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HEADQUARTERS 2d AIR DIVISION  
APO 558

EE-S-4

373.2

4 April 1945

SUBJECT: Tactical Analysis of Missions 24 March 1945 - Field Orders 639 and 640.

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. 639

<u>BATTLE ORDER</u>	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SECONDARY</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE SORTIES</u>
96th CBW	Nordhorn A/F (Vis. Only)	None	58	58

F. O. 640

<u>BATTLE ORDER</u>	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SECONDARY</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE SORTIES</u>
96th CBW	Kirtorf A/F (Vis. or GH)	Siegen (H2X)	87	86
20th CBW	Stormede " " "	" " "	31	31
14th CBW	" " " "	" " "	31	31
2nd CBW	" " " "	" " "	33	33
			182	181

F. O. 6391. Takeoff, Assembly, and DAL

a. Takeoffs were normal - Group and Combat Wing assemblies were good. There was no DAL as the 96th Combat Wing was the only Wing flying this mission.

<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	0723	9,000	0858	1:35

2. Navigation - Penetration

a. Landfall at the enemy coast was excellent - The Division column was seven minutes long.

b. Route in to the IP was flown well - one Group only being four miles north of course. Visual conditions aided navigation.

c. Maneuver at the IP was normal and effected in good order.

d. Bomb runs were made visually - courses and heading were excellent.

3. Bombing Analysis

a. The 96th Combat Wing, with two Squadrons from each Group, led the heavies on one of our greatest days by attacking the Nordhorn A/F in an attempt to render it inoperative for the ensuing operations.

b. Bombing was done visually with very good results recorded by all Groups.

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CONFIDENTIALTactical Analysis of Missions 24 March 1945 - Field Orders 639 and 6404. Navigation - Withdrawal

- a. Rally was normal and made in good order.
- b. Route to the enemy coast out was excellent. Visual conditions aided navigation.
- c. Landfall out was very good, with the Division column being two and one-half minutes in length here.

5. Fighter Support

- a. Headquarters, Eighth Air Force assigned two Groups as area support for all Divisions on all targets. The 479th and 364th Groups arrived in the Bremen-Steinhuder Lake area before the Bombers attacked the targets.

6. Enemy Action Encountered

- a. No enemy aircraft reaction occurred.
- b. Anti-Aircraft
  - (1) No anti-aircraft was encountered on the route.
  - (2) No anti-aircraft was encountered at the target.
  - (3) Sorties: - 58  
A/C Lost to Flak - Nil  
A/C Damaged by Flak - Nil

7. Losses

- a. There were no losses.

8. Scouting Force

- a. Planning - A normal force was to report target weather at TOT minus 20.
- b. Execution - Target weather reporting was normal - all weather being CAVU.

9. Screening Force

- a. No Screening Force was planned as the target was not heavily defended by flak.

10. Radar

- a. H2X Analysis

<u>Group</u>	<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>
458th	3	3	3	3	
466th	3	3	3	3	
467th	3	3	3	3	
	9	9	9	9	

- (1) H2X performance on this mission was perfect. There were no failures.

F. O. 640

1. Takeoffs, Assemblies and DAL

- a. Takeoffs were normal with Group and Combat Wing assemblies being good.

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b. All units were a little late on the DAL but in good order except for the 2nd Combat Wing which had to dogleg and play the turn at Control Point A to secure its proper position in the Division column.

<u>Combat Wing</u>	<u>First Actual Takeoff</u>	<u>Assembly Altitudes</u>	<u>Briefed Time For CP 1</u>	<u>Assembly Time</u>
2nd	1330	7,000	1444	1:14
14th	1330	7,000	1443	1:13
96th	1300	8,400	1439	1:39
20th	1315	7,000	1442	1:27

2. Navigation - Penetration

a. Landfall in was very good - the Division column was seven minutes in length.

b. Route in to the IP was good - all units being within five miles of course. Weather was CAVU and aided navigation.

c. Maneuver at the IP was normal and executed in good order.

d. Bomb runs were excellent in all cases. Visual conditions existed and GH navigators in coordination with pilotage navigators brought bombardiers right into the targets.

3. Bombing Analysis

a. To complete another history making day for 2nd the 96th Combat Wing, with nine Squadrons, was assigned the Kirtorf Airfield. The 20th, 14th, and 2nd Combat Wings, each with three Squadrons, were assigned the Stormede Airfield. Both primaries were well hit by all Groups with excellent results occurring.

b. The 3rd Squadron of the 458th Group failed to bomb the primary. The pilotage navigator located the assigned target - however, in picking it up the bombardier used extended vision and sighted a B-17 target farther ahead - synchronization was done on the latter by the bombardier - he did not see the primary. The extended vision is most certainly an aid; however, a visual check should be made off the sight to insure positive identification.

c. The 3rd Squadron of the 467th Group encountered prop wash which resulted in a tumbled gyro in the lead A/C. The lead bombardier chose a target of opportunity at Allendorf with fair results occurring on a R.R. junction there.

4. Navigation - Withdrawal

a. Allies were within five miles of course, allowing formations to get in order.

b. Upon withdrawal, visual conditions existed. Units were generally five to eight miles north of course. Units of the 96th Wing were as much as thirty miles north of course. B-17's caused some of this deviation and units cutting course short to arrive at bases before dark was another reason. Being over friendly territory, navigators stayed parallel to course rather than correct over, knowing that no flak was to be encountered.

c. At landfall, the 20th and 14th Combat Wings were on course - the 96th and 2nd Combat Wings averaged ten miles north of the briefed exit point. The Division was seventeen minutes in length.

5. Fighter Support

a. The 55th and 353rd Groups were on area support.

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C O N F I D E N T I A LTactical Analysis of Mission 24 March 1945 - Field Orders 639 and 6406. Enemy Action Encountered

a. There was no enemy aircraft reaction

b. Anti-Aircraft

(1) Enroute, meager anti-aircraft was encountered at Liegen, Hachenburg, Ehrenbreitstein, Montabaur, and various other points in the vicinity of the battle line.

(2) No anti-aircraft was encountered at the targets.

(3) Sorties - 181  
A/C Lost to Flak - 0 (Nil)  
A/C Damaged by Flak - 16 (8.8.)

7. Losses

a. There were no losses.

8. Scouting Force

a. Planning - Normal - Scouting Force reporting weather twenty minutes before target time.

b. Execution - Normal target reporting was in effect as weather was CAVU.

9. Screening Force

a. No Screening Force was planned as none of the targets was heavily flak defended.

10. Radar

a. 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	2	2	2	2	
445th	1	1	1	1	
453rd	2	2	2	2	
44th	4	4	4	4	
392nd	2	2	2	2	
491st	1	1	1	1	
93rd	2	2	2	2	
446th	2	2	2	2	
448th	2	2	2	2	
458th	6	6	6	6	
466th	4	4	4	4	
467th	4	4	4	4	
	<u>32</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>32</u>	

(1) H2X performance on this mission was perfect. There were no failures.

b. GEE operation on this mission is considered satisfactory. Jamming was reported on the Ruhr and Rheims chains but operation was unrestricted.

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c. GH was available for tracking but was not required due to visual conditions prevailing. Signals came in well and all equipment operated satisfactorily.

11. Comments

a. Of 480 aircraft dispatched by 2d Air Division on the three missions of 24 March 1945, only one turned back early. This record is highly commendable.

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

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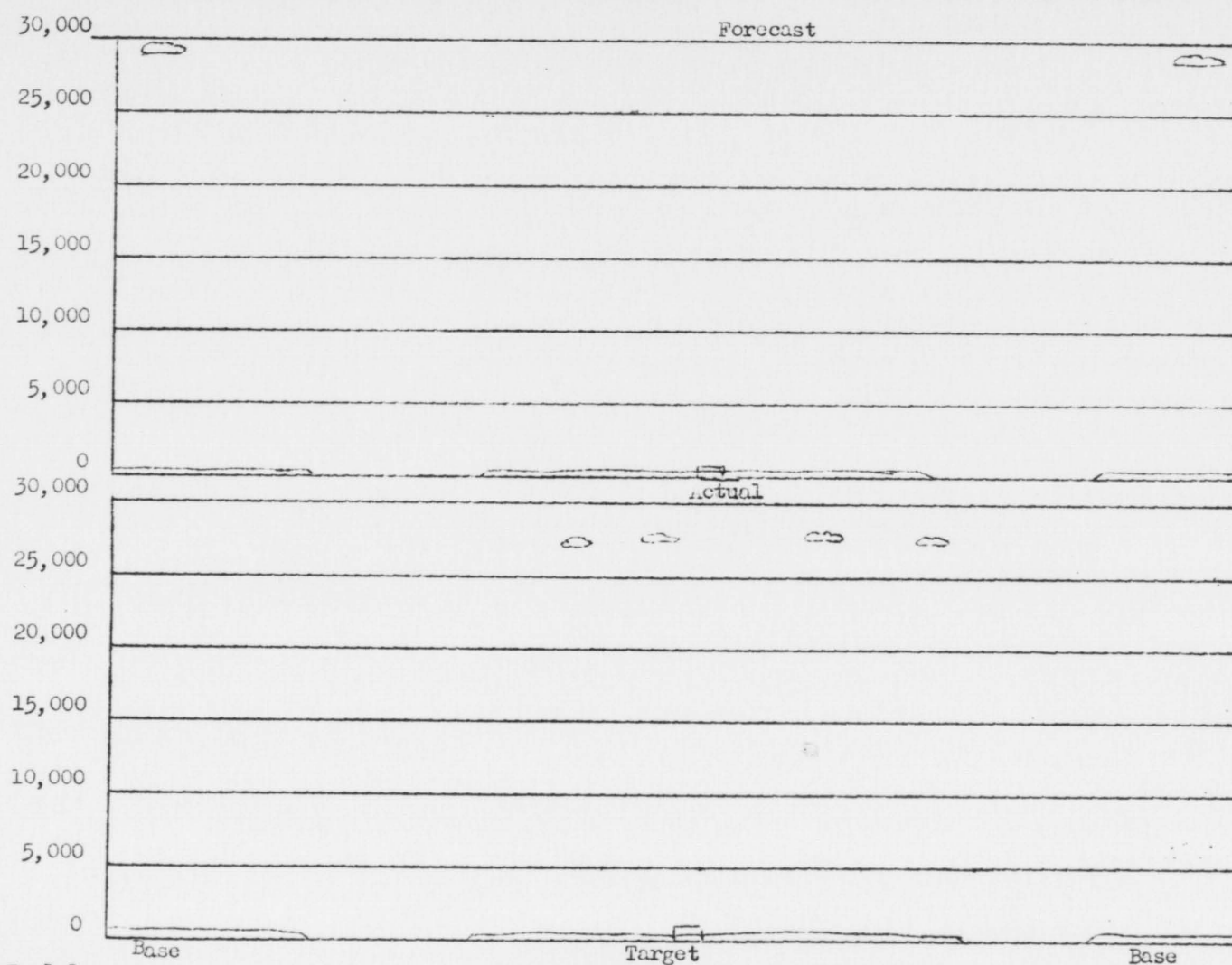
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Tactical Analysis of Mission 24 March 1945 - F. O. 639

C O N F I D E N T I A LWEATHER SUMMARY

a. Forecast - Downward visibility  
10 - 15 miles down sun and 5 - 10 miles up  
sun. Nil contrails below 28,000 feet. Tar-  
get wind: at 20,000 feet - 160/15.

b. Actual - Downward visibility  
15 - 30 miles - nil contrails - winds  
and temperatures aloft as forecast.

Incl 1

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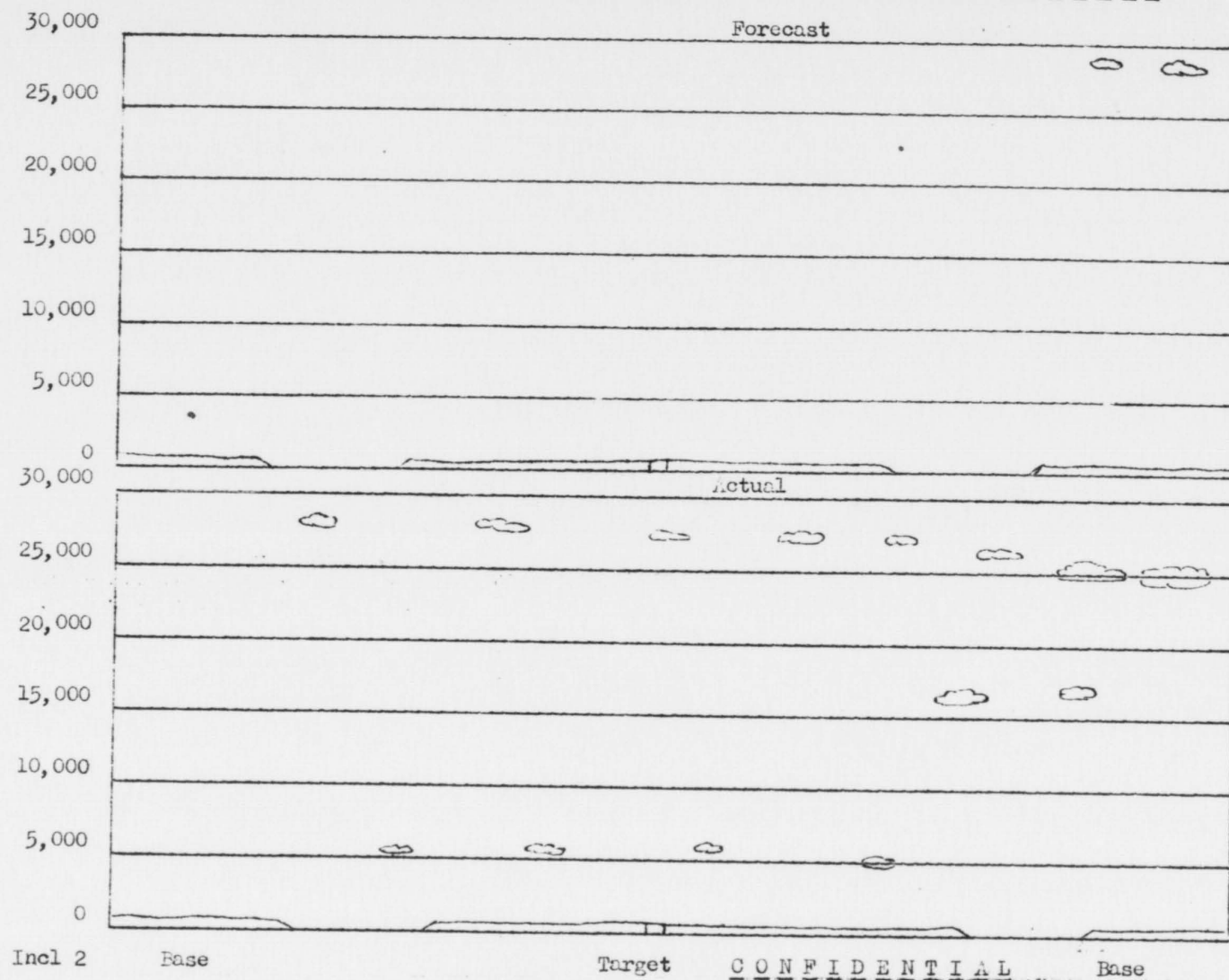


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Tactical Analysis of Mission 24 March 1945 - F. O. 640

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## WEATHER SUMMARY

a. Forecast - Downward visibility  
10 - 15 miles down sun and 5 - 10 up sun  
nil contrails below 28,000 feet - Target  
wind: at 20,000 - 160/20.

b. Actual - Temperatures as fore-  
cast - winds aloft slightly stronger  
than forecast - nil contrails.

## 1st Mission

Group 458th Bomb Gp (H)

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

(Part 1)

Primary: Northern A/F

Ordered Targets: Secondary: None Specified

Date of Operation 24 March 1945

Division Field Order No. 639

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
1A	9	9	9	9	-	9	PT	Northern A/T	371 100% M30							0740	100	
2	10	10	10	10	-	10	PT	Northern A/T	446 100% M30									
TOTALS	19	19	19	19	-	19	PT	Northern A/T	817 100% M30	-	-	-	-	-	-	0740	100	

NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIE SUMMARY (Part 3)

[illegible]



## FORMATION PLAN

MISSION #341

24 March 1945

Lead SquadronBeno - CAPT QUINN

J3 : 669J

Scope 8AF

RCM 8AF

Healy - CAPT BLACKSealyWilburn

J3 : 743F

J4 : 539B

J4 : 768Y

Scope-K-20

RCM

2AD (Cont)

DuriavichBrown

J4 : 287J

J4 : 912D

8AF

K-21

2AD

KellyDuntler

J4 : 602E

J4 : 163M

Second SquadronPelliard

J3 : 557H

Scope K-20

8AF-RCM

Langquist\*\*Beck\*\*Rosen

J3 : 740Q

Z5 : 196Q

Z5 : 456D

K-21

K-21

2AD

2AD

ThomasNutterSnyder

Z5 : 120M

Z5 : 108B

Z5 : 578F

RCM

K-22

8AF

HoltzWelch\*\* Note - A/C 1964 has

Z5 : 126L

8AF

Z5 : 199A

following bomb load.

RCM

Sanders

Z5 : 179P

32x100 GP's NN-1/100T

5x100 GP's 2 hr Delay

5x100 GP's 6 hr "

5x100 GP's 12 hr "

5x100 GP's 24 hr "

SPARES

J3 837L - H2X 15

Z5 059T - 2AD 44

MARSHALLING PLAN

Runway 23

All A/C will Marshall to the West

T.O.	A/C	Disp	T.O.	A/C	Disp
1	669J	18	11	555A	45
2	743F	20	12	196Q	46
3	557H	Hgr # 5	13	108B	Hgr 2
4	740Q	17	14	456D	21
5	539B	47	15	199A	51
6	287J	49	16	126L	53
7	768Y	38	17	578F	19
8	163M	49	18	120M	46
9	602E	36	19	179P	51
10	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
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	BECK	212	5			42-51196	196	Q	J3	51	THE GYPSY QUEEN	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	BENO	212	19	QUINN	L1	42-51669	669	J	J3	23	UNKNOWN 026	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	BROWN, R	212	12			42-50912	912	D	J4	28	THE TRAVLIN' BAG	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	DANTLER	212	4			42-110163	163	M	J4	76	TIME'S A WASTIN	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	DURIAVICH	212	4			44-40287	287	J	J4	54	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	HARTSWICK	212	14			42-50555	555	A	J4	32	BABY SHOES	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	HEALY	212	29	BLACK	D1	42-51743	743	F	J3	26	UNKNOWN 006	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	HOLTZ	212	4			42-110059	059	T	Z5	73	UNKNOWN 056	REPLACED 126 - BOMBED WITH 467BG
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	KELLY	212	16			44-10602	602	E	J4	38	TEN GUN DOTTIE	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	LANQUIST	212	11			42-50740	740	Q	J3	29	OUR BURMA	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	NUTTER	212	9			42-95108	108	B	Z5	72	ENVY OF 'EM ALL II	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	POLLIARD	212	22		L2	42-95557	557	H	J3	41	LADY PEACE	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	ROSEN	212	15			42-50456	456	D	Z5	52	DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	SANDERS	212	6			42-51179	179	P	Z5	82	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	SEALY	212	33			44-50539	539	B	J4	6	UNKNOWN 045	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	SNYDER	212	4			42-50578	578	F	Z5	50	SKY ROOM	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	THOMAS	212	7			42-95120	120	M	Z5	85	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	WELCH	212	5			42-51199	199	A	Z5	41	UNKNOWN 023	
24-Mar-45	NORDHORN	WILBURN	212	19			42-50768	768	Y	J4	43	ARISE MY LOVE AND COME WITH ME	