/C - 697Z - Hodges - 754th  
 marshalling Chief - Dane - 755th Sqdn.  
 Weather Ship - McCoy - 743Z - 753rd.  
 Marshalling Crews - 754th & 755th

1st and 3rd Sqdns. loaded with 10X500 GP  
 2nd Squadron loaded with 11 X M17's

SPARS

J3 - 602P (Vis) R/W 28 (500# GP's)

J3 - 5750 (Vis) R/W 28 (M17's)

Z5 - 059T (2AD) 7 (M17's)

DISP.MARSHALLING ORDER

R/W 23

All Ships will be Marshallled on the EAST

NO.	A/C	DISP	NO.	A/C	DISP.
1	697Z	2	16	120M	9
2	669J	R/W 28	17	126L	8
3	837L	R/W 28	18	196Q	9
4	134R	47	19	578F	4
5	285H	45	20	018J	10
6	287J	49	21	366H	1
7	163M	49	22	179P	5
8	273T	40	23	316H	35
9	277P	43	24	352K	37
10	514B	Hgr. 1	25	457Q	44
11	743F	R/W 28	26	475D	51
12	516V	R/W 28	27	270A	44
13	939G	R/W 28	28	206S	53
14	504S	R/W 28	29	110M	51
15	456D	6	30	340N	46

## 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
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	ALLEN, G	193	25	BETZOLD	L1	42-51669	669	J	J3	14	UNKNOWN 026	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	BARNHART, L	193	14			42-51110	110	M	7V	80	TOP O' THE MARK	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	BESTEN	193	33			44-40126	126	L	Z5	60	SPITTEN KITTEN / SKY TRAMP	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	CHIMPLES	193	24		L2	42-51743	743	F	J3	18	UNKNOWN 006	K20 & SCOPE
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	CRAVEN	193	23			44-40475	475	D	7V	27	JOLLY ROGER	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	DANE	193	MSHL			--		--	--	--		MARSHALING CHIEF- 755TH
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	EISERT	193	23		L3	42-51939	939	G	J3	21	UNKNOWN 028	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	HATHORN	193	23	RUE	D1	44-48837	837	L	J3	13	UNKNOWN 041	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	HEALY	193	22			42-50504	504	S	J3	23	UNKNOWN 019	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	HELFRECHT	193	22			42-50516	516	V	J3	24	STARDUST	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	HERDTI	193	8			42-95018	018	J	Z5	85	OLD DOC'S YACHT	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	HODGES	193	ASSY			41-28697	697	Z	Z5	A66	SPOTTED APE	ASSEMBLY CREW - 754
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	HOOD	193	27			42-110163	163	M	J4	62	TIME'S A WASTIN	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	JACKSON, WE	193	NT0			41-29340	340	N	7V	--	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	NO TAKE OFF - NO REASON GIVEN
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	JOSEPHSON	193	29			42-51206	206	S	7V	45	THE PIED PIPER	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	KELLY	193	9			44-40277	277	P	J4	47	MISS USED	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	KROGH	193	8			42-51196	196	Q	J3	40	THE GYPSY QUEEN	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	LaJEUNESSE	193	17			44-40134	134	R	J4	55	UNKNOWN 039	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	LEHR	193	33			42-95316	316	H	7V	85	PRINCESS PAT	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	McCORMICK	193	31			44-40287	287	J	J4	44	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	McCOY	193	WTHR			41-28743	743	Z	--	--	EASTERN BEAST	WEATHER SHIP - 753
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	MINOR	193	15			42-50578	578	F	Z5	37	SKY ROOM	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	PERRY	193	26			42-52457	457	Q	7V	94	FINAL APPROACH	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	RHOADES	193	15			42-51179	179	P	Z5	67	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	ROSEN	193	ABT			42-100366	366	H	Z5	--	MIZPAH	ABORT - INTERPHONE OUT & BAD GAS LEAK
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	SEALY	193	26			44-40273	273	T	J4	42	HOWLING BANSHEE	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	SIEVERTSON	193	26			41-29352	352	K	7V	76	WOLVE'S LAIR	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	SIMPSON	193	23			42-51270	270	A	7V	15	MY BUNNIE II	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	SKIDMORE	193	33			42-95120	120	M	Z5	76	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	TARPLEY	193	4			42-50456	456	D	Z5	37	DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	WILBURN	193	14			42-51514	514	B	7V	17	BIG CHIEF LIL' BEAVER	
01-Mar-45	INGOLSTADT	WILLIAMS, DG	193	17			44-40285	285	H	J4	69	TABLE STUFF	