

THIS

HEADQUARTERS 2d AIR DIVISION  
APO 558

EE-S-4

373.2

3 April 1945

SUBJECT: Tactical Analysis of Mission 22 March 1945 - F. O. 636.

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	L/C DISPATCHED	L/C OVER TARGET
14th CBW	Schwabisch-Hall (Vis.)	Wurzburg (Vis. Or H2X)	83	82
2nd CBW	Giebelstadt "	" " " "	87	84
20th CBW	Kitzingen "	" " " "	85	84
96th CBW	" "	" " " "	87	85
		21D	342	335

1. Takeoff, Assembly and D/L

a. Takeoffs and assembly were accomplished without incident. Units left the coast on time and in good order.

Combat Wing	First Actual Takeoff	Assembly Altitudes	Briefed Time For CP 1	Assembly Time
14th	0755	8,000	0945	1:50
2nd	0800	9,000	0948	1:48
20th	0811	8,000	0951	1:40
96th	0759	8,000	0954	1:55

2. Navigation - Penetration

a. All units penetrated in good order from the coast of England to the target. Routes were flown exactly as briefed. Times were slightly slow due to a decrease of wind velocity.

3. Bombing Analysis

a. All bombing was visual. The 2nd Combat Wing bombed its primary, the airfield at Giebelstadt. The damage results were excellent with damage done to runways, hangars, and L/C, and repair shops. The only difficulties that were experienced were: haze over the target, and the HR of the 445th being unable to drop bombs on the primary because the 11 Squadron was underneath it at the time for bombs away. The HR, 445th, bombed the secondary, Wurzburg, with excellent damage results.

b. The 14th Combat Wing bombed its primary, Schwabisch-Hall, with excellent damage results. Haze and heavy bomb smoke were difficulties experienced on the bomb run. Runways, hangars and repair shops received considerable damage.

c. The 20th Combat Wing, bombing its primary Kitzingen, had from very good to excellent damage results. Four Squadrons were assigned an area target - the other Squadrons damaged gun emplacements, L/C, repair shops, and large hangars. The 96th Combat Wing bombed the same target, Kitzingen, with damage results being fair to excellent.

d. Actual bombing altitudes ranged from 13,200 - 16,500 feet - the briefed bombing altitude was 15,000 feet.

4. Navigation - Withdrawal

a. The route flown by the 14th Combat Wing, leading the Division,

- 1 -

971

CONFIDENTIAL

0709

CONFIDENTIAL

TH

Tactical Analysis of Mission 22 March 1945

on withdrawal was excellent. The 2nd Combat Wing, next in column, had two Groups about ten miles north of course while withdrawing through the front line flak defenses on the way out but returned to course at 0730E. From there out, the route was slightly south of course, being ten miles off at landfall. Next in the column, the 20th Combat Wing was well on course until 1446 where it deviated to avoid coast but as briefed due to an enemy position there. The entire Wing followed. The 96th Combat Wing, last in the column, was within three miles of course on the way out to landfall.

b. The deviation from route, as explained by the 93rd Group leading the 20th Combat Wing, from a navigational standpoint, spoiled as nearly a perfect mission as the 2nd Division has ever flown. Decisions to alter briefed routes are justified to avoid weather to attack secondary or last resort targets, or to avoid interference with other friendly formations, only. Other decisions to alter briefed routes in the air are based on insufficient knowledge of the situation and are not justified.

5. Fighter Support

a. Three Fighter Groups were assigned as close escort to 2d Air Division Bombers. The 55th A and B Groups covered the 14th Combat Wing, the 78th A and B covered the 2nd Combat Wing and the 355th A and B covered the 20th and 96th Wings respectively. No free lance support was available due to the fact that Eighth Air Force Fighters were also being used to escort the RAF and the 15th Air Force.

6. Enemy Action Encountered

a. Fighters report sighting several Me262's attempting to attack Bombers but warded off their attack. The 55th Group intercepted two single 262's, making passes, claiming one damaged. The 78th Group sighted several 262's and an Me163 near the Bomber IP but drove them off, destroying one. 2d Air Division Bombers reported no sighting of enemy aircraft so apparently Fighter escort was doing a good job. The 4th Group of the 65th Fighter Wing, escorting 15th Air Force B-17's caught 15 FW190's forming up over Furstenwalde A/D with claims of 11-1-3 for no loss. The 355th Group in strafing attacks claimed 12-0-9 for the loss of one A/C.

b. No flak was experienced at the targets.

7. Losses

a. There were no losses.

8. Scouting Force

a. Planning - The normal target and penetration forces were planned; however, the target force was to report target weather forty-five minutes early to allow units to let down and bomb from 15,000 feet if visual conditions existed.

b. Execution - No weather difficulties were encountered.

9. Screening Force

a. A screening force was not planned as the targets were flak free.

10. Radar

a. H2X Analysis

Group	A/C Dispatched	A/C Over Target	OK For Navigation	OK For Bombing	Remarks
389th	3	3	3	3	
445th	4	3	2	2	1 non-effective 1 equipment malfunction

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

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

CONFIDENTIAL

## Tactical Analysis of Mission 22 March 1945

453rd	4	4	3	3	1 equipment malfunction
44th	4	4	4	4	
392nd	4	4	4	4	
491st	3	3	3	3	
93rd	4	4	3	3	1 equipment malfunction
446th	2	2	2	2	
448th	4	4	4	4	
458th	4	4	4	4	
467th	4	4	3	3	1 equipment malfunction
466th	4	4	4	4	
	<u>44</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>39</u>	

(1) H2X performance on this mission is considered satisfactory. There were four set failures which could not be repaired in the air.

b. GEE performance on this mission is considered satisfactory. Jamming was reported on the Ruhr and Rheims chains, but operation was unrestricted. Fixes on the Saar chain were obtained past 0900E. Four GEE failures out of a total of 338 GEE A/C dispatched were reported.

11. Comments

a. This was an outstanding day in the history of 2d Air Division bombing.

b. The superior navigation on this mission by the 14th Combat Wing, leading the Division, is deserving of high praise. The 96th Combat Wing also did an excellent job of navigation.

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

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

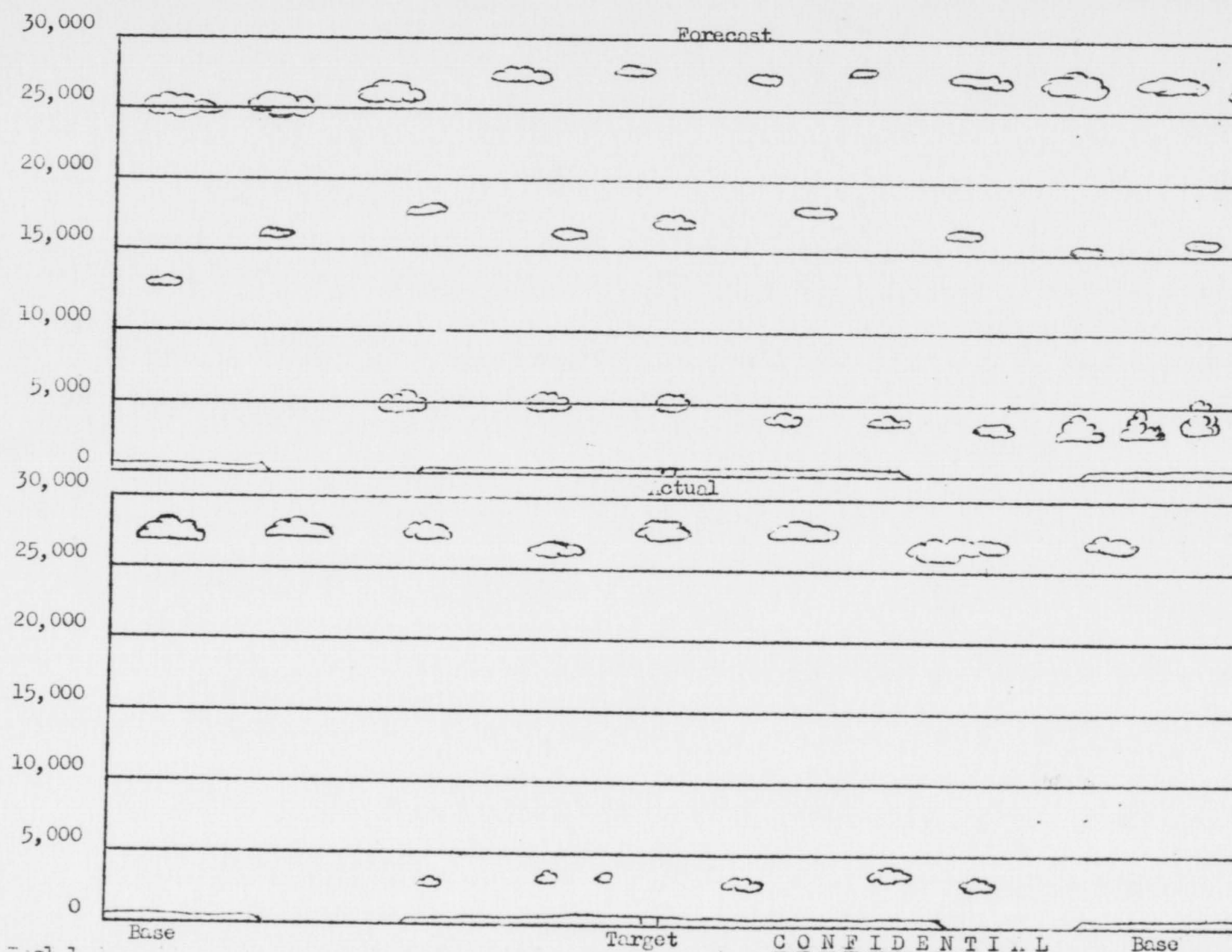


THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

Tactical Analysis of Mission 22 March 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Weather Summary

a. Forecast - Vertical visibility 5 - 10 miles at 1100 hours, becoming 10 - 20 miles by 1300 hours. (Briefed target times - 1257 - 1318). Moderate persistent contrails above 25,000 feet. Target wind: at 15,000' - 310/20.

b. Actual - Contrails - light non-persistent EST 23,000', spotty. Winds: about 5 MPH lighter than forecast. Ice: nil. Visibility - excellent to superior.

CONFIDENTIAL

Primary: Kitzingen A/F

(Part 1)

Ordered Targets: Secondary:

Date of Operation 22 March 1945

Division Field Order No. 636[illegible]

NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIE SUMMARY (Part 3)

Total Non Effi- cient Sort es	Causes of Non-Effectives					Incidents of Mechanical and Equipment Failures																Comments
	Weather	Personne	Enemy Action	Other Non Mech.	Mech. & Equip.	Total	Engine	Oil System	Fuel System	Super- charger	Propeller & Governor	Communi- cation System	Guns & Turrets	Bomb Release	Bomb Bay Doors	Elect- rical System	Instru- ments	Oxygen System	Bomb- sights	A/C in general		
46	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																					
	Footnote 2																					
	Footnote 3																					

22 March 1945

Lead Squadron - Lincoln Red # 1

<u>Beno-Rue</u> J3 : 536I Scope-K-20		2AD Cont.	8AF-RCM
<u>Ellis-Kuhn</u> J3 : 669J Scope	8AF <u>Clutter</u> 7V : 487R K-22	<u>Sivertson</u> 7V : 514B	<u>Ferriell</u> 7V : 502E K-21
2AD-RCM <u>Grice</u> 7V : 110M	8AF <u>O'Reagan</u> 7V : 567G	8AF Cont. <u>Spratt</u> 7V : 457Q K-21	2AD <u>Schuch</u> 7V : 340N

BOMB LOAD \* 52 X 100 GP's  
N.N. - 1/100T

2nd Squadron - Lincoln Red # 2

<u>Polliard</u> J3 : 557H K-20		8AF-RCM <u>Wilburn</u> J4 : 768Y	2AD <u>Hartswick</u> J4 : 277P K-21	8AF <u>Gilbert</u> J4 : 602E
2AD <u>Montgomery</u> J4 : 912D	<u>McCartney</u> J3 : 740J RCM <u>Duravich</u> J4 : 980V K-21	<u>Hood</u> J4 : 539B	2AD <u>Glean</u> J4 : 163M K-21	BOMB LOAD - 52 X 100 GP's N.N. - 1/100T
<u>Kelly</u> J4 : 287J				

3rd Squadron - Lincoln Red # 3

<u>Dahn</u> J3 : 939G Scope		2AD <u>Thomas</u> 25 : 120M K-21	8AF <u>Rhodes</u> 25 : 179P K-21	8AF-RCM <u>Rosen</u> 25 : 456D
RCM <u>Welch</u> 25 : 126L	<u>Sharp</u> J3 : 499U 8AF <u>Beck</u> 25 : 199A K-21	<u>Nutter</u> 25 : 108B	2AD <u>Snyder</u> 25 : 298E	BOMB LOAD - 10 X 500 GP's 1/10 N - 1/100T.
<u>Hodge</u> 25 : 366H				

SPARES	DISP.		SPARES	DISP.
J3-743F (FF) 20	100# GP's		25-013J	44 500# GP's
J3-575Q (Vis) 16	500# GP's		25-6400	2AD 25 500# GP's
7V-270A 8AF 33	100# GP's		J4-608W	38 100# GP's
7V-4250	30 100# GP's			

ORDER OF TAKE OFF

3/3 23

ALL SHIPS WILL BE MARSHALLED ON THE WEST

NO.	A/C	DISP.	NO.	A/C	DISP.
1	936I	24	16	539B	47
2	669J	18	17	277P	40
3	557H	22	18	163M	40
4	740J	17	19	980V	43
5	939G	13	20	602E	43
6	499U	21	21	287J	49
7	514B	34	22	120M	46
8	110M	31	23	126L	46
9	487R	32	24	108B	53
10	502E	Hgr. 1	25	179P	51
11	457J	34	26	298E	23
12	567G	Hgr. 1	27	199.	51
13	340N	33	28	456D	21
14	768Y	38	29	366H	25
15	912D	42			

## 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
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	BECK	210	4			42-51199	199	A	Z5	40	UNKNOWN 023	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	BENO	210	18	RUE	L1	42-51936	936	I	J3	23	UNKNOWN 027	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	CLUTTER	210	5			44-10487	487	R	7V	47	Girl on surfboard (no name)	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	DAHM	210	29			42-51939	939	G	J3	28	UNKNOWN 028	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	DURIAVICH	210	3			41-28980	980	V	J4	27	UNKNOWN 009	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	ELLIS	210	10	KUHN	D1	42-51669	669	J	J3	21	UNKNOWN 026	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	FERRIELL	210	21			42-50502	502	E	7V	52	LARRUPIN' LINDA	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	GILBERT	210	ABT			44-10602	602	E	J4	--	TEN GUN DOTTIE	ABORT - OVER BASE #2 END TEMP
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	GRICE	210	36			42-51110	110	M	7V	94	TOP O' THE MARK	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	HARTSWICK	210	13			44-40277	277	P	J4	52	MISS USED	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	HODGE	210	13			42-100366	366	H	Z5	72	MIZPAH	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	HOOD	210	34			44-50539	539	B	J4	4	UNKNOWN 045	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	KELLY	210	15			44-40287	287	J	J4	53	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	McCARTNEY	210	11			42-50740	740	Q	J3	28	OUR BURMA	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	MONTGOMERY	210	5			42-50912	912	D	J4	26	THE TRAVLIN' BAG	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	NUTTER	210	8			42-95108	108	B	Z5	70	ENVY OF 'EM ALL II	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	O'REGAN	210	17			41-29567	567	G	7V	18	MY BUNNIE / BAMBI	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	POLLIARD	210	21		L2	42-95557	557	H	J3	39	LADY PEACE	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	RHOADES	210	24			42-51179	179	P	Z5	81	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	ROSEN	210	14			42-50456	456	D	Z5	51	DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	SCHUCH	210	1			41-29340	340	N	7V	73	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	SHARP	210	6			42-50499	499	U	J3	40	COOKIE/OPEN POST	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	SIEVERTSON	210	31			42-51514	514	B	7V	27	BIG CHIEF LIL' BEAVER	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	SLOAN	210	3			42-110163	163	M	J4	74	TIME'S A WASTIN	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	SNYDER	210	3			44-40298	298	E	Z5	45	THE SHACK	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	SPRATT	210	18			42-52457	457	Q	7V	105	FINAL APPROACH	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	THOMAS	210	6			42-95120	120	M	Z5	84	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	WELCH	210	4			44-40126	126	L	Z5	71	SPITTEN KITTEN / SKY TRAMP	
22-Mar-45	KITZINGEN	WILBURN	210	18			42-50768	768	Y	J4	41	ARISE MY LOVE AND COME WITH ME	