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HEADQUARTERS 2d AIR DIVISION  
APO 558

EE-S-4

373.2

16 March 1945

SUBJECT: Tactical Analysis of Mission 10 March 1945 - F. O. 623.

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<br>DISPATCHED | A/C OVER<br>TARGET |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 14th CBW     | Bielefeld (Vis. or GH) | Bielefeld (H2X)     | 95                | 92                 |
| 2nd CBW      | " " "                  | " " "               | 98                | 97                 |
| " "          | Paderborn " " "        | Paderborn M/Y (H2X) | " " "             | " " "              |
| 20th CBW     | " " "                  | " " "               | 96                | 95                 |
| " "          | Arnsberg " " "         | " " "               | " " "             | " " "              |
| 96th CBW     | " " "                  | " " "               | 87                | 84                 |
|              |                        | 2d                  | 376               | 368                |

1. Takeoff and Assembly

a. Takeoffs were normal - Group and Combat Wing assemblies were good. All units entered the DAL on time, on course and visual - all reported a very good Division Assembly.

| Combat Wing | First Actual Takeoff | Assembly Altitudes | Briefed Time For CP 1 | Assembly Time |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 2nd         | 0752                 | 10,000             | 0943                  | 1:51          |
| 14th        | 0746                 | 10,000             | 0940                  | 1:54          |
| 96th        | 0802                 | 10,000             | 0953                  | 1:47          |
| 20th        | 0754                 | 10,000             | 0945                  | 1:51          |

2. Navigation - Penetration

a. At landfall the 2nd Wing was five miles south of course and the 20th Wing south of it one mile, the latter to avoid prop wash. The Division column was twelve minutes long here.

b. Route in to the II was generally south of course (five miles) but came within two to four miles of course at the point before the II. Cloud coverage was 10/10. Crowding together of the formations caused some of the deviation to the south - navigation was the main reason.

c. Target runs were made over 10/10 low cloud and runs were generally good - the units of the 20th and 96th Wings interfered with each other. There was some tendency to crowd the formations in one Wing but this was corrected and navigators remained on course.

3. Bombing Analysis

a. Bombing of all primaries was accomplished through 10/10 clouds with the aid of GH equipment. All results were unobserved.

b. Due to faulty navigation on the route in, the 20th Combat Wing deviated from course and in getting back on course lost enough time to allow the 96th Wing to pull abreast. Apparently little effort was made to remedy the situation because the 93rd Group crowded the 458th Group on the run. Successful runs were finally accomplished but with great difficulty.

c. When bombing by GH, it is of great importance that the maneuver at

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the IP be especially well coordinated. Crowding on the bomb run will defeat the principle upon which GH bombing is based.

4. Navigation - Withdrawal

a. Rallies were effected in good order, generally three to five miles south of course.

b. The route out to landfall was flown within five miles of course. Cloud coverage was 10/10.

c. Landfall out was generally good - one unit was four miles north of course. Cloud coverage was still 10/10. The Division column was twenty-four minutes long at this point.

5. Fighter Support

a. There were five Fighter Groups assigned to support 2AD Bombers - three Groups as close escort and two Groups as area support. The 355 A covered the 14th Combat Wing and the command Mosquito. The 355th B and 4th A Groups covered the 2nd Combat Wing. The 4th B and 479th A covered the 20th Combat Wing with the 479th B on the 96th Wing. The 20th Fighter Group arrived at Minden and the 353rd Group arrived at Kassel to patrol the area, when the 2AD Bombers were at a point 5010N-0743E. All other R/V were made at 5005N-0600E.

6. Enemy Action Encountered

a. There was no enemy aircraft reaction directed toward 2AD Bombers.

b. No flak was experienced at the targets.

7. Losses

a. There were no losses.

8. Scouting Force

a. Planning - The Scouting Force was to report target weather twenty minutes before TOT; no route force was planned as no weather difficulties were expected enroute.

b. Execution - The target force reporting was normal - no weather difficulties were experienced during the mission.

9. Screening Force

a. No Screening Force was planned as all targets were comparatively flak free.

10. Radar

a. H2X Analysis

| Group | <u>A/C</u><br><u>Dispatched</u> | <u>A/C Over</u><br><u>Target</u> | <u>OK For</u><br><u>Navigation</u> | <u>OK For</u><br><u>Bombing</u> | <u>Remarks</u>           |
|-------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 389th | 6                               | 6                                | 6                                  | 6                               |                          |
| 445th | 2                               | 2                                | 2                                  | 2                               |                          |
| 453rd | 4                               | 4                                | 3                                  | 3                               | 1 equipment malfunction  |
| 44th  | 10                              | 10                               | 10                                 | 9                               | 1 equipment malfunction  |
| 392nd | 3                               | 3                                | 3                                  | 3                               |                          |
| 491st | 3                               | 2                                | 1                                  | 1                               | 1 abort<br>1 malfunction |

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|       |                |                |                |                |               |
|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 93rd  | 5              | 5              | 5              | 5              |               |
| 446th | 5              | 5              | 4              | 4              | 1 Malfunction |
| 448th | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1              |               |
| 458th | 4              | 4              | 4              | 4              |               |
| 466th | 4              | 4              | 4              | 4              |               |
| 467th | $\frac{4}{51}$ | $\frac{4}{50}$ | $\frac{4}{47}$ | $\frac{4}{46}$ |               |

(1) Radar performance on this mission is considered satisfactory. Four aircraft were unable to bomb H2X and three were unable to navigate - this was due to malfunctions which could not be remedied in the air.

b. GEE - There were two GEE failures out of 343 A/C dispatched. There was some jamming but operation was unrestricted. Fixes were taken up to the target.

c. GH - 32 A/C were dispatched - 28 A/C used GH for bombing - of the four failures - two were due to weak signals, one to equipment malfunction and one GH A/C used H2X for bombing. Signal reception was generally fair and most Groups reported good runs.

11. Comments

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By command of Major General KEMPER:

FRANCIS H. GRISWOLD  
Brigadier General USA  
Chief of Staff

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

1 Incl:  
Incl 1 - Weather Summary

|                                                   |                                          |                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Disseminated by:<br><i>Col. Terrill</i>           | Return to:<br><i>Tactical Analysis</i>   | Section Copy:<br>-  |
| Incl. to be made:<br><i>Capt. Kovalczyk (CFK)</i> | Section Approval:<br><i>Not Required</i> | Control Mark:<br>-  |
| Comments:<br><i>WHD</i>                           | Dissemination:<br><i>Not Required</i>    | Dissemination:<br>- |

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Tactical Analysis of Mission 10 March 1945C O N F I D E N T I A LWeather Summary

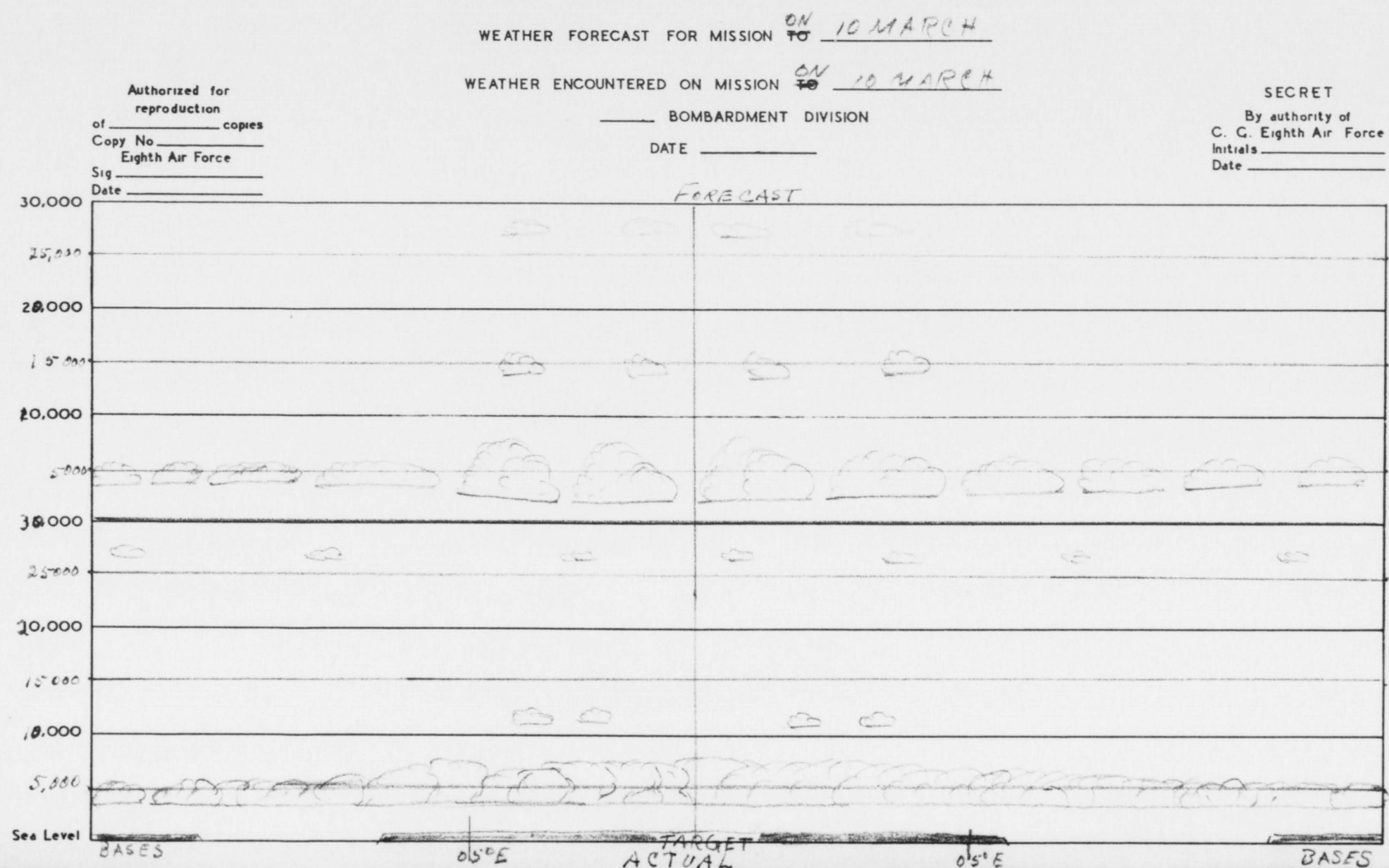
a. Forecast - Light non-persistent contrails, base 22,000 feet becoming light persistent, base 25,000 feet. Target wind: at 20,000 feet - 360/45.

b. Actual - Wings and temperatures as forecast - nil contrails.



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Group 458th

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

(Part 1)

Primary: Arnsberg M/YDate of Operation 10 March 1945Division Field Order No. 623Ordered Targets: Secondary: Faderborn

| 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          | Arnsberg M/Y   | 50 1000# M65                        | -             | -    | -          | -   | -   | -     | 0802             | 193                 |          |
| 2        | 10      | 10                 | 10             | 10                | -                     | 10              | PT          | Arnsberg M/Y   | 58 1000# M65                        | -             | -    | -          | -   | -   | -     | -                | -                   |          |
| 3        | 10      | 10                 | 9              | 9                 | 1                     | 9               | PT          | Arnsberg M/Y   | 52 1000# M65                        | -             | -    | -          | -   | -   | -     | -                | -                   |          |
| TOTALS   | 29      | 29                 | 28             | 28                | 1                     | 28              | PT          | Arnsberg M/Y   | 160 1000# M65                       | -             | -    | -          | -   | -   | -     | 0802             | 193                 |          |

## NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIE SUMMARY (Part 3)

| Total<br>Non<br>Eff<br>Sort<br>ies | Causes of Non-Effectives |          |                 |                    |                   | Incidents of Mechanical and Equipment Failures |        |               |                |                   |                            |                              |                   |                 |                   |                           |                  |                  |                 |                   |  | Comments |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|----------|
|                                    | Weather                  | Personne | Enemy<br>Action | Other Non<br>Mech. | Mech. &<br>Equip. | Total                                          | Engine | Oil<br>System | Fuel<br>System | Super-<br>charger | Propeller<br>&<br>Governor | Commun-<br>ication<br>System | Guns &<br>Turrets | Bomb<br>Release | Bomb Bay<br>Doors | Elect-<br>rical<br>System | Instru-<br>ments | Oxygen<br>System | Bomb-<br>sights | A/C in<br>general |  |          |
| 6                                  | 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 Nil           |          |                 |                    |                   |                                                |        |               |                |                   |                            |                              |                   |                 |                   |                           |                  |                  |                 |                   |  |          |
|                                    | Footnote 3               |          |                 |                    |                   |                                                |        |               |                |                   |                            |                              |                   |                 |                   |                           |                  |                  |                 |                   |  |          |

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FORMATION PLANLEAD SQUADRON

|                            |              |               |               |                |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <u>BENO-SIMES</u>          |              | 2 AD Cont.    |               | 8 AF           |              |
| J3 : 910D                  |              | <u>NUTTER</u> |               | <u>EVERETT</u> |              |
| <u>CHIMPLISS-BRECK'DGE</u> | RCM-8 AF     | 25 : 298E     | Z5 : 183U     |                | 8 AF         |
| J3 : 557H                  | <u>KROGH</u> | 8 AF Cont.    | <u>HERDTL</u> | K-21           | <u>HODGE</u> |
| K-20                       | 25 : 456D    | 25 : 018J     | Z5 : 366H     |                |              |
| 8 AF                       | K-22         | <u>THOMAS</u> |               |                |              |
| <u>DYE</u>                 |              | 25 : 179P     |               |                |              |
| Z5 : 199A                  |              | K-21          |               |                |              |

2ND SQUADRON

|                     |               |                |              |             |               |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| <u>BOWERS</u>       |               | 2 AD           |              | 8 AF        |               |
| J3 : 261A           |               | <u>HINER</u>   |              | <u>LEHR</u> |               |
| <u>JOHNSON</u>      | Scope         | TV : 316H      | 2 AD         | TV : 502E   |               |
| J3 : 618T           | RCM-2 AD      | K-21           | <u>TEPPE</u> | K-21        | <u>SPRATT</u> |
| K-21                | <u>GRICE</u>  | 2 AD           | TV : 206S    |             | TV : 4250     |
| 8 AF                | TV : 110M     | <u>HOLGREN</u> |              |             |               |
| <u>JACKSON-W.E.</u> | RCM-8 AF      | TV : 340N      |              |             |               |
| TV : 487R           | <u>BURMAN</u> |                |              |             |               |
|                     | TV : 270A     |                |              |             |               |

3RD SQUADRON

|                 |              |                |                   |                  |              |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| <u>POLLARD</u>  |              | RCM-8 AF       |                   | RCM              |              |
| J3 : 837L       |              | <u>HOOD</u>    |                   | <u>McCORMICK</u> |              |
| <u>LANQUIST</u> | Scope-K-20   | J4 : 555A      | RCM-8 AF          | J4 : 287J        | 2 AD         |
| J3 : 499U       | 2 AD         | <u>HAUDEN</u>  | <u>MONTGOMERY</u> | K-21             | <u>SICAN</u> |
| K-21, K-20      | J4 : 277P    | 8 AF           | J4 : 768Y         |                  | J4 : 163M    |
| 2 AD            |              | <u>GILBERT</u> |                   |                  |              |
| <u>HONY</u>     | 8 AF         | J4 : 141U      | <u>SPARES:</u>    | 743F-J3-Hgr 1    | PFF-6scope   |
| J4 : 912D       | <u>McCOY</u> | K-22           |                   | 516V-J3-49       | Vis.         |
|                 | J4 : 285H    |                |                   | 514E-TV-28       |              |

No assembly ship.

Marshalling Chief: Lt Dahm - 755th

Marshalling Crews: Lt Rhoades - 754th

Lt Helfrecht - 755th

ORDER OF TAKE OFF

| WEST  |      |     |      | EAST |      |     |      |
|-------|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|------|
| DISP  | SHIP | NO. | SHIP | DISP | SHIP | NO. | SHIP |
|       |      | 1   | 910D | 25   |      | 16  | 502E |
|       |      | 2   | 557H | 46   |      | 17  | 340N |
|       |      | 3   |      |      |      | 18  | 487R |
| 1     | 298E | 4   |      |      |      | 19  | 4250 |
| 6     | 456D | 5   | 183U | 53   |      | 20  | 206S |
|       |      | 6   |      |      |      | 21  | 270A |
| 5     | 179P | 7   |      |      |      | 22  | 555L |
| 5     | 199A | 8   |      |      |      | 23  | 277P |
| 4     | 366H | 9   | 018J | 44   |      | 24  | 287J |
|       |      | 10  |      |      |      | 25  | 141U |
| Rwy35 | 261A | 11  | 618T | 46   |      | 26  | 912D |
|       |      | 12  |      |      |      | 27  | 163M |
| Rwy35 | 837L | 13  | 499U | 44   |      | 28  | 768Y |
|       |      | 14  | 316H | 51   |      | 29  | 285H |
|       |      | 15  | 110M | 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                                      |
|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|----|-----------|--------|-----|------|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | BENO        | 201       | 16        | SIMES        | L1 | 44-49910  | 910    | D   | J3   | 2       | UNKNOWN 044                    |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | BOWERS      | 201       | 26        |              | L2 | 44-49261  | 261    | A   | J3   | 11      | UNKNOWN 042                    |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | BURMAN      | 201       | 16        |              |    | 42-51270  | 270    | A   | 7V   | 21      | MY BUNNIE II                   |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | CHIMPLES    | 201       | 26        | BRECKENRIDGE | D1 | 42-95557  | 557    | H   | J3   | 33      | LADY PEACE                     |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | DAHM        | 201       | MSHL      |              |    | --        |        | --  | --   | --      |                                | MARSHALING CHIEF- 755TH                       |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | DYE         | 201       | 3         |              |    | 42-51199  | 199    | A   | Z5   | 33      | UNKNOWN 023                    |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | EVERETT     | 201       | 18        |              |    | 42-95183  | 183    | U   | Z5   | 86      | BRINEY MARLIN                  |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | GILBERT     | 201       | 1         |              |    | 42-110141 | 141    | U   | J4   | 47      | BREEZY LADY / MARIE / SUPERMAN |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | GRICE       | 201       | 31        |              |    | 42-51110  | 110    | M   | 7V   | 87      | TOP O' THE MARK                |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | HADDEN      | 201       | ABT       |              |    | 44-40277  | 277    | P   | J4   | --      | MISS USED                      | ABORT - #1 ENG LOSS OF OIL PRES               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | HELFRECHT   | 201       | MSHL      |              |    | --        |        | --  | --   | --      |                                | MARSHALING CHIEF- 755TH                       |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | HERDTI      | 201       | 13        |              |    | 42-95018  | 018    | J   | Z5   | 87      | OLD DOC'S YACHT                |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | HINER       | 201       | 11        |              |    | 42-95316  | 316    | H   | 7V   | 91      | PRINCESS PAT                   |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | HODGE       | 201       | 10        |              |    | 42-100366 | 366    | H   | Z5   | 68      | MIZPAH                         |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | HOEY        | 201       | 29        |              |    | 42-50912  | 912    | D   | J4   | 20      | THE TRAVLIN' BAG               |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | HOLMGREN    | 201       | 2         |              |    | 41-29340  | 340    | N   | 7V   | 66      | YANKEE BUZZ BOMB               | THIS IS HOLMGREN MSN #2 (MSN #1 CP w/O'REGAN) |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | HOOD        | 201       | 32        |              |    | 42-50555  | 555    | A   | J4   | 30      | BABY SHOES                     |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | JACKSON, WE | 201       | 11        |              |    | 44-10487  | 487    | R   | 7V   | 40      | Girl on surfboard (no name)    |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | JOHNSON, C  | 201       | 10        |              |    | 44-10618  | 618    | T   | J3   | 8       | UNKNOWN 038                    |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | KROGH       | 201       | 12        |              |    | 42-50456  | 456    | D   | Z5   | 44      | DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL            |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | LANQUIST    | 201       | 7         |              |    | 42-50499  | 499    | U   | J3   | 37      | COOKIE/OPEN POST               |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | LEHR        | 201       | 35        |              |    | 42-50502  | 502    | E   | 7V   | 45      | LARRUPIN' LINDA                |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | McCORMICK   | 201       | 36        |              |    | 44-40287  | 287    | J   | J4   | 50      | BACHELOR'S BEDLAM              |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | McCOY       | 201       | 11        |              |    | 42-100408 | 408    | I   | J4   | 50      | LADY LUCK / THE BEAST          | REPLACED 285                                  |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | MONTGOMERY  | 201       | 2         |              |    | 42-50768  | 768    | Y   | J4   | 37      | ARISE MY LOVE AND COME WITH ME |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | NUTTER      | 201       | 5         |              |    | 44-40298  | 298    | E   | Z5   | 40      | THE SHACK                      |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | POLLIARD    | 201       | 18        |              | L3 | 44-48837  | 837    | L   | J3   | 16      | UNKNOWN 041                    |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | RHOADES     | 201       | MSHL      |              |    | --        |        | --  | --   | --      |                                | MARSHALING CHIEF- 754TH                       |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | SLOAN       | 201       | 1         |              |    | 42-110163 | 163    | M   | J4   | 69      | TIME'S A WASTIN                |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | SPRATT      | 201       | 15        |              |    | 42-100425 | 425    | O   | 7V   | 64      | THE BIRD                       |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | TEBBS       | 201       | 31        |              |    | 42-51206  | 206    | S   | 7V   | 51      | THE PIED PIPER                 |                                               |
| 10-Mar-45 | ARNSBURG | THOMAS      | 201       | 2         |              |    | 42-51179  | 179    | P   | Z5   | 75      | DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE         |                                               |