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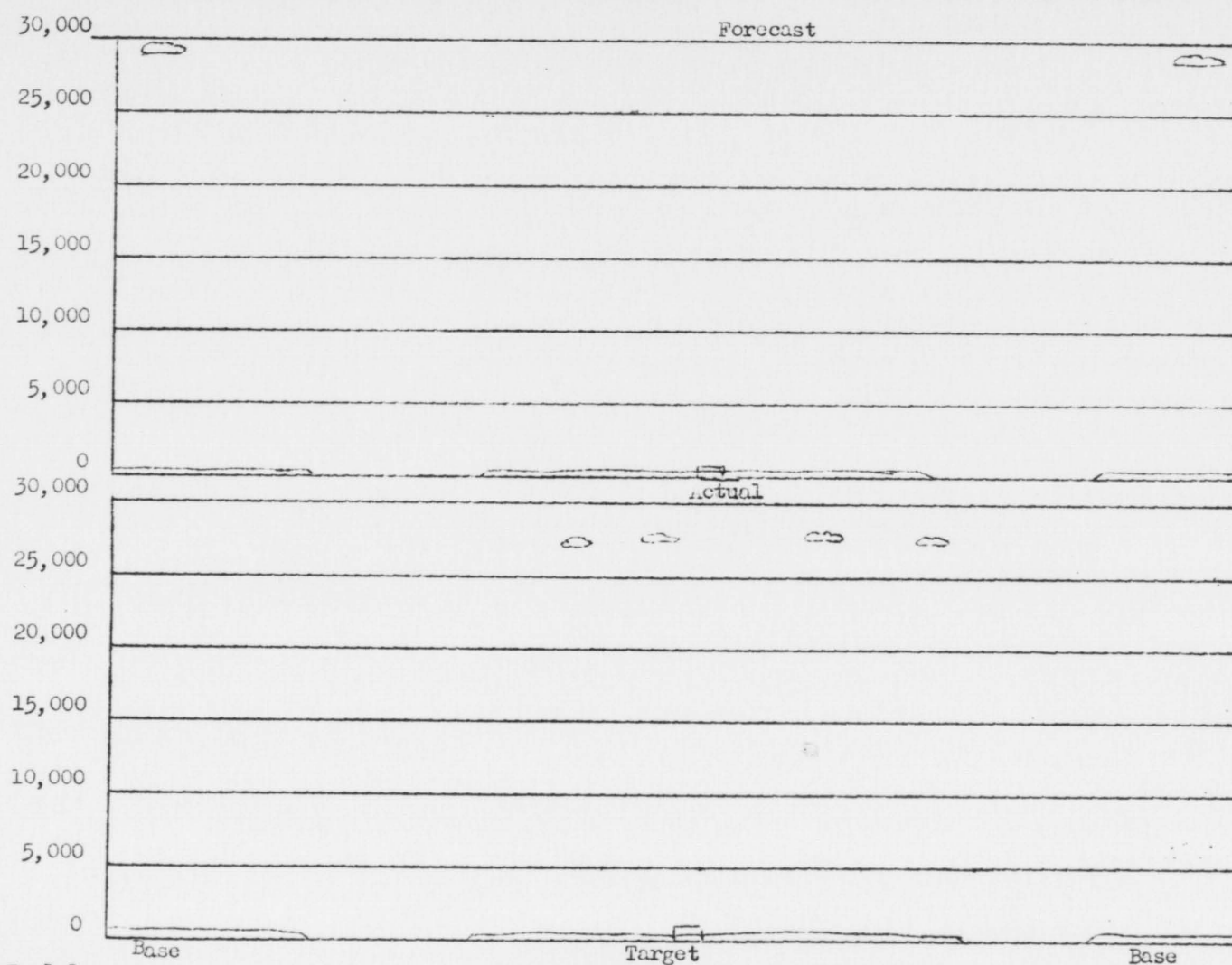
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Tactical Analysis of Mission 24 March 1945 - F. O. 639

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

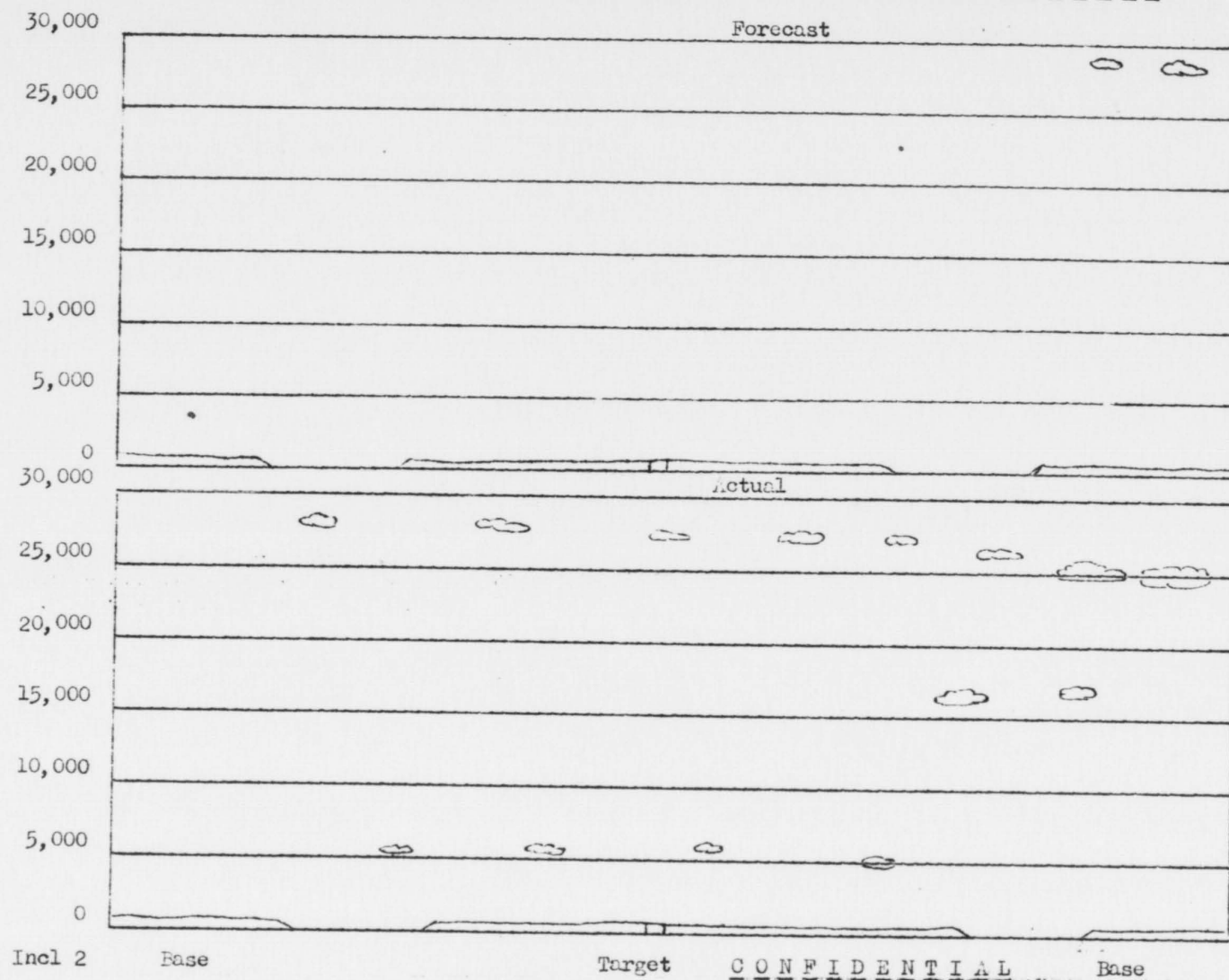
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Tactical Analysis of Mission 24 March 1945 - F. O. 640

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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.

	Primary:	<u>Kirtorf A/F</u>	Vis
Ordered Targets:	Secondary:	<u>Siegen - Steel Wks</u>	H2X

Division Field Order No. 640

NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIE SUMMARY (Part 3)

42-100366

FORMATION PLAN458TH "B" GROUP - 96TH WINGLEAD SQUADRON - LINCOLN RED #1

<u>DANE-BETZOLD</u>		2 AD Cent.		2 AD-RCM			
J3 : 902M		K-20		<u>HINER</u>		<u>JACKSON-W.L.</u>	
8 AF		7V : 316H		7V : 11QM		8 AF Cent.	
<u>FERRIELL</u>		<u>SMITH</u>		K-21		<u>O'REAGAN</u>	
7V : 766J		7V : 504L				7V : 487R	
<u>WATER</u>		K-22		<u>LAIRD</u>			
7V : 516V				7V : 4250			
K-21							

2ND SQUADRON - LINCOLN RED #2

<u>HATHORN</u>		2 AD		8 AF			
J3 : 261A		Scope		<u>SIEVERTSON</u>		<u>SPRATT</u>	
2 AD		7V : 514B		7V : 457Q		8 AF-RCM	
<u>MCCARTNEY</u>		K-21		K-22		<u>BURMAN</u>	
J3 : 628K		8 AF				7V : 502E	
25 : 298E		<u>BROWN</u>		2 AD			
K-21		7V : 567G		<u>DENARD</u>			
<u>MINOR</u>		8AF-RCM		7V : 340N			
7V : 366H		<u>SIMPSON</u>		7V : 270A			
		7V : 270A					

3RD SQUADRON - LINCOLN RED #3

<u>MORAN-WOODWARD</u>		2 AD		8 AF			
J3 : 910D		K-20		<u>ROBINSON</u>		<u>GRAVEN</u>	
8 AF		RCM		J4 : 277P		7V : 1352K	
<u>EVERETT</u>		<u>FELTON</u>		K-22		K-21	
25 : 183U		J4 : 980V		8 AF		25 : 126L	
<u>HERDTI</u>		8 AF		<u>SCHUCH</u>			
25 : 018J		J3 : 5750					
<u>MONTGOMERY</u>							
J4 : 608.							

SPARES: 936I-J3-Hgr 5 PFF
 499U-J3-13 Vis
 618T-J3-22 Vis
 141U-J4-Hgr 5
 285H-J4-Hgr 5

ORDER OF TAKE OFF-RUNWAY 23ALL AIRCRAFT TO BE DASHED ON TEST

<u>TEST</u>	<u>SHIP</u>	<u>TC</u>	<u>DISP</u>	<u>SHIP</u>	<u>T.O.</u>
14	902M	1	34	457Q	16
11	544E	2	33	340N	17
17	261A	3	25	366H	18
11	628K	4	27	502E	19
14	910D	5	23	298E	20
15	837L	6	33	270A	21
31	316H	7	40	277P	22
Hgr 1	504E	8	38	980V	23
31	110M	9	Hgr 1	352K	24
30	4250	10	16	5750	25
23	516V	11	44	018J	26
32	487R	12	53	126L	27
29	766J	13	Hgr 2	183U	28
34	514B	14	43	608W	29
30	567G	15			

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	KIRTORF	ALLEN, R	213	5			44-40126	126	L	Z5	73	SPITTEN KITTEN / SKY TRAMP	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	BROWN, C	213	5			41-29567	567	G	7V	19	MY BUNNIE / BAMBI	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	BURMAN	213	21			42-50502	502	E	7V	54	LARRUPIN' LINDA	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	CRAVEN	213	29			41-29352	352	K	7V	85	WOLVE'S LAIR	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	DANE	213	30	BETZOLD	L1	44-49902	902	M	J3	5	UNKNOWN 043	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	DANIEL	213	5			44-40298	298	E	Z5	47	THE SHACK	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	DENARD	213	3			41-29340	340	N	7V	74	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	ELLIS	213	11	KUHN	D1	44-49544	544	E	J3	9	OH MONA!	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	EVERETT	213	25			42-95183	183	U	Z5	93	BRINEY MARLIN	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	FERRIELL	213	22			44-50766	766	J	7V	2	YOU'VE HAD IT	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	HATHORN	213	28		L2	44-49261	261	A	J3	15	UNKNOWN 042	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	HERDTI	213	19			42-95018	018	J	Z5	95	OLD DOC'S YACHT	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	HINER	213	14			42-95316	316	H	7V	96	PRINCESS PAT	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	JACKSON, WL	213	17			42-51110	110	M	7V	96	TOP O' THE MARK	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	JOHNSON, C	213	14			44-48837	837	L	J3	19	UNKNOWN 041	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	LAIRD	213	15			42-100425	425	O	7V	72	THE BIRD	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	MATEER	213	6			42-50516	516	V	J3	30	STARDUST	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	MINOR	213	ABT			42-100366	366	H	Z5	--	MIZPAH	ABORT - #2 ENG FAILED DURING ASSY
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	MONTGOMERY	213	6			42-50608	608	W	J4	25	FILTHY McNAUGHTY	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	MORAN	213	25	WOODWARD	L3	44-49910	910	D	J3	5	UNKNOWN 044	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	O'REGAN	213	18			44-10487	487	R	7V	49	Girl on surfboard (no name)	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	PELTON	213	3			41-28980	980	V	J4	29	UNKNOWN 009	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	ROBINSON	213	4			44-40277	277	P	J4	54	MISS USED	BOMBED WITH 93BG
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	SCHUCH	213	3			42-50575	575	O	J3	26	UNKNOWN 020	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	SIEVERTSON	213	33			42-51514	514	B	7V	29	BIG CHIEF LIL' BEAVER	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	SIMPSON	213	32			42-51270	270	A	7V	30	MY BUNNIE II	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	SMITH, WB	213	2			42-50504	504	L	7V	31	UNKNOWN 019	
24-Mar-45	KIRTORF	SPRATT	213	20			42-52457	457	O	7V	107	FINAL APPROACH	