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HEADQUARTERS 2d AIR DIVISION
APO 558

EE-S-4

373. 2

23 March 1945

SUBJECT: Tactical Analysis of Missions 12 March 1945 - Field Orders 625 and 626.

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.

F. O. 625

<u>BATTLE ORDER</u>	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SECONDARY</u>	<u>A/C DISPATCHED</u>	<u>A/C OVER TARGET</u>
20th CBW	Swinemunde (Vis.)	Swinemunde (H2X)	96	93
2nd CBW	" "	" "	64	63
96th CBW	" "	" "	36	36
14th CBW	" "	" "	31	28
		2AD	227	220

F. O. 626

<u>BATTLE ORDER</u>	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SECONDARY</u>	<u>A/C DISPATCHED</u>	<u>A/C OVER TARGET</u>
96th CBW	Friedberg M/Y (Vis. or GH)	Giessen M/Y (H2X)	58	56
14th CBW	" "	" "	64	61
" "	Wetzlar M/Y	" "	" "	" "
2nd CBW	" "	" "	32	32
		2AD	154	149

F. O. 6251. Takeoff and Assembly

a. Times

<u>Combat Wing</u>	<u>First Actual Takeoff</u>	<u>Assembly Altitudes</u>	<u>Briefed Time For CP 1</u>	<u>Assembly Time</u>
20th	0711	8,000	0858	1:47
2nd	0731	8,000	0901	1:30
96th	0750	8,000	0903	1:13
14th	0740	8,000	0905	1:25

b. Takeoffs were normal and without incident.

c. Assemblies were good and units departed on time and in good order.

2. Navigation - Penetration

a. Length of the Division column upon leaving the English coast was eight minutes. Landfall was made at the Danish coast at the briefed point and at briefed altitude by all Wings. The Division column here was six minutes in length.

b. The route across the Danish Peninsular to the IP was flown as briefed. The 448th Group reported a little difficulty staying behind the 446th and had to "S". This put the 448th Group slightly north of course at some points.

c. The 446th Group overshot the IP by six miles. Approaching the IP, the 448th Group switched leads because of an H2X malfunction. The 448th Group also overshot the IP by six miles. The following Wings also overshot the IP. However, all bomb runs were made without trouble.

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Tactical Analysis of Mission 12 March 1945 - F. O's 625 and 626

3. Bombing Analysis

a. Three Groups of the 20th Combat Wing, two of the 2nd Combat Wing, four Squadrons of the 96th Combat Wing and three Squadrons of the 14th Combat Wing attacked the Swinemunde Port Area by H2X through 10/10 cloud with unobserved results. The lead of the 446th Group turned too slowly at the IP and was six miles beyond the IP before straightening out on the bomb run. This caused some confusion and over-running in following units. However, very good runs were reported. The lead Squadron of the 448th Group changed leaders at the IP because of H2X difficulties and overshot that point by six miles. To avoid over-running, the following units also had to go beyond the IP. No other difficulties were reported. The maneuver at the IP is very important and the degree to which it is accomplished successfully has a great effect on the identification of the target and bombing results. The high right Squadron of the 389th Group had weak H2X returns but bombed on the smoke markers of the preceding unit without difficulty. The lead of the 392nd Group had an A-5 malfunction which caused no difficulty and the run was completed manually.

4. Navigation - Withdrawal

a. Rally was good - no conflict was experienced. The 448th Group cut rally short to close up the formation.

b. The route from rally point to landfall out at the Danish coast was flown as briefed. At the Danish coast out, the Division column was eight minutes in length. Over the North Sea on return, the 20th Wing did a small dogleg at the request of the following Wing; this was done to allow stragglers to catch up with the formation. Navigation on this mission was good.

5. Fighter Support

a. Four Fighter Groups supported 2AD Bombers on their deep penetration. The 361st A and B Groups escorted the Screening Force and the 20th Combat Wing. The 355th A and B Groups escorted the 2nd Wing with the 4th A escorting the 96th Wing and the 4th B escorting the 14th Wing. The 361st and 355th Groups R/V at 0900E and the 4th at 1000E. Other support included the 479th Group which swept free lance on penetration and withdrew in front of 2AD Bombers.

6. Enemy Action Encountered

a. No enemy aircraft reaction to the Bomber forces.

b. Flak at Swinemunde was moderate inaccurate.

7. Losses

a. There were no losses.

8. Scouting Force

a. Planning - No operational weather difficulties were anticipated; so a target Scouting Force of nine A/C to report weather twenty minutes before target time was the only one planned.

b. Execution - Communication and reporting were good for all units.

9. Screening Force

a. Planning - Four Mosquitoes following the normal plan of pulling out to one minute ahead and climbing to 1,000 feet above the main force at the IP and preceding the Bombers through the target area.

b. Execution - As planned - good coordination between the Division and Screening Force leaders was maintained.

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Tactical Analysis of Mission 12 March 1945 - F. O's 625 and 62610. Radara. H2X Analysis

<u>Group</u>	<u>A/C Dispatched</u>	<u>A/C Over Target</u>	<u>OK For Navigation</u>	<u>OK For Bombing</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
389th	4	4	2	2	1 equipment malfunction 1 not yet determined
445th	4	4	4	4	
453rd	4	4	3	3	1 equipment malfunction
44th	7	7	6	6	1 equipment malfunction
392nd	6	6	5	5	1 equipment malfunction
491st	3	3	3	3	
93rd	4	4	4	4	
446th	4	4	4	4	
448th	4	4	3	3	1 equipment malfunction
458th	6	6	5	5	1 equipment malfunction
466th	4	4	4	4	
467th	6	6	6	6	
	<u>56</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>49</u>	

(1) H2X operation for this mission is considered satisfactory. One failure in electrical system caused set to be inoperative and six sets inoperative for navigating and bombing due to set malfunctions.

b. GEE operation for this mission was satisfactory. Some jamming was reported on both the Reims and Ruhr chains but operation was unrestricted.

F. O. 6261. Takeoff and Assemblya. Times

<u>Combat Wing</u>	<u>First Actual Takeoff</u>	<u>Assembly Altitudes</u>	<u>Briefed Time For CP 1</u>	<u>Assembly Time</u>
96th	0814	12,000	1023	2:09
14th	0827	13,000	1025	1:58
2nd	0850	12,000	1027	1:37

b. Takeoffs were without incident.

c. Assemblies were good with units departing on time and in good order.

2. Navigation - Penetration

a. Landfall was made five miles south of the briefed point due to navigational error. The Division column at this point was five minutes in length.

b. The route in to the first turning point at 0800E was as briefed. At this time the 453rd cut short the next point enroute in order to close up the Division column.

c. Approach to the IP was generally good although two Groups intercepted the GH track before the IP was reached.

d. The run from the IP to the target was as briefed - no trouble was reported.

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Tactical Analysis of Missions 12 March 1945 - F. O's 625 and 6263. Bombing Analysis

a. Six Squadrons of the 96th Combat Wing and two of the 14th Combat Wing attacked the Friedberg M/Y. Bombing was done by GH through 10/10 cloud with unobserved results.

b. Four Squadrons of the 14th Combat Wing and three Squadrons of the 2nd Combat Wing attacked the Wetzlar M/Y by GH through 10/10 clouds. All results were unobserved. Tracking signals were reported weak by most units although GH runs were accomplished. The lead of the 453rd Group had a C-1 malfunction. The run was successfully completed manually and all three Squadrons of this Group reported good coordinated runs.

4. Navigation - Withdrawal

a. Rally was good and made as briefed by the 44th Group, 14th Combat Wing. Both the following Wings cut short their rally points in order to close up the Division column.

b. The run through the flak gap was made good but crossing France, the Wings gradually drifted south of course and landfall out was six miles south of the briefed point. The Division column here was five minutes in length.

5. Fighter Support

a. The shallow penetration of all three Divisions had no close escort but four Groups - the 56th, 20th, 352nd, and 353rd flew patrol missions under MEW control in the target area.

6. Enemy Action Encountered

a. There was no enemy aircraft reaction.

b. No flak was experienced at the targets.

7. Losses

a. There were no losses.

8. Scouting Force

a. Planning - No operational weather difficulties were anticipated. Two aircraft were to scout and report target weather twenty minutes prior to target time.

b. Execution - Communication and reporting were good for all units. Scout effectively aided the 96th Combat Wing to rally.

9. Screening Force

a. Since targets were flak free, no force was deemed necessary.

10. Radar

a. GH Analysis

(1) All GH A/C dispatched, eighteen, reported fair to good results. No equipment or station failures were experienced. The 466th Group reported weak tracking signals - however all A/C made successful runs.

11. Comments

a. Despite a few weak points, the over-all execution of the mission to Swinemunde was excellent.

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C O N F I D E N T I A LTactical Analysis of Missions 12 March 1945 - F. O's 625 and 626

b. The high right Squadron of the 389th Group had weak H2X returns but bombed on the smoke markers of the preceding unit (Para. 3a above). This was in direct violation of Annex No. 2 to 2d Air Division's F.O. 625 (Para. X 14) which is quoted as follows: "H2X equipment will be functioning normally before any release is made. Bombs will not be dropped on smoke markers of preceding units. If the designated conditions cannot be complied with, the tertiary target will be attacked."

c. It is imperative that all crews be thoroughly briefed and fully understand all restrictions laid down by this and higher Headquarters.

d. It is felt that the time taken by the 96th and 14th Combat Wings to assemble six Squadrons each on the mission to Friedberg and Wetzlar was excessive, considering the altitude, and briefed and actual weather conditions.

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

2 Incls:

Incl 1 - Weather Summary - F. O. 625

Incl 2 - Weather Summary - F. O. 626

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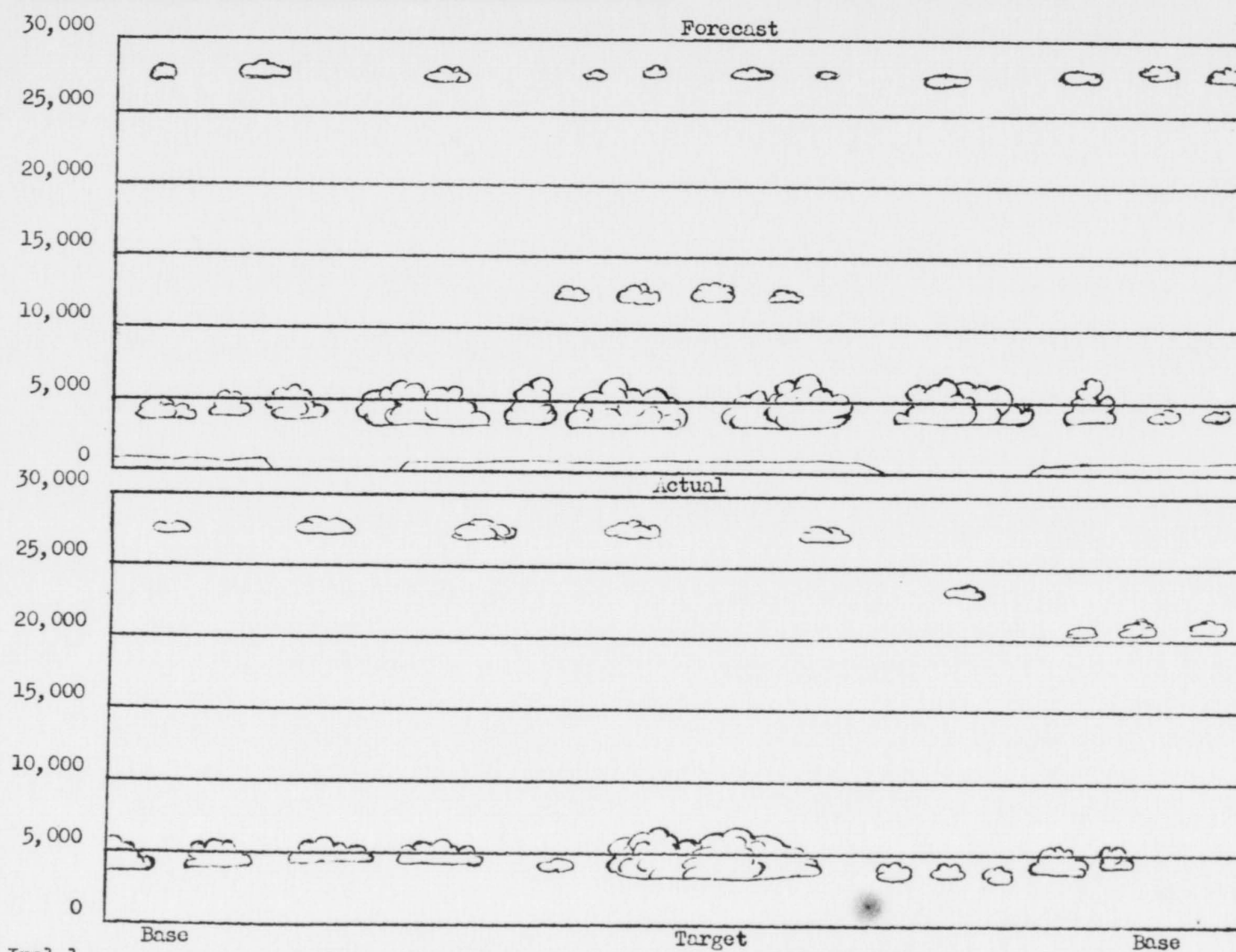
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Tactical Analysis of Mission 12 March 1945 - F. O. 625

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Incl 1

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Weather Summary

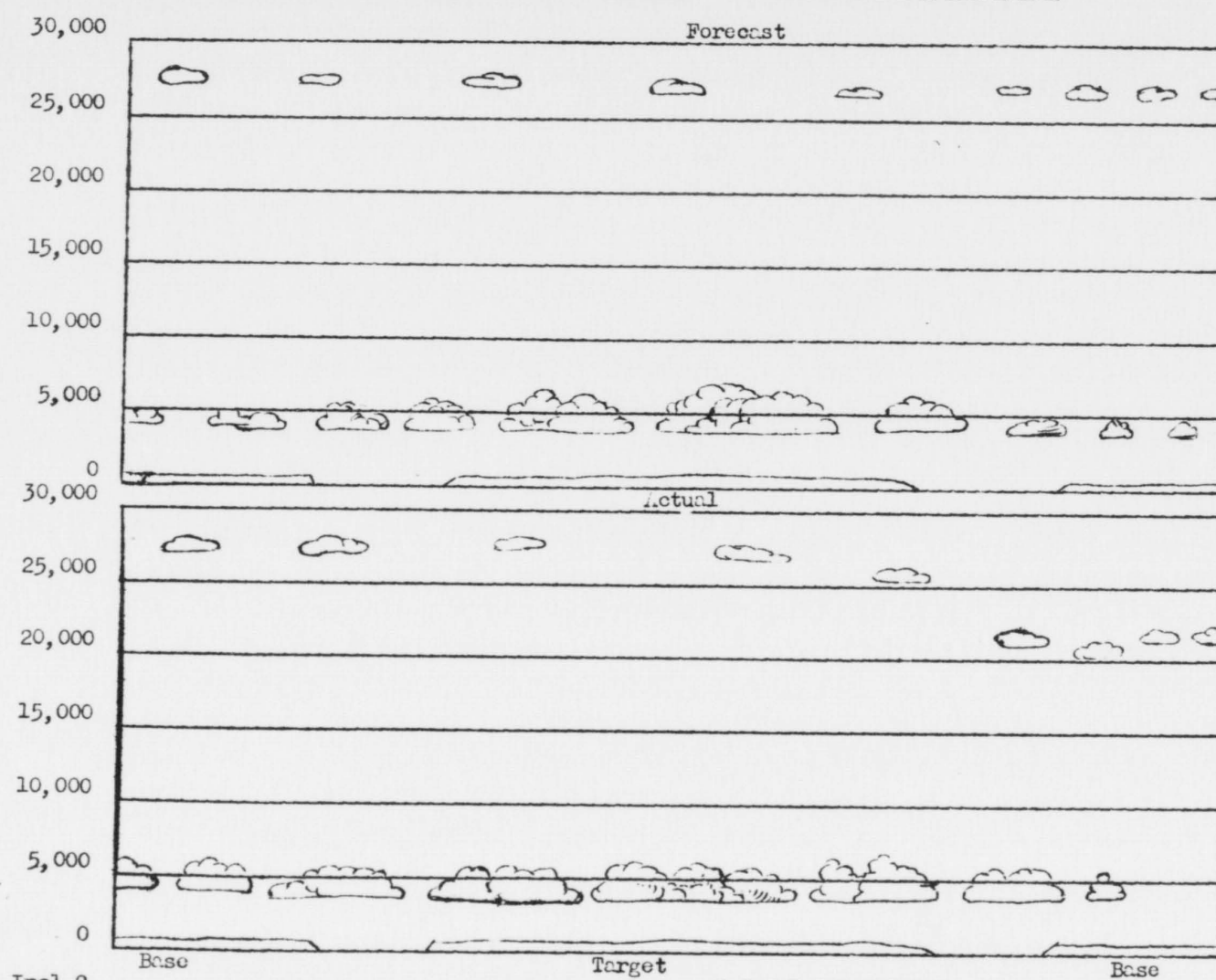
a. Forecast - Moderate persistent contrails within 1000 feet of cirrus. Target wind: at 20,000 feet - 350/40.

b. Actual - Nil contrails except over England on return at 16 - 18,000 feet. Winds and temperatures as forecast.

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Tactical Analysis of Mission 12 March 1945 - F.O. 626

C O N F I D E N T I A LWeather Summary

a. Forecast - Moderate persistent contrails within 1000 feet of cirrus.
Target wind: at 20,000 feet - 350/35.

b. Actual - Nil contrails except over England on return at 16 - 18,000 feet. Winds and temperatures as forecast.

Incl 2

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Group 458th

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

(Part 1)

Ordered Targets: Primary: Friedburg M/Y
Secondary: Geisen (H2X)

Date of Operation 12 March 1945

Division Field Order No. 626

[illegible]

NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIE SUMMARY (Part 3)

[illegible]

Lead Squadron - Lincoln Red # 1Dane-O'Neill

J3 : 910D

8AF

Craven

7V : 475D

2AD

Josephson

7V : 206S

Allen-Phillip

J3 : 261A

Scope - K-20

2AD-RCM

Bernhart

7V : 514B

2AD Cont.

Spratt

7V : 340N

8AF-RCM

Jackson, W.L.

7V : 270A

K-21

8AF Cont.

Haynes

7V : 502E

K-21

8AF

Allen

7V : 487R

2nd Squadron - Lincoln Red # 2Bowers-Quinn

J3 : 902M

RCM

Eidelsberg

J4 : 287J

8AF

LeJeunesse

J4 : 141U

Helfrecht

J3 : 557H

K-21

2AD

Hadden

J4 : 163M

8AF-RCM

Wilburn

J4 : 768Y

Williams, D.G.

J4 : 285H

K-21

8AF-RCM

Beckstrom

J4 : 273T

2AD

Duravich

J4 : 912D

K-21

2AD

Sealy

J4 : 408I

3rd Squadron - Lincoln Red # 3Dyer-Goodfriend

J3 : 544E

K-20

8AF

Fletcher

Z5 : 199A

2AD

Minor

Z5 : 578F

Mineker

J3 : 939G

K-21

8AF

Everett

Z5 : 183U

8AF-RCM

Rosen

Z5 : 456D

K-21

8AF

Sharp

Z5 : 179P

Mateer

Z5 : 196Q

2AD

Holtz

Z5 : 298E

K-21

SPARES

J3-837L

J3-516V

7V-352K

7V-4250

J4-555A

Z5-018J

Z5-059T

DISP.

(PFF) R/W 35

(Vis) 43

8AF 29

8AF 30

8AF 45

44

2AD 2

Assembly A/C - 366H - Lt. Krogh - 754th Sqdn.

Marshalling Chief - Lt. Sloan - 753rd Sqdn.

Marshalling Crews - 752nd & 753rd Sqdns.

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

2 X M17's

ORDER OF TAKE OFFR/W 23

WEST				EAST				WEST				EAST			
DISP	A/C	NO.	A/C	DISP.	A/C	NO.	A/C	DISP.	A/C	NO.	A/C	DISP.	A/C	NO.	A/C
		1	366H	4						16	163M	47			
25	910D	2								17	141U	40			
R/W 35	216A	3								18	912D	42			
33	475D	4								19	273T	38			
34	514B	5								20	285H	45			
29	206S	6								21	768Y	36			
34	487R	7								22	408I	42			
27	502E	8								23	199A	3			
33	270A	9								24	183U	51			
32	340N	10								25	578F	51			
23	902M	11								26	298E	1			
		12	557H	46						27	196Q	2			
		13	544E	39						28	179P	5			
R/W 35	939G	14								29	456D	6			
		15	287J	47						30	108B	4			

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
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	ALLEN, G	202	29	PHILLIP	D1	44-49261	261	A	J3	12	UNKNOWN 042	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	ALLEN, R	202	1			44-10487	487	R	7V	41	Girl on surfboard (no name)	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	BARNHART, L	202	19			42-51514	514	B	7V	22	BIG CHIEF LIL' BEAVER	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	BECKSTROM	202	33			44-40273	273	T	J4	48	HOWLING BANSHEE	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	BOWERS	202	27	QUINN	L2	44-49902	902	M	J3	1	UNKNOWN 043	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	CRAVEN	202	28			44-40475	475	D	7V	33	JOLLY ROGER	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	DANE	202	28	O'NEILL	L1	44-49910	910	D	J3	3	UNKNOWN 044	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	DANIEL	202	1			42-95108	108	B	Z5	64	ENVY OF 'EM ALL II	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	DURIAVICH	202	1			42-50912	912	D	J4	21	THE TRAVLIN' BAG	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	DYER	202	21	GOODFRIEND	L3	44-49544	544	E	J3	8	OH MONA!	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	EIDELBERG	202	23			44-40287	287	J	J4	51	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	EVERETT	202	19			42-95183	183	U	Z5	87	BRINEY MARLIN	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	FLETCHER	202	23			42-51199	199	A	Z5	34	UNKNOWN 023	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	HADDEN	202	26			42-110163	163	M	J4	70	TIME'S A WASTIN	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	HAYNES	202	34			42-50502	502	E	7V	46	LARRUPIN' LINDA	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	HELFRECHT	202	25			42-95557	557	H	J3	34	LADY PEACE	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	HOLTZ	202	2			44-40298	298	E	Z5	41	THE SHACK	ABORT - SORTIE CREDIT BOMBED VECHTA OT
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	JACKSON, WL	202	13			42-51270	270	A	7V	22	MY BUNNIE II	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	JOSEPHSON	202	32			42-51206	206	S	7V	52	THE PIED PIPER	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	KROGH	202	ASSY			42-100366	366	H	Z5	--	MIZPAH	ASSEMBLY CREW - 754
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	LaJEUNESSE	202	19			42-110141	141	U	J4	48	BREEZY LADY / MARIE / SUPERMAN	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	MATEER	202	1			42-51196	196	Q	J3	45	THE GYPSY QUEEN	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	MINOR	202	20			42-50578	578	F	Z5	42	SKY ROOM	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	MINSKER	202	3			42-51939	939	G	J3	23	UNKNOWN 028	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	ROSEN	202	10			42-50456	456	D	Z5	45	DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	SEALY	202	30			42-100408	408	I	J4	51	LADY LUCK / THE BEAST	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	SHARP	202	4			42-51179	179	P	Z5	76	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	SLOAN	202	MSHL			--		--	--	--		MARSHALING CHIEF-753RD
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	SPRATT	202	16			41-29340	340	N	7V	67	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	WILBURN	202	16			42-50768	768	Y	J4	38	ARISE MY LOVE AND COME WITH ME	
12-Mar-45	FRIEDBURG	WILLIAMS, DG	202	21			44-40285	285	H	J4	75	TABLE STUFF	