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CONFIDENTIALHEADQUARTERS 2d AIR DIVISION
APO 558

EE-S-4

373.2

3 April 1945

SUBJECT: Tactical Analysis of Mission 23 March 1945 - F. O. 637

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
2nd CBW	Munster M/Y (Vis.)	Munster M/Y (H2X)	74	72
20th CBW	" " "	" " "	75	73
96th CBW	Osnabruck M/Y "	Osnabruck M/Y "	86	83
14th CBW	Rheine M/Y "	Rheine M/Y "	84	82
		2AD	319	310

1. Takeoff and Assembly

a. Times

Combat Wing	First Actual Takeoff	Assembly Altitudes	Briefed Time For CP 1	Assembly Time
2nd	0720	11,000	0900	1:40
20th	0705	11,000	0902	1:57
96th	0715	11,000	0904	1:49
14th	0710	11,000	0907	1:57

b. Takeoffs were without incident.

c. Assemblies were normal - units departed in good order, at the briefed altitude, and from two minutes early to one minute late.

2. Navigation - Penetration

a. Landfall at the Continental coast was made as briefed. The Division column was three minutes late and was ten minutes in length at this point.

b. Navigation on the penetration was good with no unit being more than four miles off course at any time. There were many turns on the planned route and the fact that these were made good shows that the navigators did good work.

c. The approaches to IP's were flown as briefed and bomb runs were made without trouble.

3. Bombing Analysis

a. The 2nd and 20th Combat Wings attacked the Munster M/Y visually with generally good to excellent results. The 93rd Group, last over the target, reported 2/10 cloud cover. All other units reported cloud cover as nil. The low left Squadron of the 389th Group changed its aiming point and had very good damage in a M/Y to the south with hits on the passenger station, rail lines and a built-up area. The lead A/C of the 93rd Group was shot down prior to the release point. Bombs of this A/C were either salvaged or released by flak and the entire Squadron's pattern was short.

b. The 96th Combat Wing attacked the Osnabruck M/Y. Bombing was done visually with generally very good to excellent results. The exception was the 3rd

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Squadron of the 466th Group. This unit changed its MPI due to smoke but results were poor. Inaccurate synchronization, due to personnel error, was the cause for this Squadron not getting its bombs on the target. The deputy lead of the lead Squadron of the 466th Group jettisoned bombs prior to the release point because of flak damage. Two other A/C dropped on this release.

c. The 14th Combat Wing attacked the Rheine M/Y visually. Results ranged from fair to excellent. The lead Squadron of the 392nd Group changed MPI's because the assigned MPI was not visible. The deputy lead of the lead Squadron of the 491st Group had a RBR malfunction. When the bombardier switched on the receiver, bombs released. Two other A/C dropped on this release. The high right of the 491st changed its MPI due to bomb smoke.

d. All changes of MPI's were in accordance with 2AD policy in regard to attacks on M/Y's.

4. Navigation - Withdrawal

a. The 2nd Combat Wing lost its lead A/C over the target. The deputy took over and made the rally good. The 2nd Wing cut short the next turn, then returned to the briefed route. The 20th Combat Wing, which was following the 2nd Combat Wing, cut short the RP to avoid the flak which was tracking the 2nd Combat Wing. The 96th and 14th Combat Wings made good their respective rally points.

b. Withdrawal was flown as briefed by all units.

c. Landfall out was made at the briefed point. The Division withdrew as three separate units due to the difference in routes and targets.

(1) The 14th Combat Wing withdrew first. Its column was five minutes long - the 44th Group lagged slightly.

(2) The 96th Combat Wing had a column three minutes in length at landfall.

5. Fighter Support

a. Headquarters, 8th Air Force assigned three Fighter Groups for close support during penetration at the target, and upon withdrawal. The 4th Group supported the 1st and 2nd Boxes (20th and 2nd Combat Wings) and the 479th Group covered the 3rd Box (96th Wing and Command Mosquito) - 361st Group escorted the 4th Box (14th Combat Wing).

6. Enemy Action Encountered

a. There was no enemy A/C reaction or fighter losses.

b. Anti-Aircraft

(1) Enroute, meager AA was encountered at Hengelo.

(2) At Munster, moderate to intense and generally accurate predictor control fire was encountered by all formations, it being particularly intense during withdrawal.

(3) At Osnabruck, moderate to intense and generally accurate predictor control fire was encountered. Nine Squadrons attacked this target, and the AA was very accurate against the first three and last three Squadrons but was far less effective against the middle three. This was undoubtedly due to the fact that the first six Squadrons attacked the target within a minute, thus saturating the defenses whereas, the last three Squadrons took two minutes which gave the enemy far more time to engage them.

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(4) At Rheine, meager to moderate predictor control fire was encountered which was at first inaccurate but which improved towards the end of the attack. This attack was not well concentrated. A single red burst was seen in the target area by the lead Group, and although the AA did not stop enemy fighters were seen in the area by the second Group over the target.

(5) Sorties - 310

A/C Lost to Flak - 3(1.0%)

A/C Damaged - 89 (28.7%)

7. Losses

a. One A/C, 93rd Group - A/C was hit by flak over Munster (target) and exploded in the air. No chutes seen.

b. One A/C, 389th Group - A/C received a direct hit immediately after bombs away over Munster (target)- A/C was at 22,000 feet. A/C was hit at the junction of the right wing and the fuselage and flames were seen to come from the right wing. A/C fell away to the left and over on its back when the tail section broke off. Up to six chutes were seen.

c. One A/C, 445th Group - A/C received a direct AA hit over Munster (target) - seen to go down in the target area - two chutes observed.

8. Scouting Force

a. Plan - No operational weather difficulties were anticipated and it was planned for one force only to report target weather at TOT minus 20.

b. Execution

(1) Good information received by all Combat Wings.

(2) Scouting Force attempted to inform the 14th Combat Wing that its briefed MPI contained no rolling stock, but that a M/Y to the south was jammed. However, this information was not understood by the Bombers.

9. Screening Force

a. Because of the visual conditions, no screening force was used.

10. Radar

a. H2X Analysis

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

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458th	5	5	4	4	1 equipment malfunction
466th	4	3	3	3	1 non-effective
467th	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	
	44	42	39	39	

(1) H2X performance on this mission is considered satisfactory. There were three equipment failures which the operator could not remedy in the air. The 14th Wing had no failures.

b. GEE performance on this mission is considered satisfactory. There was jamming on the Ruhr and Rheims chains but operation was unrestricted.

11. Weather Summary

a. Remarks

(1) Forecast - Nil contrails at operational levels. Target winds: at 20,000 - 230/10; at 25,000 - 240/10.

(2) Actual - No contrails - winds and temperatures aloft as forecast.

b. No weather pictures presented in this analysis. The only cloud forecast was 2 - 4/10 thin cirrus, base 28 - 30,000 feet; and the only cloud encountered was a trace of cirrus above 30,000 feet.

By command of Major General KEFNER:

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Group 450th

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

(Part 1)

Primary: Csnabruok M/YOrdered Targets: Secondary: Csnabruok R2 Junction (R2X)Date of Operation 23 March 1945Division Field Order No. 657

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								To- tal	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	8	1	8	PT	Csnabruok M/Y	96 500# RDX							0735	169	Wing Lead
2	10	10	10	10		10	PT	Csnabruok M/Y	124 500# RDX									
3	10	10	9	9	1	9	PT	Csnabruok M/Y	117 500# RDX									
TOTALS	29	29	28	27	2	27	PT	Csnabruok M/Y	337 500# RDX	-	-	-	-	-	-	0735	169	

NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIE SUMMARY (Part 3)

Total Non Eff 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	Commun- ication 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
2					2	3	2	1														
Footnote 1																						
Footnote 2																						
Footnote 3																						

42-50640

44-40287

FORMATION PLAN458TH LEAD SQUADRON - 80TH COMBAT WINGLEAD SQUADRONBOMBS-BRENDING

J3 : 958J

RCM

SVERETTMORAN-BRACKENRIDGE

Scope

Z5 : 126L

Z5 : 108B 2AD Con

2AD-RCM

SANBERS

Z5 : 6400

J3 : 669J

Scope

HEADRI

Z5 : 018J

8AF-RCM

K-21

MINOR

Z5:578F

WALMS

Z5 : 298B

K-21

MASTER

Z5 : 516V

K-22

2ND SQUADRONHELRICHT

J3 : 743F

2 AD

8 AF

LANQUIST

Scope-K-20

SILVERTONSIMPSON

2 AD

J3 : 939G

8 AF

7V : 514B

7V : 270A

HINERLAIRD

7V : 4250

Scope

SPRATT

7V : 457Q

8 AF-RCM

K-21

2 AD-RCM

BURMAN

7V : 110M

8 AF

JACKSON-J.E.

7V : 502E

K-21

SCHUCH

7V : 487R

3RD SQUADRONMINSKER-LAVELL

J3 : 557H

2 AD

2 AD

DYE

K-20

HORYMARRELL

2 AD

RCM-8 AF

J3 : 499U

8 AF

J4 : 912D

J4 : 163M

HIDDENBROWN

J4 : 768Y

8 AF

WILLIAMS-D.G.

J4 : 539B

8 AF-RCM

K-21

J4 : 277P

WIDELBERG

J4 : 602E

K-21

SCOOY

J4 : 980V

SEELY

J4 : 287J

SPARES: 837L-J3-15 PFF - Scope

740Q-J3-17 Vic

567G-7V-32 8AF

340N-7V-23 2AD

456D-25-21 8AF

WEATHER AIRCRAFT: Lt Hartwick - 753rd

608F-J4-43

555A-J4-46 Spare.

2 AD

120M-25-45

ORDER OF TAKE OFF

RUNWAY 23

WESTWEST

DISP	SHIP	NO.
24	936L	1
18	669J	2
20	743F	3
13	939G	4
22	557H	5
13	499U	6
53	126L	7
44	018J	8
21	108B	9
23	516V	10
23	298E	11
19	578F	12
25	6400	13
34	514B	14
34	457Q	15

DISP	SHIP	NO.
33	270A	16
27	502E	17
31	110M	18
29	316H	19
30	4250	20
32	487R	21
42	912D	22
47	539B	23
49	163M	24
38	980V	25
36	602E	26
40	277P	27
38	768Y	28
49	287J	29

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
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	ALLEN, R	211	4			44-40126	126	L	Z5	72	SPITTEN KITTEN / SKY TRAMP	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	BOWERS	211	29	HERZBERG	L1	42-51936	936	I	J3	24	UNKNOWN 027	BREEDING ON FP AS CMD-P
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	BROWN, R	211	11			42-50768	768	Y	J4	42	ARISE MY LOVE AND COME WITH ME	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	BURMAN	211	20			42-51110	110	M	7V	95	TOP O' THE MARK	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	DYE	211	5			42-50499	499	U	J3	41	COOKIE/OPEN POST	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	EIDELSBERG	211	26			44-10602	602	E	J4	37	TEN GUN DOTTIE	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	EVERETT	211	24			42-95108	108	B	Z5	71	ENVY OF 'EM ALL II	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	HADDEN	211	29			44-40277	277	P	J4	53	MISS USED	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	HARTSWICK	211	WTHR			42-50608	608	W	J4	--	FILTHY McNAUGHTY	WEATHER SHIP
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	HELFRECHT	211	27		L2	42-51743	743	F	J3	25	UNKNOWN 006	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	HERDTI	211	18			42-95018	018	J	Z5	94	OLD DOC'S YACHT	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	HINER	211	13			42-95316	316	H	7V	95	PRINCESS PAT	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	HOEY	211	32			42-50912	912	D	J4	27	THE TRAVLIN' BAG	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	JACKSON, WE	211	15			42-50502	502	E	7V	53	LARRUPIN' LINDA	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	LAIRD	211	14			42-100425	425	O	7V	71	THE BIRD	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	LANQUIST	211	10			42-51939	939	G	J3	29	UNKNOWN 028	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	MATEER	211	5			42-50516	516	V	J3	29	STARDUST	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	McCOY	211	14			41-28980	980	V	J4	28	UNKNOWN 009	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	MINOR	211	23			42-50578	578	F	Z5	49	SKY ROOM	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	MINSKER	211	5	LaVALLE	L3	42-95557	557	H	J3	40	LADY PEACE	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	MORAN	211	24	BRECKENRIDGE	D1	42-51669	669	J	J3	22	UNKNOWN 026	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	SANDERS	211	5			42-50640	640	O	Z5	36	BUGS BUNNY	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	SCHUCH	211	2			44-10487	487	R	7V	48	Girl on surfboard (no name)	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	SEALY	211	ABT			44-40287	287	J	J4	--	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	ABORT - ROUGH ENG DURING ASSY
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	SIEVERTSON	211	32			42-51514	514	B	7V	28	BIG CHIEF LIL' BEAVER	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	SIMPSON	211	31			42-51270	270	A	7V	29	MY BUNNIE II	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	SPRATT	211	19			42-52457	457	Q	7V	106	FINAL APPROACH	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	WALLIS	211	9			44-40298	298	E	Z5	46	THE SHACK	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	WARRELL	211	32			42-110163	163	M	J4	75	TIME'S A WASTIN	
23-Mar-45	OSNABRUCK	WILLIAMS, DG	211	24			44-50539	539	B	J4	5	UNKNOWN 045	