

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 2d AIR DIVISION  
APO 558

EE-S-4

373.2

31 March 1945

SUBJECT: Tactical Analysis of Mission 19 March 1945 - F. O. 632.

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
14th CEW	Neuburg (Vis.)	Murzburg M/Y (M2X)	82	82
2nd CEW	" "	" " "	87	86
" "	Baumenheim "	" " "		
20th CEW	" "	" " "	84	82
96th CEW	Leipheim "	" " "	87	86
		2AD	340	336

1. Takeoff, Assembly and DAL

a. Takeoffs were normal.

b. Continental Assembly Plan A was used on this mission. 2nd and 20th Combat Wings reported buncher signals weak and their assemblies were slow.

Combat Wing	First Actual Takeoff	Assembly Altitudes	Briefed Time For CP 1	Assembly Time
14th	0945	10,000	1255	3:10
2nd	1030	10,000	1258	2:28
20th	1024	10,000	1302	2:38
96th	1011	10,000	1304	2:53

c. The Division assembly was very good, with all units being in good formation.

2. Navigation - Penetration

a. Departure from the assembly area was five minutes ahead of schedule. From the assembly area to Control Point 1, all units were about five miles south of course. From this point to the IP, the courses were very accurate except for the 491st Group, which, because it was late at the DAL, was forced to fly directly to the IP.

b. In approaching the IP and turning into the targets, all units were forced down to altitudes lower than briefed by haze, contrails, and poor visibility. All IP's were made good at the lower levels and targets were attacked visually (as far as smoke and haze would permit).

3. Bombing Analysis

a. The 14th Combat Wing was assigned the airfield at Neuburg, which was attacked with fair to excellent results. Some difficulty was encountered with haze and bomb smoke.

b. The 2nd Combat Wing was assigned the airfield at Neuburg and the Baumenheim Messerschmitt AG Factory. The 453rd Group, attacking Neuburg, experienced difficulty with contrails which caused the bombing altitude to be lowered. Some conflict was caused by two Squadrons of the 14th Wing through interference on the bomb run. The Lead Squadron bombardier synchronized on smoke.

971

CONFIDENTIAL

U 7 2 5

CONFIDENTIAL

TI

Tactical Analysis of Mission 19 March 1945 - F. O. 632

from previous bombing and dropped short of the MPI. Two Squadrons of the 445th Group synchronized short of the MPI and displaced the crosshairs into the smoke. Results were poor to excellent for these two Groups. Three Squadrons of the 389th Group and one of the 453rd Group attacked the Messerschmitt plant at Baumenheim with good to excellent results.

c. The 20th Combat Wing was assigned the Baumenheim Messerschmitt AG factory which was attacked with poor to excellent results. Dense persistent contrails necessitated lowering the bombing altitude and caused difficulty in identifying the aiming point. The 93rd Group was somewhat scattered at the bomb release point as a result of lowering the bombing altitude shortly before bombs away. One Squadron of the 446th Group, flying HR on the 93rd Group, had a C-1 auto-pilot malfunction. This, in conjunction with heavy bomb smoke over the MPI, explains the poor bombing of this Squadron.

d. The 96th Combat Wing was assigned the airfield at Leipheim, which was attacked with excellent results. No serious difficulties were encountered.

4. Navigation - Withdrawal

a. The units rallied well off the targets and quickly turned to briefed course.

b. At this point the visibility was restricted by haze and contrails through which the Division force climbed to pass safely over the flak area. The courses followed were good - all being within five miles of the briefed route.

c. After passing the flak area, the Division let down on course to the coast. Landfall was made in good order. The Division column cleared the coast within a fifteen minute interval and within five miles of the briefed point.

5. Fighter Support

a. Headquarters, Eighth Air Force assigned to the 2d Air Division the following Fighter Groups for close support: 355th A and B, on the 14th Wing and Command Mosquito; 4th A and B, on 2nd Wings; 361 A and B, on the 20th Wing; and the 479th, on the 96th Wing.

6. Enemy Action Encountered

a. There were numerous encounters with enemy aircraft but none of the 2AD Bombers was attacked. 4th Group claims 1-0-0 (air). One Squadron, 479th Group swept back along Bomber route after breaking escort - 20 plus FW 190's and Me109's with experienced and aggressive pilots were encountered over Munster A/D with claims of 3-0-0 (air) for no loss.

b. Flak at the targets was nil - some meager inaccurate flak was experienced at the battle line upon withdrawal.

7. Losses

a. One A/C, 44th Group - NYR - no further information available.

8. Scouting Force

a. Planning - The normal target force was planned. It was to report target weather twenty minutes before target time. In addition, a route Scouting Force was planned.

b. Execution - Haze, dense persistent contrails, and cirrus at 19,000 feet were encountered in the vicinity of the IP. Units bombed visually beneath the cirrus cloud.

(1) Low ceiling and poor visibilities were encountered on return and Scouts were of great help in getting the Bombers back.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS

Tactical Analysis of Mission 19 March 1945 - F. O. 632

9. Screening Force

a. No Screening Force was utilized since the assigned targets were not heavily defended.

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	3	3	3	3	
453rd	4	4	4	4	
44th	5	4	3+1	3+1	1 A/C NTR
392nd	3	3	2	2	1 Equipment malfunction
491st	4	4	4	4	
93rd	4	3	2	2	1 abort
446th	3	3	2	2	1 equipment malfunction
448th	4	4	2	2	1 equipment malfunction
458th	4	4	4	4	
466th	4	4	4	4	
467th	4	4	4	4	
	46	44	38+1	38+1	

(1) H2X operation for this mission is considered satisfactory. Neither the 2nd nor the 96th Combat Wings had any set failures. Forty-four H2X A/C were over the target and thirty-eight were satisfactory for bombing. One A/C of the 44th Group was flown without an H2X navigator. The six set failures were due to mechanical failures which the H2X navigator could not remedy. These same six sets were also unsatisfactory for navigating.

b. GEE operation for this mission was satisfactory. Jamming was reported on both Ruhr and Rhine Chains but operation was unrestricted. Ruhr and Saar Chains operated to 10 E.

11. Bomb and Gas Loads

Combat Wing	Recommended Gas Load	Actual Gas Load	2nd F.O. 632 Bomb Load	Actual Bomb Load As Prescribed
2nd	2700	2700 (Topped)	5 Sqdns 10x500GP 3 Sqdns 10x17's	" " "
14th	2700	2700 (Topped)	6 Sqdns 10x500GP 2 Sqdns 10x17's	" " "
20th	2700	2700 (Topped)	6 Sqdns 10x500GP 2 Sqdns 10x17's	" " "
96th	2700	2700 (Topped)	6 Sqdns 10x500GP 3 Sqdns 10x17's	" " "

(1) Five A/C 44th Group, one A/C 466th Group, one A/C 458th Group, and one A/C 453rd Group landed on the Continent because of fuel shortage - a direct result of excessive assembly time. Thirty minutes should be sufficient for group assembly under favorable weather conditions. The 491st Group allowed sixty minutes for its assembly.

(2) Some units had ten to fifteen minutes to spare between completion of assembly and departure from the assembly area.

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED



C O N F I D E N T I A LTactical Analysis of Mission 19 March 1945 - F. O. 63212. Comments

a. This mission brings home again the extreme importance of a thorough study of the target area to facilitate off set bombing in restricted visibility and bomb smoke.

b. Some Squadron Leaders showed excellent initiative and aggressiveness in lowering their bombing altitude to get below the heavy contrails. Air Commanders and Squadron Leaders should pay particular attention to the flak briefing so that, in such instances, a sound decision as to lowering the bombing altitude can be made, as in this instance.

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

T  
H  
I  
S  
  
P  
A  
G  
E  
  
I  
S  
  
U  
N  
C  
L  
A  
S  
S  
I  
F  
I  
E  
D

- 4 -

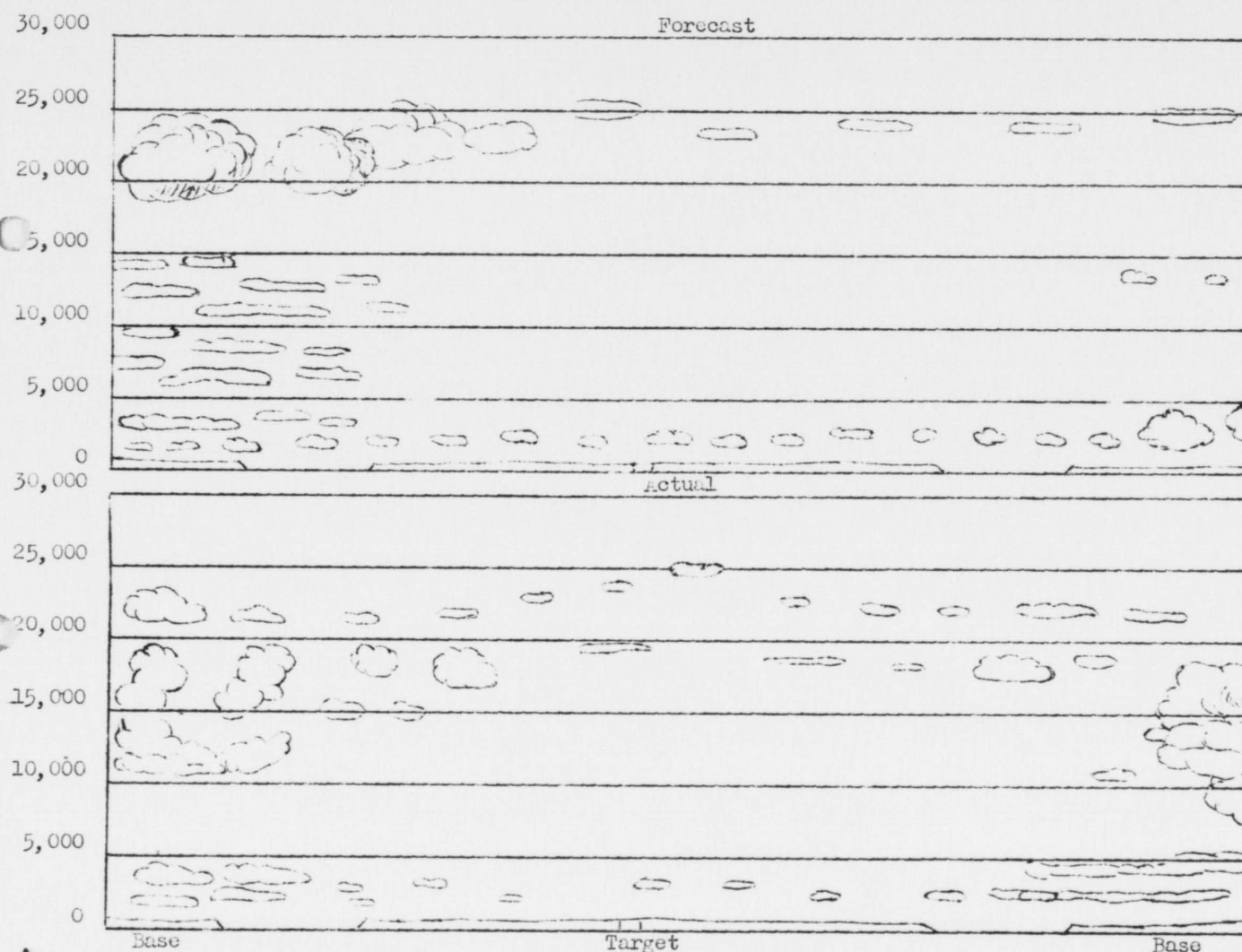
C O N F I D E N T I A L

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

Tactical Analysis of Mission 19 March 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Weather Summary

a. Forecast - Moderate to dense persistent contrails associated with high cloud. Target winds: at 15,000 - 330/30; at 20,000 - 340/40.

b. Actual - Contrails - dense persistent associated with haze layer or thin cirrus base 17 - 20,000 feet, top 23 - 25,000 feet - 0700E to targets. Temperatures aloft 3 - 5 degrees warmer than forecast - winds aloft as forecast.

Incl 1

CONFIDENTIAL

Primary: **Leipheim A/F**

(Part 1)

Ordered Targets: Secondary: **Wurzburg M/Y**

Date of Operation 19 March 1945

Division Field Order No. 632

Squad- ron	Sorties		Credit Sort- ies	Effect ive Sort- ies	Non Effect ive Sort- ies	No. A/C Bomb- ing	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	-	9	PT	Leipheim A/F	82 500# ML7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1015	261	Bombed with 93rd Bomb Gp
2	10	10	10	10	-	9	PT	Leipheim A/F	86 500# ML7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
						1	PT	Baumenheim Arm. Wks	10 500# ML7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
3	10	10	10	10	-	10	PT	Leipheim A/F	31 500# GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
									64 500# RDX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
									1 500# Mcl2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTALS	29	29	29	29	-	1 28	PT PT	Baumenheim Arm Wrks Leipheim A/F	10 500# ML7 168 500# ML7 31 500# GP 64 500# RDX 1 500# Mcl2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1015	261	

NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIE SUMMARY (Part 3)

[illegible]

19 March 1945

Lead Squadron - Lincoln Red # 1Chimblee-Simes

J3 : 902M

K-20

2AD RCM

8AF

Ellis-Black

J3 : 939G

Scope

2AD

Grice

TV : 110M

K-21

Simpson

TV : 270A

K-21

2AD Cont.

8AF

Jackson, W.L.

TV : 567G

8AF Cont.

Holmgren

TV : 340N

8AF

Josephson

TV : 487R

Clutter

TV : 316H

Webb

TV : 502E-RCM

K-22

Bomb Load - 10 X M17's

2nd Squadron - Lincoln Red # 2Bisbee-Lavalle

J3 : 743F

Scope

2AD

2AD

Johnson

J3 : 516V

Hartwick

J4 : 477P

K-21

Warrell

J4 : 163M

K-21

RCM

Dantler

J4 : 980V

2AD

Hood

J4 : 539B

RCM

Sloan

Z5 : 196Q

Gilbert

J4 : 287J

Montgomery

J4 : 912D

K-21

8AF-RCM

Brown

J4 : 768Y

Bomb Load - 10 X M17's

3rd Squadron - Lincoln Red # 3Pollard

J3 : 628K

K-20

8AF-RCM

Rosen

Z5 : 456D

K-21

8AF

Everett

Z5 : 183U

K-21

8AF

Daniel

Z5 : 179P

2AD

Welch

Z5 : 578F

2AD

Herd

Z5 : 018J

2AD

Snyder

Z5 : 298E

Mateer

Z5 : 120M

K-21

8AF

Allen

Z5 : 199A

Bomb Load - 10 X 500# GP's  
1/10N - 1/100TSPARES:DISP.

J3-613T (Vis)	24	M17's
J3-499U (Vis)	21	500# GP's
TV-352K 8AF	32	M17's
TV-4250	30	M17's

SPARES:

Z5-108B	45	M17's
Z5-126L	46	500# GP's
Z5-6400	49	500# GP's

DISP.ORDER OF TAKE OFF

P/A 23

WEST	DISP.	A/C	NO.	A/C	EAST	DISP.	A/C	NO.	A/C	EAST	DISP.
25	902M	1			16	539B	42				
		2	939G	41	17	163M	38				
		3	743F	37	18	196Q	53				
		4	516V	35	19	912D	42				
		5	628K	39	20	287J	43				
19	608W	6			21	768Y	38				
31	110M	7			22	456D	R/W 28				
29	567G	8			23	578F	R/W 28				
31	340N	9			24	018J	44				
33	270A	10			25	183U	51				
32	487R	11			26	298E	R/W 28				
27	502E	12			27	120M	46				
33	316H	13			28	179P	49				
		14	277P	40	29	199A	53				
		15	980V	43							

## 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
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	ALLEN, R	207	2			42-51199	199	A	Z5	38	UNKNOWN 023	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	BROWN, R	207	10			42-50768	768	Y	J4	39	ARISE MY LOVE AND COME WITH ME	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	CHIMPLES	207	28	SIMES	L1	44-49902	902	M	J3	3	UNKNOWN 043	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	CLUTTER	207	4			42-95316	316	H	7V	94	PRINCESS PAT	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	DANIEL	207	3			42-51179	179	P	Z5	79	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	DANTLER	207	3			41-28980	980	V	J4	25	UNKNOWN 009	BOMBED WITH 93BG
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	EISERT	207	28	LaVALLE	L2	42-51743	743	F	J3	22	UNKNOWN 006	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	ELLIS	207	9	BLACK	D1	42-51939	939	G	J3	26	UNKNOWN 028	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	EVERETT	207	22			42-95183	183	U	Z5	91	BRINEY MARLIN	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	GILBERT	207	2			44-40287	287	J	J4	52	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	NYR - PROB LANED IN FRANCE (EINDHOVEN GAS)
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	GRICE	207	34			42-51110	110	M	7V	91	TOP O' THE MARK	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	HARTSWICK	207	12			44-40277	277	P	J4	50	MISS USED	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	HERDTI	207	16			42-95018	018	J	Z5	92	OLD DOC'S YACHT	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	HOLMGREN	207	4			41-29340	340	N	7V	70	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	HOOD	207	33			44-50539	539	B	J4	2	UNKNOWN 045	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	JACKSON, WL	207	15			41-29567	567	G	7V	17	MY BUNNIE / BAMBI	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	JOHNSON, C	207	12			42-50516	516	V	J3	28	STARDUST	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	JOSEPHSON	207	35			44-10487	487	R	7V	44	Girl on surfboard (no name)	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	MATEER	207	3			42-95120	120	M	Z5	82	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	MONTGOMERY	207	4			42-50912	912	D	J4	24	THE TRAVLIN' BAG	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	POLLIARD	207	20		L3	42-95628	628	K	J3	19	UNKNOWN 038	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	ROSEN	207	13			42-50456	456	D	Z5	49	DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	SIMPSON	207	29			42-51270	270	A	7V	26	MY BUNNIE II	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	SLOAN	207	2			42-51196	196	Q	J3	50	THE GYPSY QUEEN	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	SNYDER	207	2			44-40298	298	E	Z5	43	THE SHACK	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	TEBBS	207	35			42-50502	502	E	7V	50	LARRUPIN' LINDA	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	WARRELL	207	31			42-110163	163	M	J4	72	TIME'S A WASTIN	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	WELCH	207	3			42-50578	578	F	Z5	47	SKY ROOM	
19-Mar-45	LEIPHEIM	WILLIAMS, DK	207	22			42-50608	608	W	J3	24	FILTHY McNAUGHTY	LISTED ONLY AS "WILLIAMS"