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HEADQUARTERS 2d AIR DIVISION  
APO 558

EE-S-4

373.2

21 March 1945

SUBJECT: Tactical Analysis of Mission 9 March 1945 - F. O. 622.

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
2nd CBW	Munster (Vis. or GH)	Munster (GH or H2X)	103	103
96th CBW	Osnabruck " " "	Osnabruck " " "	91	89
20th CBW	Rheine " " "	Rheine " " "	93	93
14th CBW			6 <sup>+</sup>	6 <sup>+</sup>
		2AD	293	291

\*Flew as screening force with 96th Combat Wing

1. Takeoff, Assembly and DIL

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

Combat Wings	First Actual Takeoff	Assembly Altitude	Briefed Time For CP 1	Assembly Time
2nd	0630	12,000	0822	1:52
96th	0610	12,000	0825	2:15
20th	0626	12,000	0828	2:02

2. Navigation - Penetration

a. Units were in good order at landfall, but the first two Wings were forced to give way to the north by the last part of the 1st AD column. Of the nine Groups in the 2d column, only the 445th Group made landfall off course (four miles south).

b. Due to continued interference from the 1st AD column, the routes to the IP's were north of course. This was particularly true in the case of the Lead, 2nd Combat Wing.

c. The 2nd Combat Wing turned into the target run from ten miles northwest of the briefed IP and accurately intercepted the GH track. The 96th and 20th Combat Wings, following, were more on course and passed closely over their respective briefed IP's.

d. The routes of all Groups from the IP to the target were direct.

3. Bombing Analysis

a. Three Groups of the 2nd Combat Wing bombed Munster M/Y through 7 - 8/10 cloud cover on GH and H2X equipment with slight visual assistance. From the standpoint of instrument bombing, this attack was very successful. The results of bombing were from fair to good as established by PRU. No difficulties were encountered on the bomb run.

b. Three Groups of the 96th Combat Wing bombed Osnabruck M/Y. Heavy haze and 8/10 cloud cover hampered visual sighting although bombardiers were able to get some visual assistance after a GH run up on the target. The 3rd Squadron of the

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466th Group had a GH failure and bombed on H2X equipment. The results of bombing were generally good with considerable damage done in the MPI area.

c. Three Groups of the 20th Combat Wing experienced the same weather conditions at Rheine M/Y as the 96th Combat Wing did at Osnabruck. Bombing was done on GH equipment with some visual assistance. Two Squadrons of the 446th and one Squadron of the 93rd Group had C-1 auto-pilot malfunctions which did not seriously affect the bombing. No other difficulties were encountered. Results of bombing were generally good.

d. Bombing at all targets points to many cases of excellent crew coordination in instrument bombing with bombardiers taking every advantage of breaks in the clouds.

4. Navigation - Withdrawal

a. Rallies of the Groups and Wings were generally good - however, two Squadrons of the 467th Group rallied with units of the 2nd Combat Wing.

b. The 2nd Combat Wing, after rallying, cut south of their next point enroute by ten miles. It was at this point that the two Squadrons of the 467th Group were picked up - the 2nd Combat Wing and 96th Combat Wing being very close together at this time. The resulting route caused the 2nd Combat Wing to pass dangerously near Osnabruck. Proceeding on out, the 2nd Combat Wing's route was good with one exception: the 445th Group flew south of course after passing Osnabruck but corrected directly back to course before reaching Zwolle. The route followed by the 96th Combat Wing was very good. The 20th Combat Wing, having a separate withdrawal route, followed the briefed route well until 0600E where the 448th Group and 93rd Group departed the briefed course to the north and withdrew on the same route as the 2nd and 96th Combat Wings. The 446th Group, as in the penetration, remained on the briefed route.

c. Correct landfall was made by all Groups except the 93rd which was four miles south of course.

5. Fighter Support

a. 2d Air Division was assigned the 479th A and B Groups for close support on all three Boxes. The 56th, 357th, and 364th Groups gave area support at the targets and along the withdrawal route.

6. Enemy Action Encountered

a. No enemy aircraft reaction

b. Flak at Munster was moderate accurate; at Rheine light, inaccurate; moderate, inaccurate at Osnabruck.

7. Losses

a. One aircraft, 389th Group - Hit by AA gunfire immediately after bombs away over target, Munster M/Y. Aircraft went down in flames. Five to six chutes seen.

8. Scouting Force

a. Planning

(1) Scouts were to report target weather twenty minutes prior to target time and also route weather thirty minutes ahead of the Bombers.

b. Execution

(1) Scouts gave excellent reports on time. Target weather was 8 -

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10/10 and Scouts advised instrument bombing with a chance for visual assistance. Route weather presented no problems.

9. Screening Force

## a. Planning

(1) Two Screening Forces were planned. The 14th Combat Wing screening the 96th Combat Wing and the 2nd Combat Wing screening itself and the 20th Combat Wing. The Screening Forces were to fly to the IP with the main forces, and then pull two minutes ahead and 400 feet above the formations - then fly the route from the IP to target and rally point, discharging chaff from the IP. Screening Forces would fly on the up-wind side of the track from IP to target so that chaff would drift.

## b. Execution

(1) The Screening Force from the 14th Combat Wing made the briefed maneuver in the target area and proved to be effective. The 2nd Combat Wing Screening Force did not go over the defenses because visual tracking was possible. In this case, the Force went to the west and south in going around the defenses. As the wind was from the north, this was definitely wrong. If the Screening Force will skirt the defenses on the up-wind side, some advantage from the chaff may be gained, especially for the trailing units, even though a target may be visual.

10. 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>	Remarks
389th	7	6	6	6	1 A/C shot down over target
445th	3	3	2	2	1 A/C flak damage
453rd	6	6	6	6	
44th	0	0	0	0	
392nd	0	0	0	0	
491st	2	2	2	2	
93rd	5	5	4	4	1 equipment malfunction
446th	4	4	4	4	
448th	3	3	3	3	
458th	4	4	4	4	
466th	4	4	4	4	
467th	5	5	5	5	
	<u>43</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>	

(1) H2X operation for this mission was excellent. Two A/C were unsatisfactory for navigating and bombing. One A/C was hit by flak ten miles before the target, severing main cable connections and the other A/C blew the DC fuse in the receiver indicator.

b. GEE operation for this mission was satisfactory. Slight pulse jamming was reported on the Ruhr chain but good reception was maintained throughout the entire route.

c. Twenty-four GH A/C were dispatched. There were three equipment failures and one personnel error which prevented Squadrons from making GH sightings. The 93rd Group reported two Squadrons were unable to bomb by GH due to weak signals. These targets were at the extreme range for safe planning and the signals were generally weak, although some A/C reported good reception.

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Tactical Analysis of Mission 9 March 194511. Comments

a. This mission was very good from numerous standpoints. Navigation and bombing were excellent under existing conditions. The 2nd and 20th Combat Wings came through with 100% of aircraft dispatched over the target and the 96th Combat Wing had only two non-effectives out of ninety-one dispatched.

By command of Major General KEPNER:

FRANCIS H. GRISWOLD  
Brigadier General, US.  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

*Robert H. Terrill*  
ROBERT H. TERRILL  
Colonel GSC  
Dep C of S for Operations

1 Incl:  
Incl 1 - Weather Summary

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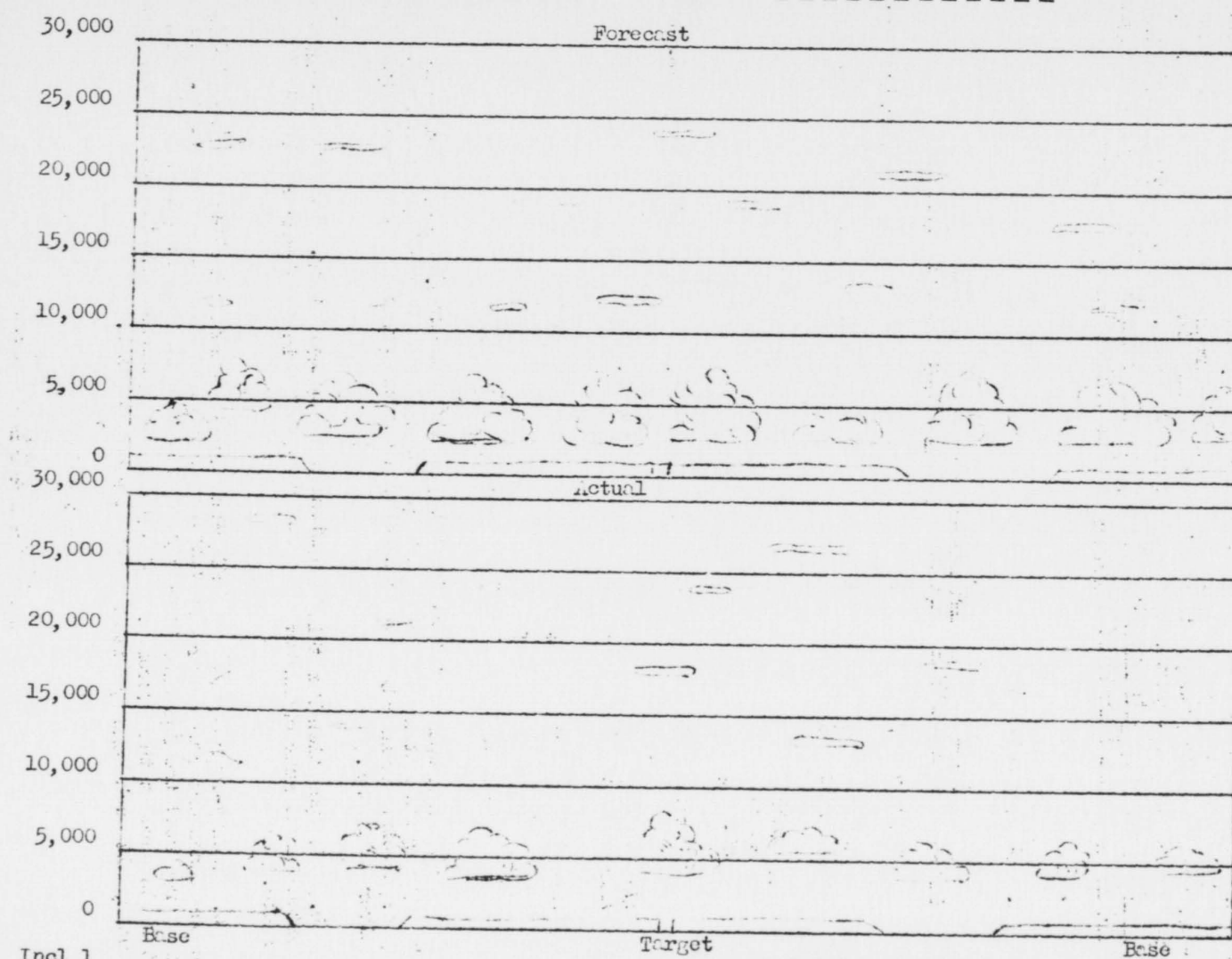
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Tactical Analysis of [redacted] March 1945

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Weather Summary

a. Forecast - Light non-persistent contrails above 22,000 feet becoming moderate to dense persistent near high clouds. Target winds: at 20,000 - 360/60, at 25,000 - 360/70.

b. Actual - Winds and temperatures aloft as forecast. Contrails - none except from 03 - 06E - few light non-persistent above 18 - 19,000 feet and few moderate persistent above 22 - 23,000 feet.

Group 458th

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

(Part 1)

Primary: Osnabruck M/Y Via

Ordered Targets: Secondary: Osnabruck M/Y H2X

Date of Operation 9 March 1945

Division Field Order No. 622

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
1st	9	9	9	9		9	PT	Osnabruck M/Y	328 10 # M30 14 M17	-	-	-	-	-	-	0700	138	-
2	9	9	9	9	-	9	PT	Osnabruck M/Y	362 10 # M30 16 M17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	10	10	10	10	-	10	PT	Osnabruck M/Y	406 M30 18 M17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	28	28	28	28	-	28	PT	Osnabruck M/Y	1096 100# M30 48 M17	-	-	-	-	-	-	0700	138	-

## NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIE SUMMARY (Part 3)

[illegible]

9 March 1945

Lead Squadron - Lincoln Red # 1Dane-Hogg

J3 : 261A

(Scope)

RCM-2AD Cont.

2AD

Healy-Betzold

J3 : 557H

Hurtenback

7V : 110W

Josephson

7V : 206S

RCM-8AF

K-21

8AF Cont.

Simpson

7V : 270A

RCM-8AF

O'Reagan

7V : 4250

Ferriell

7V : 457Q

Jackson, W.L.

7V : 475D

Clutter

7V : 502E

K-20

K-21

K-21

2nd Squadron - Lincoln Red # 2Allen-Gardner

J3 : 910D

RCM-8AF

RCM

Dahn

J3 : 499U

Beckstrom

J4 : 555A

Boucek

J4 : 273T

K-22

K-21

2AD

2AD

Sealy

J4 : 408I

8AF

Warrell

J4 : 163M

Pelton

J4 : 912D

8AF

Kelly

J4 : 285H

Robinson

J4 : 602E

K-21

K-20

8AF

Brown

J4 : 141U

3rd Squadron - Lincoln Red # 3Mitchell-Black

J3 : 628K

8AF

Eisert

J3 : 504S

Holtz

Z5 : 183U

Herdtt

Z5 : 018J

K-21

RCM-8AF

K-21

8AF

Skidmore

Z5 : 6400

Krogh

Z5 : 456D

Nutter

Z5 : 199A

2AD

2AD

Wallis

Z5 : 298E

Minor

Z5 : 578F

8AF

Sharp

Z5 : 179P

SPARESDISP.

K-21

J3-837L

(PFF)

R/W 35

J3-516V

(Vis)

49

7V-487R

8AF

31

7V-567G

8AF

30

J4-277P

2AD

43

J4-287J

RCM

40

Z5-366H

8AF

6

Assembly A/C - 697Z - Lt. Gilbert - 753rd

Marshalling Chief - Lt. Amann - 752nd Sqdn.

Marshalling Crews - 752nd &amp; 755th Sqdns.

Bomb Load: 44 X 100# GP's - No Nose-1/40 T.

2 X M17's

ORDER OF TAKE OFF

R/W 05

WEST				EAST	WEST			EAST
DISP	A/C	NO.	A/C	DISP.	DISP	A/C	NO.	DISP
2	697Z	1					16	406I
R/W 35	261A	2					17	273T
		3	557H	46			18	602E
		4	110W	31			19	285H
		5	270A	33			20	912D
		6	206S	29			21	163M
		7	502E	27			22	141U
		8	475D	33			23	163U
		9	457Q	34	3	6400	24	
		10	4250	27			25	018J
		11	910D	25			26	578F
		12	499U	19	1	298E	27	
		13	628K	49	5	199A	28	
		14	504S	21	6	456D	29	
		15	555A	45	5	179P	30	

## 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
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	ALLEN, G	200	28	GARDNER	L2	44-49910	910	D	J3	1	UNKNOWN 044	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	AMANN	200	MSHL			--		--	--	--		MARSHALING CHIEF- 752ND
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	BECKSTROM	200	32			42-50555	555	A	J4	29	BABY SHOES	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	BOUCEK	200	33			44-40273	273	T	J4	47	HOWLING BANSHEE	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	BROWN, R	200	8			42-110141	141	U	J4	46	BREEZY LADY / MARIE / SUPERMAN	
09-Mar-45	Assembly Duties	Chenney, William B Jr	200	ACC			41-28697	697	Z	Z5	--	Spotted Ape	Landing Acc /Sta 123 - Assy Ship
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	CLUTTER	200	1			42-50502	502	E	7V	44	LARRUPIN' LINDA	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	DAHM	200	NTO			42-50499	499	U	J3	--	COOKIE/OPEN POST	NO TAKE OFF - NO REASON GIVEN
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	DANE	200	27	HOGG	L1	44-49261	261	A	J3	10	UNKNOWN 042	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	EISERT	200	25			42-50504	504	S	J3	29	UNKNOWN 019	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	FERRIELL	200	18			42-52457	457	Q	7V	101	FINAL APPROACH	Ops Rpt shows this A/C 100th Mission? (PHOTO)
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	GILBERT	200	ASSY			41-28697	697	Z	Z5	A68	SPOTTED APE	ASSEMBLY CREW - 753
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	HEALY	200	26	BETZOLD	D1	42-95557	557	H	J3	32	LADY PEACE	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	HERDTI	200	12			42-95018	018	J	Z5	86	OLD DOC'S YACHT	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	HOLTZ	200	1			42-95183	183	U	Z5	85	BRINEY MARLIN	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	HURTENBACH	200	1			42-51110	110	M	7V	86	TOP O' THE MARK	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	JACKSON, WL	200	12			44-40475	475	D	7V	32	JOLLY ROGER	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	JOSEPHSON	200	31			42-51206	206	S	7V	50	THE PIED PIPER	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	KELLY	200	13			44-40285	285	H	J4	74	TABLE STUFF	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	KROGH	200	11			42-50456	456	D	Z5	43	DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	MINOR	200	19			42-50578	578	F	Z5	41	SKY ROOM	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	MITCHELL	200	24	BLACK	L3	42-95628	628	K	J3	16	UNKNOWN 038	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	NUTTER	200	4			42-51199	199	A	Z5	32	UNKNOWN 023	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	O'REGAN	200	15			42-100425	425	O	7V	63	THE BIRD	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	PELTON	200	1			42-50912	912	D	J4	19	THE TRAVLIN' BAG	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	ROBINSON	200	1			44-10602	602	E	J4	36	TEN GUN DOTTIE	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	SEALY	200	29			42-100408	408	I	J4	49	LADY LUCK / THE BEAST	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	SHARP	200	3			42-51179	179	P	Z5	74	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	SIMPSON	200	27			42-51270	270	A	7V	20	MY BUNNIE II	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	SKIDMORE	200	36			42-50640	640	O	Z5	32	BUGS BUNNY	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	WALLIS	200	6			44-40298	298	E	Z5	39	THE SHACK	
09-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	WARRELL	200	30			42-110163	163	M	J4	68	TIME'S A WASTIN	