

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 2d AIR DIVISION
APO 558

EE-S-4

373.2

21 March 1945

SUBJECT: Tactical Analysis of Mission 8 March 1945 - F. O. 621.

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.

<u>BATTLE ORDER</u>	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SECONDARY</u>	<u>A/C DISPATCHED</u>	<u>A/C OVER TARGET</u>
20th CBW	Betzdorf (Vis. or GH)	Siegen (H2X)	87	82
14th CBW	" " " "	" "	81	79
" "	Siegen " " "	" "		
2nd CBW	" " " "	" "	97	96
96th CBW	Dillenburg " " "	Giessen	95	91
		2AD	360	348

1. Takeoff and Assembly

a. Takeoffs were normal - Group and Combat Wing assemblies were from good to excellent. On the DAL, all units were on time, in good order and visual.

<u>Combat Wings</u>	<u>First Actual Takeoff</u>	<u>Assembly Altitude</u>	<u>Briefed Time For CP 1</u>	<u>Assembly Time</u>
2nd	0958	12,000	1208	2:10
14th	1011	12,000	1205	1:54
20th	1000	12,000	1202	2:02
96th	1000	12,000	1211	2:11

2. Navigation - Penetration

a. Landfall was made good by all units with the Division column being twelve minutes long at the point of entry.

b. Route in to the IP was flown generally three to four miles south of course by all units except the 96th Combat Wing which stayed on course. Navigation was good despite the fact that the low cloud increased to 10/10 near the Zuider Zee.

c. At their respective IP's, all units came two to six miles south of the briefed point. This was due to the GH navigators' maneuver in getting on course for the bomb run. Cloud coverage was 10/10. H2X equipment was used as a navigational aid, along with GH.

d. IP to Target - 20th Combat Wing experienced difficulty with GH equipment in lead aircraft. Lead, 458th Group, did not attack its primary target, Dillenburg, as the leader of the Group could not release bombs due to the 4th Squadron of the 467th Group straggling and flying below the 458th Group at the bomb release point.

3. Bombing Analysis

a. All bombing was accomplished through 9 - 10/10 clouds. Results were unobserved. Many difficulties were experienced - contrails in the vicinity of the IP, GH failures on bomb run, automatic release failure of bomb sights, and straggling formations preventing a normal release. Loose formations and poor positioning is an old grievance - most certainly a sore spot to those who must fly a mission only to bring their bomb loads back to base. The Lead Squadron of the 458th Group returned bombs to base because it was over A/C of the 4th Squadron of the 467th

- 1 -

CONFIDENTIAL

3587

0774

CONFIDENTIALTactical Analysis of Mission 8 March 1945 - F. O. 621

Group at bomb release time and consequently held its bombs - the 2nd Squadron of the 458th Group had a GH equipment failure and returned bombs to base - the 3rd Squadron jettisoned bombs twenty-two miles south of the primary target because of personnel error. The Lead Squadron 392nd Group, HR Squadron 446th Group and the 448th Group returned bombs to base because of GH failures. Faulty equipment and lack of time to maneuver for an attack on its secondary induced a run on 3AD's target at Frankfurt by the HR Squadron, 44th Group. The decision made was a violation of the Field Order. 2AD Field Order No. 621 stated that no last resort targets were to be attacked. The HR Squadron of the 44th Group completely disregarded the flow of the bomber stream to attack Frankfurt.

4. Navigation - Withdrawal

a. Rallies were from fair to good. There was some conflict in the wing formation after the rally point and the 96th Combat Wing had to dogleg nine miles south to avoid collision courses its units were flying.

b. The route out as flown to landfall was generally good. Units were within five miles of course except for the 2nd Combat Wing which stayed eight miles right of course due to navigation. Cloud coverage was 10/10 but gradually broke to 6/10 - 8/10 at the enemy coast out - visual checks were few in number.

c. Landfall out was generally good and within five miles of the briefed point except for the 2nd Combat Wing which was right of the point of exit by eight miles. Length of the Division column was twelve minutes.

5. Fighter Support

a. There were two Fighter Groups assigned as close escort to 2AD Bombers and two Groups under MEW control assigned for area support. The 355th A and B Groups escorted the 20th and 14th Wings and the 4th A and B Groups escorted the 2nd and 96th Wings. The 339th and 359th Groups, although not actually assigned to 2AD, were patrolling the Dummer Lake, Kassel and Munster area subject to call by any of the Divisions in trouble.

6. Enemy Action Encountered

a. There was no enemy aircraft reaction to this effort.

b. Flak was light, inaccurate at Betzdorf - nil at the other targets.

7. Losses

a. There were no losses.

8. Scouting Force

a. Planning

(1) A route force was planned so as to scout route weather thirty minutes ahead of the lead Combat Wing. Use of this force was planned because of expected weather difficulties from middle cloud along the route. The normal target force, reporting target weather twenty minutes before target time was planned.

b. Execution

(1) The route force gave excellent information to Combat Wings - slight difficulties from haze and dense persistent contrails were experienced near Control Point 2. The target force functioned normally.

9. Screening Force

a. No Screening Force was planned as none of the targets was heavily defended.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

T
H
I
S

P
A
G
E

I
S

U
N
C
L
A
S
S
I
F
I
E
D

CONFIDENTIAL

TH:

Tactical Analysis of Mission 8 March 194510. Radar

a. H2X Analysis

Group	<u>A/C</u> <u>Dispatched</u>	<u>A/C Over</u> <u>Target</u>	<u>OK For</u> <u>Navigation</u>	<u>OK For</u> <u>Bombing</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
389th	6	6	6	5	1 personnel failure
445th	2	2	2	2	
453rd	4	4	4	4	
44th	7	7	7	6	1 equipment failure
392nd	3	3	0	0	see below
491st	2	2	2	2	
93rd	5	5	5	4	1 equipment failure
446th	4	4	4	4	
448th	1	1	1	1	
458th	4	4	4	3	1 equipment failure
466th	4	4	3	3	1 equipment failure
467th	5	5	4	4	1 equipment failure
	<u>47</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>38</u>	

(1) Five sets were unsatisfactory for navigation and nine sets unsatisfactory for bombing. One failure was due to personnel error and the remainder to causes the H2X navigator could not remedy. The 392nd Group dispatched three A/C and all sets were unsatisfactory for navigation and bombing. Two A/C had no range and one A/C had poor range, excessive interference and range unit off calibration.

b. GEE operation was satisfactory. Jamming was encountered on both the Ruhr and Reims chains but did not restrict operations.

c. A total of twenty-eight GH A/C was dispatched. This was one of the poorest GH missions from a serviceability standpoint that has been experienced to date. Seven GH A/C reported equipment failure. The 491st Group reported jammed signals and bombed (H2X) as did one Squadron of the 44th Group. The reports of signal strength varied, as different A/C reported poor, fair and good returns.

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

1 Incl:
Incl 1 - Weather Summary

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

T
H
I
S

P
A
G
E

I
S

U
N
C
L
A
S
S
I
F
I
E
D

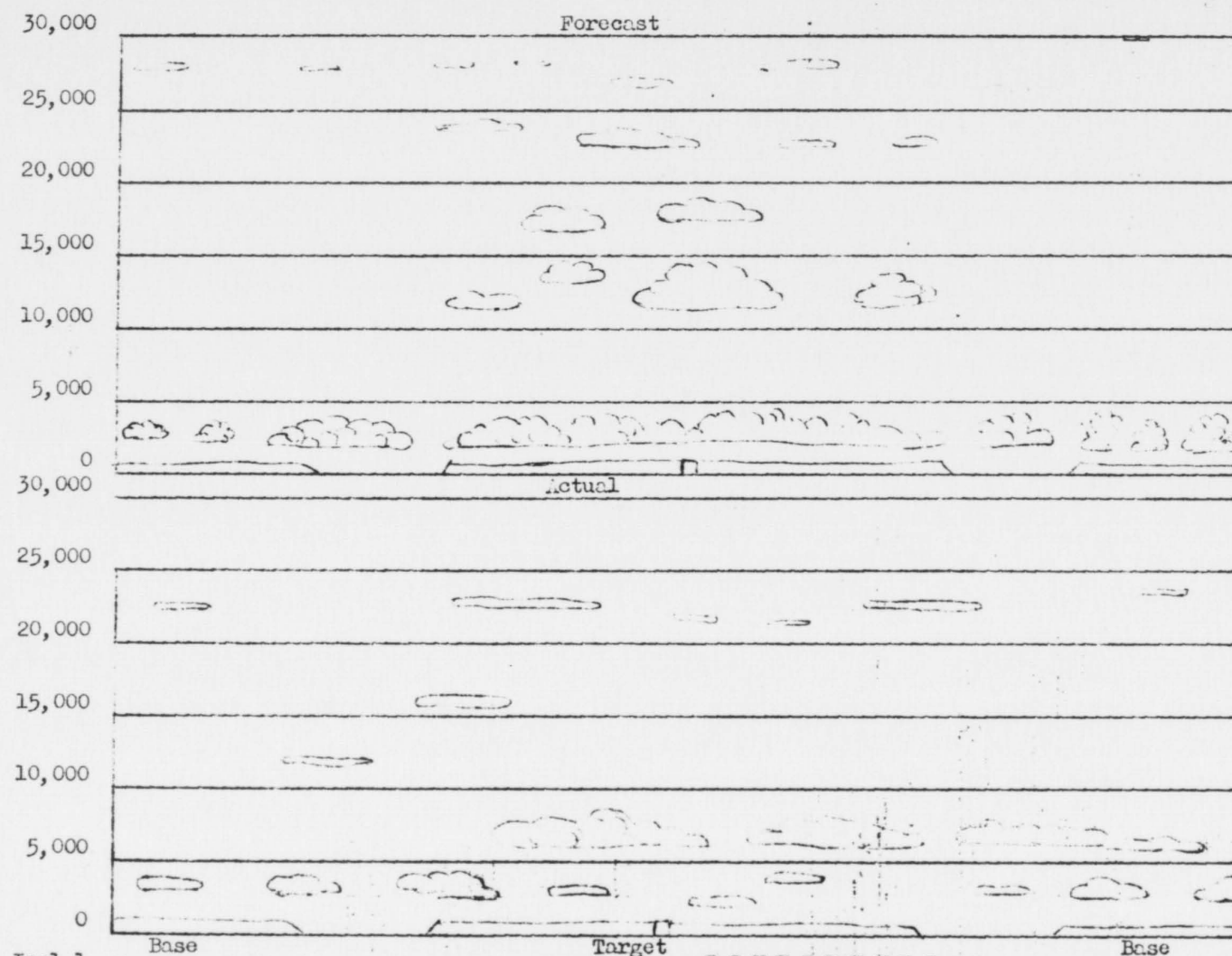
0 7 7 6

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

Tactical Analysis of Mission 8 March 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Weather Summary

a. Forecast - Light, non-persistent contrails above 25,000 feet over bases, becoming moderate persistent above 25,000 feet over the target area. Target Winds: at 20,000 and 25,000 - 360/60.

b. Actual - Contrails were observed intermittently as follows: light to moderate persistent 17 - 22,000 feet over eastern part of the North Sea - and light to moderate persistent 23,000 feet and above over the Continent. None on return from the target. Winds generally as forecast - slightly stronger than forecast in the target area. Temperatures aloft as forecast. Horizontal visibility unlimited aloft apart from occasional restriction to 10 miles in haze aloft - 05 to 07 degrees east reported by one Wing. Downward visibility through breaks over the Continent was good. A few patches of snow seen through breaks.

CONFIDENTIAL

Group 458th

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

(Part 1)

Ordered Targets: Primary: Dillenburg M/Y
Secondary: Giessen M/Y (H2X)

Date of Operation 8 March 1945

Division Field Order No. 621

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
1d	9	9	9	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1030	192	-
2	10	10	9	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	10	10	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Comp.	3	3	3	3	-	3	PT	Dillenburg M/Y	60 300 M31	-	-	-	-	-	-	1030	192	Bombed with 467 Gp.
TOTALS	32	32	31	3	29	3	PT	Dillenburg M/Y	60 300 M31	-	-	-	-	-	-	1030	192	-

NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIE SUMMARY (Part 3)

[illegible]

FOOTNOTE 1 - 3 Leads - (1st, 2nd and 3rd Sqdns)
3 Dep Lds - (1st, 2nd and 3rd Sqdns)

FOOTNOTE 2 -

44-49261	42-51199	
42-95557	42-100366	42-51270
42-50768	42-50640	42-51206
44-40287	42-50456	44-40475
42-50912	42-51179	42-52457
42-50555	44-40298	42-95316
42-110141	42-95183	
44-40118	42-51936	
44-10602	42-50499	
	42-51110	
44-49544	42-100425	
44-10618	41-29352	

FOOTNOTE 3 -

The A/C listed in Footnote 2 and in addition:

42-110059

BOMBS DISPATCHED

432 250# M57
96 500# M17
60 300# M31

BOMBS RETURNED

234 250# M57
298
83 500# M17

JETTISONED

198 250 M57
13 500# M17

ON TARGET

(Dillenburg)

60 300# M31

Lead Squadron

Page-Joe
J3: 267A Scope S&F Cent
Chimble-Goedert Wilburn RCM
J3: 557E K-20 J4: 763V

S&F
LaJuenesse
J4: 341U
K-21

McCormick
J4: 297V
RCM K-22
Montgomery
J4: 912D

S&F RCM
Dantley
J4: 555A
K-28

S&F
Hartwick
J4: 602E

24D cont
Sanders
J4: 118S

Bomb Load: 12 x M17's 35.3

Low Left Squadron

S&F RCM
Besten
Z5: 456D
K-21
Rhodes
Z5: 179P

24D
Wallis
Z5: 298E

Bowers
GH 544E
Pollier
J3: 516V
K-21, K-20

S&F
Hodges
Z5: 183U

S&F
Fletcher
Z5: 199A

S&F
Hodge
Z5: 366H

24D
Holtz
Z5: 059T
K-21

bomb load: 24 x 250 GP's
no nose; 1/40 tail

24D
Dye
Z5: 120M

High Right Squadron

Helfrecht
936I
Scope
Minsher
J3: 499U
K-22
Tebbs
7V: 425 O

RCM 24D
Grice
7V: 110M
K-21

S&F
Craven
7V: 475D
K-21

S&F
O'Reagan
7V: 487R

24D
Slevortson
7V: 208D

S&F RCM
Simsen
7V: 270A

S&F
Sparratt
7V: 457Q

24D
Jackson, W.S.
7V: 316H

bomb load: 24 x 250 GP's
no nose; 1/40 tail

467th

Haynes
7V: 502E K-21

Eidelsberg Barabart
J4: 277P 7V: 567G

bomb load: 20 x 300 G.P.
no nose; 1/40 t.

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
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	BARNHART, L	199	18			41-29567	567	G	7V	15	MY BUNNIE / BAMBI	BOMBED WITH 466BG
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	BENO	199	15	RUE	L1	44-49261	261	A	J3	9	UNKNOWN 042	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	BESTEN	199	35			42-50456	456	D	Z5	42	DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	BOWERS	199	25		L2	44-49544	544	E	J3	7	OH MONA!	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	CHIMPLES	199	25	GOODFRIEND	D1	42-95557	557	H	J3	31	LADY PEACE	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	CRAVEN	199	27			44-40475	475	D	7V	31	JOLLY ROGER	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	DANTLER	199	1			42-50555	555	A	J4	28	BABY SHOES	RCM (K28?)
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	DYE	199	2			42-50640	640	O	Z5	31	BUGS BUNNY	REPLACED 120
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	EIDELSBURG	199	22			44-40277	277	P	J4	49	MISS USED	BOMBED WITH 466BG
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	FLETCHER	199	22			42-51199	199	A	Z5	31	UNKNOWN 023	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	GRICE	199	30			42-51110	110	M	7V	85	TOP O' THE MARK	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	HARTSWICK	199	10			44-10602	602	E	J4	35	TEN GUN DOTTIE	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	HAYNES	199	33			42-50502	502	E	7V	43	LARRUPIN' LINDA	BOMBED WITH 466BG
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	HELFRECHT	199	24		L3	42-51936	936	I	J3	19	UNKNOWN 027	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	HODGE	199	9			42-100366	366	H	Z5	67	MIZPAH	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	HODGES	199	35			42-95183	183	U	Z5	84	BRINEY MARLIN	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	HOLTZ	199	ABT			42-110059	059	T	Z5	--	UNKNOWN 056	ABORT - #1, 2 ENG ??
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	JACKSON, WE	199	10			42-95316	316	H	7V	90	PRINCESS PAT	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	LaJEUNESSE	199	18			42-110141	141	U	J4	45	BREEZY LADY / MARIE / SUPERMAN	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	McCORMICK	199	35			44-40287	287	J	J4	49	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	MINSKER	199	2			42-50499	499	U	J3	36	COOKIE/OPEN POST	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	MONTGOMERY	199	1			42-50912	912	D	J4	18	THE TRAVLIN' BAG	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	O'REGAN	199	14			44-10487	487	R	7V	39	Girl on surfboard (no name)	HOLMGREN CO-PILOT 1ST MISSION
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	POLLIARD	199	17			42-50516	516	V	J3	26	STARDUST	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	RHOADES	199	19			42-51179	179	P	Z5	73	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	SANDERS	199	1			44-40118	118	S	J4	45	WE'LL GET BY	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	SIEVERTSON	199	27			42-51206	206	S	7V	49	THE PIED PIPER	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	SIMPSON	199	26			42-51270	270	A	7V	19	MY BUNNIE II	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	SPRATT	199	14			42-52457	457	Q	7V	100	FINAL APPROACH	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	TEBBS	199	30			42-100425	425	O	7V	62	THE BIRD	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	WALLIS	199	5			44-40298	298	E	Z5	38	THE SHACK	
08-Mar-45	DILLENBURG	WILBURN	199	15			42-50768	768	Y	J4	36	ARISE MY LOVE AND COME WITH ME	