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HEADQUARTERS 2d AIR DIVISION  
APO 558

EE-S-4

373.2

29 March 1945

SUBJECT: Tactical Analysis of Mission 18 March 1945 - F. O. 631.

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
96th CBW	Berlin (Vis.)	Berlin (H2X)	87	84
14th CBW	" "	" "	86	83
2nd CBW	Hennigsdorf (Vis.)	" "	87	83
20th CBW	" "	" "	87	84
		2AD	347	334
		1AD	447	421
		3AD	528	509

1. Takeoff and Assembly

## a. Takeoff - Times

Combat Wing	First Actual Takeoff	Assembly Altitudes	Briefed Time For CP 1	Assembly Time
96th	0756	12,000	0948	1:52
14th	0757	12,500	0951	1:54
2nd	0750	12,000	0954	2:04
20th	0755	12,000	0957	2:02

## b. Takeoffs were without incident.

c. Assemblies - Normal - units departed on time. The 2nd and 20th Combat Wings made a small dogleg after Control Point A to achieve the briefed order and interval.

2. Navigation - Penetration

a. Landfall in was made at the briefed point on the Dutch coast - the Division column was eleven minutes long here. The lead of the 20th Combat Wing was forced to dogleg over the North Sea to keep from over-running preceding units.

b. Units flew the briefed route from landfall to the Dummer Lake area; after completing the Dummer Lake dogleg - the 20th Wing did not turn enough and cut short the next point. All other units made this point good.

c. Approaching the IP, the Division was troubled with clouds, haze and dense persistent contrails, which in some cases made it impossible to keep visual contact between Wings.

d. The 466th and 458th Group of the 96th Combat Wings made the IP good. The 467th over-ran the IP by ten miles in an endeavor to avoid contrails made by Groups ahead. On the bomb run, the H2X of the 466th Group went out and as it was too late to make a visual run on the target the unit decided to turn off and look for a target of opportunity.

e. All Groups of the 14th Wing made good the IP and bombed on the briefed heading.

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f. The 2nd Combat Wing was troubled by a group of stragglers from the 14th Wing. In an effort to stay out of contrails caused by these stragglers, the 389th swung wide at the IP. Persistent contrails caused the 445th and 453rd Groups to lose contact with the lead; however, all Groups made the run as briefed.

g. All Groups of the 20th Combat Wing made good the IP and made the briefed bomb run.

3. Bombing Analysis

a. The 96th Combat Wing (466th Group excepted) bombed the primary, Berlin. The 466th Group had difficulties on the bomb run - the Lead Squadron's H2X equipment went out and a visual run was not possible - the 2nd Squadron was to the extreme left of course - the 3rd Squadron's Lead Bombardier picked up the primary visually, but the pilot turned off the run to maintain group integrity. All three Squadrons bombed targets of opportunity: Ulzen, Oranienberg, and Wittstock. The results were unobserved. The 467th Group bombed visually by Squadrons. The lead A/C of both the Lead and the 2nd Squadron were hit by flak on the bomb run, causing the bombardier of the Lead Squadron to lose a sight of the aiming point; the lead A/C of 2nd Squadron was knocked out of formation; the deputy lead had the target in the sight, but was able to make only one course correction - damage results of the Lead and 2nd Squadrons were fair and 3rd Squadron's damage results were excellent. The 458th Group bombed visually with the aid of H2X equipment. The pattern of the 3rd Squadron has not been definitely established. Damage results of the Lead and 2nd Squadrons were from good to excellent.

b. The 14th Combat Wing bombed its primary, Berlin, by H2X equipment with some visual assistance. The HR Squadron of the 44th Group bombed the secondary by H2X. Heavy contrails, 3 - 9/10 clouds and intense flak were encountered on the bomb run. The damage results were from fair to excellent.

c. The 2nd Combat Wing bombed its primary, Hennigsdorf by H2X with some visual assistance. Five A/C of the HR Squadron of the 389th Group released early on intermittent signal by RBR. The LL Squadron (because of clouds and contrails) bombed the secondary. The damage results for the Group were excellent. The 453rd Group bombed the secondary target after the Lead Squadron had changed its MPI because of heavy bomb smoke. Excellent results on chosen MPI were achieved. The 445th, Lead Squadron, bombed the secondary - LL and HR Squadrons bombed the primary. The damage results for the Group were fair.

d. The 20th Combat Wing bombed both the secondary, Berlin, and the primary, Hennigsdorf. Bombing was done by H2X with some visual assistance. The 446th Group bombed the primary with poor results. The 448th Group bombed the secondary due to cloud coverage over the primary. Results were unobserved. The Lead Squadron of the 93rd Group bombed the primary with excellent damage results. The other two Squadrons bombed the secondary with poor damage results.

4. Navigation - Withdrawal

a. Clouds and contrails at flight altitude in the target area made rally almost impossible. The 458th Group lost its wing leader at the target and did not effect complete wing rally; however, rally was made with assorted units of various groups.

b. The 466th Group cut short the rally point and went on to bomb targets of opportunity at Ulzen and Wittstock.

c. The 467th Group over-ran the rally point but made the next turning point.

d. The 14th Combat Wing swung wide at the rally but made the next point good - the Wing rallied without too much difficulty.

e. The 2nd Wing made its rally as briefed.

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f. The 446th and 448th Groups cut their rally short to avoid contrails - but made good the next point on the route. The 93rd Group swung wide off the target and joined the rest of the Wing at the point after the rally.

g. The route from rally point to landfall out was made generally as briefed. Contrails were still causing trouble and formations were spread out.

h. Landfall out was made at the briefed point by all but the 2nd Wing which came out slightly south of course. The Division column at this point was seventeen minutes in length.

5. Fighter Support

a. Four Fighter Groups flew close escort for 21D Bombers. The Mosquito Observer aircraft and the 96th Combat Wing were covered by the 479th A and B Groups. The 14th, 2nd and 20th Combat Wings were covered respectively by the 4th A and B, 355th A and B and the 361st A and B Fighter Groups. Two other Fighter Groups were in the target area on free lance support to all 8th AF Bombers.

6. Enemy Action Encountered

a. A Jul88, darting in and out of the clouds, made two passes at a straggling B-24 in the vicinity of Ulzen. Each time P-51's from the 4th Group tried to intercept it but the aircraft evaded by escaping into clouds. Members of the 4th Group believe this Jul88 was radar controlled. The B-24 was safely escorted to friendly territory where it landed at Brussels. Two other sightings of jet aircraft were made but no encounters ensued.

b. Flak at Berlin varied from light to moderate to intense - inaccurate to accurate.

7. Losses

a. One aircraft, 467th Group - Hit by AA over Berlin - Seen to go down in flames - Two to five chutes seen.

b. One aircraft, 467th Group - Hit by AA over Berlin - Seen spiralling down - Approximately seven chutes seen.

8. Scouting Force

a. Plan - There was a possibility of scattered middle cloud, tops 18,000 feet, and scattered high cloud, bases 22,000 feet, along the route. It was planned to use a route force thirty minutes in advance of the Bombers and a target force reporting weather at TOT minus twenty minutes. A non-operational P-51 stood by for possible use over the Channel.

b. Execution -

(1) A B-24 was used over the Channel in lieu of the P-51.

(2) Scouts furnished good weather information.

(3) No communications were maintained between the Scouts and the 96th and 20th Combat Wing Leaders due to R/T difficulties in the wing A/C. However, weather information was relayed and transmitted to all Combat Wings.

9. Screening Force

a. Plan - Four Mosquito A/C to fly the normal screening maneuver.

b. Execution -

(1) Division Leader was unable to establish R/T contact with the

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Screening Force and lost visual contact upon entering the contrails and haze prior to the IP.

(2) Screening Force report executing the operation as planned.

(3) The 96th Wing (Lead) reported intense and inaccurate to accurate flak. The only two NYR A/C were from the 2nd group over the target (467th Group).

10. Radar

## a. H2X Analysis

Group	A/C Dispatched	A/C Over Target	OK For Navigation	OK For Bombing	Remarks
389th	4	4	4	4	
445th	4	4	3	3	1 equipment malfunction
453rd	3	3	3	3	
44th	4	4	3	3	1 equipment malfunction
392nd	4	4	4	4	
491st	3	3	3	3	
93rd	4	4	4	4	
446th	4	4	4	4	
448th	3	3	3	2	1 equipment malfunction
458th	5	5	4	4	1 equipment malfunction
466th	4	4	2	2	1 flak damage
467th	4	3	3	3	1 equipment malfunction
	<u>46</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>39</u>	1 MIA

(1) H2X operation for this mission is considered unsatisfactory. Failures were due to mechanical causes and could not be corrected by the H2X navigator.

b. GEE operation for this mission was satisfactory. Pulse jamming was reported on both the Ruhr and Rheims chains - fixes were obtained as far east as 0930E.

By command of Major General KEEPNER:

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

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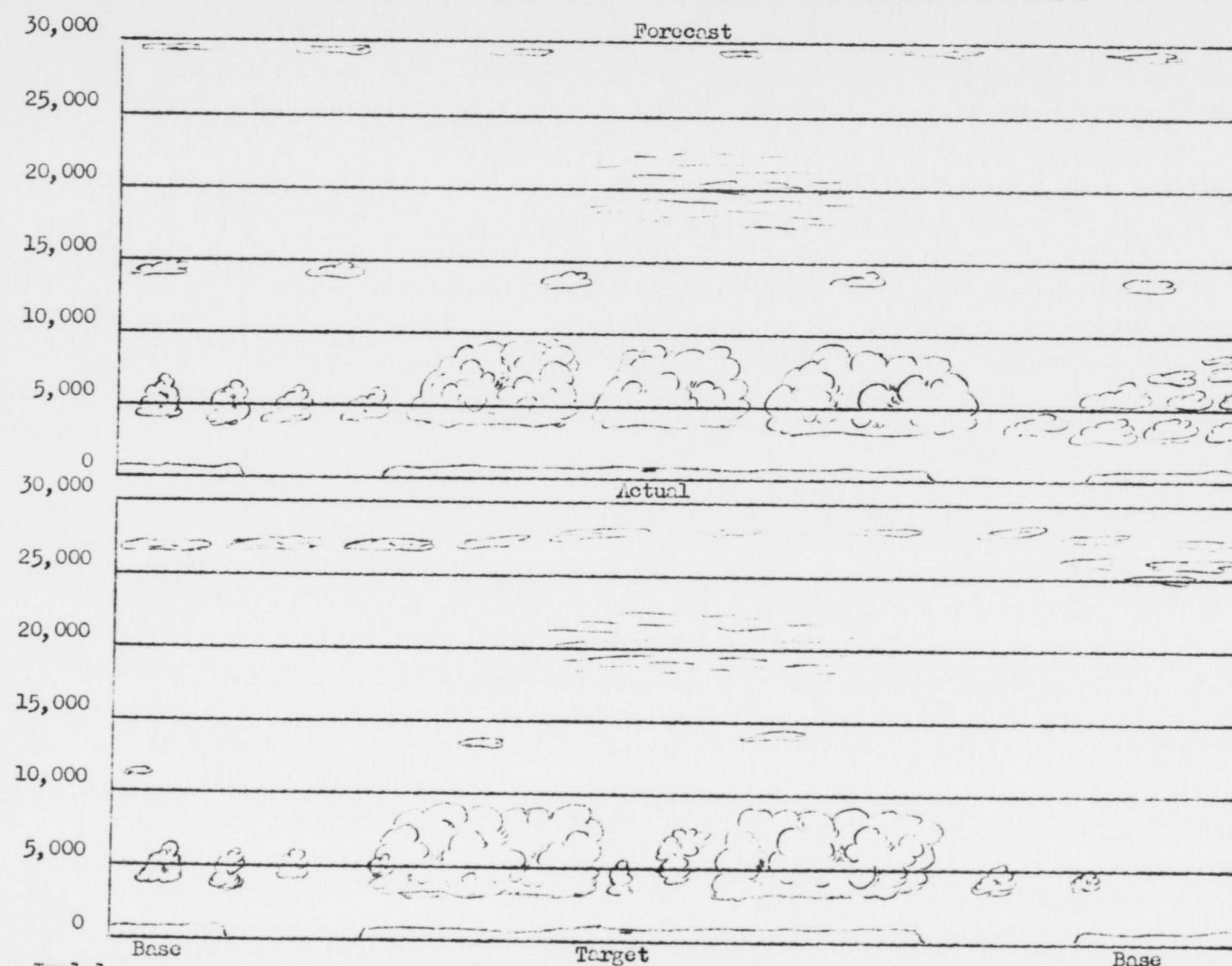
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Incl 1

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Weather Summary

a. Forecast - Dense persistent contrails associated with thin alto-stratus and haze aloft. Moderate semi-persistent contrails above thin alto-stratus and haze. Target wind: at 20,000 - 350/60.

b. Actual - Winds and temperatures aloft as forecast. Contrails moderate to dense persistent - associated with haze layer base 19 - 20,000 feet, top 25 - 26,000 feet from 1100E to the target.

NOTE: The pictured weather summary contained in the tactical analysis of the mission 4 March 1945, F.O. 618, is erroneously presented: the "forecast" and "actual" pictures should be reversed.

Group 1581b

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

(Part 1)

Ordered Targets: Primary: ~~Berlin-Tegel Arm. & Ord. Works~~  
Secondary: ~~Berlin-Tegel Arm. & Ord. Works~~

E2X

Date of Operation 18 March 1945 Division Field Order No. 631

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
14	9	9	9	9	-	9	FT	Berlin/Tegel	384 100# M47 (Incendi)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0810	217	-
2	10	10	10	10	-	10	FT	Berlin/Tegel	478 100# M 47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	10	10	10	10	-	10	FT	Berlin/Tegel	436 100# M 47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	29	29	29	29	-	29	FT	Berlin/Tegel	1298 100# M47	-	-	-	-	-	-	0810	217	

## NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIE SUMMARY (Part 3)

[illegible]

## FORMATION PLAN

MISSION #334

18 MARCH 1945

LEAD SQUADRONBowers - CAPT QUINN

J3 : 669J

Scope-K-20

2AD(Cont)

Sealy

J4 : 912D

K-22

RCM

LaJeunesse

Z5 : 126K RCM

K-21

8AF(Cont)

Durievich

Z5 : 456D

Healy - CAPT BRECKINRIDGE

J3 : 837L

Scope

2AD

McCoy

Z5 : 298E

K-21

Hadden

J4 : 539G

Kelly

Z5 : 018J

Wilburn

Z5 : 108B

SECOND SQUADRONHelfrecht

J3 : 743F

Scope-K-20

2AD

Minor

Z5 : 578F

K-21

8AF

Rhoades

Z5 : 179F

K-21

2AD

Thomas

Z5 : 059T

McCartney

J3 : 5750

2AD-RCM

Patak

Z5 : 6400

8AF

Hodge

Z5 : 366H

RCM

Beck

Z5 : 196Q

K-21

8AF

Welch

Z5 : 183U

8AF

Sanders

Z5 : 199A

THIRD SQUADRONMitchell

J3 : 684B

8AF

Haynes

TV : 502E

8AF

Josephson

TV : 487A

Hoffman

J3 : 557H

2AD-RCM

Sievertson

TV : 514B

8AF

Burman

TV : 457Q

Clutter

TV : 4250

2AD-RCM

Tabbe

TV : 110M

K-21

8AF

Brown

TV : 352K

8AF

Laird

TV : 270A

K-21

SPACES

J3 939G PFF (Scope)	41	Z5 305N 2AD	51
J3 629K PFF	35	TV 567G 8AF	29
J3 499U Vis	21	TV 316H 2AD	33
Z5 120M 2AD	46		

MARSHALLING PLAN ON REVERSE SIDE

## 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
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	BECK	206	2			42-51196	196	Q	J3	49	THE GYPSY QUEEN	OPS REPORT SHOWS FLETCHER
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	BOWERS	206	28	QUINN	L1	42-51669	669	J	J3	20	UNKNOWN 026	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	BROWN, C	206	3			41-29352	352	K	7V	82	WOLVE'S LAIR	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	BURMAN	206	18			42-52457	457	Q	7V	104	FINAL APPROACH	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	CLUTTER	206	3			42-100425	425	O	7V	68	THE BIRD	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	DURIAVICH	206	2			42-50456	456	D	Z5	48	DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	HADDEN	206	27			44-50539	539	G	J4	1	UNKNOWN 045	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	HAYNES	206	36			42-50502	502	E	7V	49	LARRUPIN' LINDA	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	HEALY	206	28	BRECKENRIDGE	D1	44-48837	837	L	J3	17	UNKNOWN 041	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	HELFRECHT	206	26		L2	42-51743	743	F	J3	21	UNKNOWN 006	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	HODGE	206	12			42-100366	366	H	Z5	70	MIZPAH	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	HOFFMAN	206	14			42-95557	557	H	J3	37	LADY PEACE	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	JOSEPHSON	206	34			44-10487	487	R	7V	43	Girl on surfboard (no name)	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	KELLY	206	14			42-95018	018	J	Z5	91	OLD DOC'S YACHT	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	LAIRD	206	12			42-51270	270	A	7V	25	MY BUNNIE II	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	LaJEUNESSE	206	20			44-40126	126	K	Z5	69	SPITTEN KITTEN / SKY TRAMP	TYPO (S/B "L")
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	McCARTNEY	206	10			42-50575	575	O	J3	25	UNKNOWN 020	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	McCOY	206	12			44-40298	298	E	Z5	42	THE SHACK	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	MINOR	206	22			42-50578	578	F	Z5	46	SKY ROOM	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	MITCHELL	206	26		L3	42-50684	684	B	J3	14	A&G FISH SHOPPE	EMERG LAND BELG B-58
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	PATAK	206	19			42-50640	640	O	Z5	34	BUGS BUNNY	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	RHOADES	206	22			42-51179	179	P	Z5	78	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	SANDERS	206	3			42-51199	199	A	Z5	37	UNKNOWN 023	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	SEALY	206	31			42-50912	912	D	J4	23	THE TRAVLIN' BAG	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	SIEVERTSON	206	29			42-51514	514	B	7V	26	BIG CHIEF LIL' BEAVER	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	TEBBS	206	34			42-51110	110	M	7V	90	TOP O' THE MARK	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	THOMAS	206	4			42-110059	059	T	Z5	71	UNKNOWN 056	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	WELCH	206	2			42-95183	183	U	Z5	90	BRINEY MARLIN	
18-Mar-45	BERLIN	WILBURN	206	17			42-95108	108	B	Z5	68	ENVY OF 'EM ALL II	