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HEADQUARTERS 2d AIR DIVISION  
APO 558

EE-S-4

373.2

12 April 1945

SUBJECT: Tactical Analysis of Mission 30 March 1945 - F. O. 643.

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.

<u>BATTLE ORDER</u>	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SECONDARY</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE SORTIES</u>
14th CBW	Wilhelmshaven (Vis.)	Wilhelmshaven (H2X)	95	93
96th CBW	"	"	97	94
20th CBW	"	"	92	87
2nd CBW	"	"	98	95
		2AD	382	369

1. Takeoff, Assembly, and DAL

a. Takeoffs and assembly were normal and the Combat Wings left the English coast on time and in good order.

<u>Combat Wing</u>	<u>First Actual Takeoff</u>	<u>Assembly Altitudes</u>	<u>Briefed Time For CP 1</u>	<u>Assembly Time</u>
14th	0955	12,000	1200	2:05
96th	1001	12,000	1203	2:02
20th	0943	12,000	1206	2:23
2nd	1013	12,000	1209	1:56

2. Navigation - Penetration

a. The Division left the DAL in good order and formed into a close column on the route to landfall.

b. The route flown was quite accurate although individual Groups had some difficulty - the Wings were closed up. This was particularly noticeable at the turn prior to landfall. At landfall the 14th Wing (Division lead) column extended six minutes in length - the 96th Wing, following, was also six minutes in length, as were the columns of the 20th and 2nd Wings. The Division column extended twenty minutes in length at landfall. Time intervals existed between Groups within each Wing, but there was an overlap between last Groups of the 14th and 20th Wings and the leading Groups of the 96th (following the 14th) and the 2nd (following the 20th). Successive overrunning of units occurred.

c. The lead Squadron, 389th Group, tracked in on H2X and when cloud cover broke, the Squadron was three miles left of the target. It was too late for the bombardier to correct to the target. Had bombs been released they would have fallen in fields. Bombs were returned to base. Some crowding among units prevailed from landfall to target.

3. Bombing Analysis

a. 2d Air Division attacked first and second priority targets by visual and H2X methods with good results. All Wings experienced similar weather conditions and restrictions. H2X was used to bring Squadrons to the target, where some units made slight visual corrections. Nothing was reported to denote personnel error.

b. The mission showed good coordination between the bombardier and Mickey operator. Photographic coverage for this attack gives only incomplete information.

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The report shows that the light Cruiser Koln was smoking but no thorough assessment of damage could be made. Several smaller boats were also smoking and one merchant vessel was sunk. Dry docks IV and VI, store sheds, mine sweeping depot, and oil tanks were hit, and severe scattered damage was noted in business and residential districts.

4. Navigation - Withdrawal

a. Rallies were good and the wings departed the enemy coast in good order.

b. Letting down after landfall out, the wings were forced to leave the briefed route in some instances to avoid low clouds. The lead wing, the 14th Wing, made the route good. Those following deviated to the north of course. The 2nd Wing entered the coast of England at Buncher 24 rather than at Mundesley Beacon as briefed. This was also true of the 491st Group. Otherwise, landfall in was as briefed.

5. Fighter Support

a. There were three Fighter Groups assigned to escort 2AD Bombers. The 56th covered the Screening Force and the 14th and the 96th Combat Wings. The 479th Fighter Group covered the 20th and 2nd Combat Wings. The 355th Group was assigned to cover the rear of the 2AD force, patrolling the area covered by the Bomber stream.

6. Enemy Action Encountered

a. The only sighting of enemy aircraft by our Fighters was when the 4th Fighter Group spotted five Me262's northwest of Bremen. A chase ensued but the Jets easily pulled away. No further contact was made.

b. Flak at the target was meager to moderate, inaccurate to accurate.

(1) A smoke screen was present in the target area.

7. Losses

a. One aircraft, 491st Group - A/C left formation at 5330-0605, trailing black smoke - observed following formation in distance - A/C ditched in Channel at 5336-0340. Two men rescued. No further information is available.

8. Scouting Force

a. Planning - Normal target and penetration forces were planned. Scouts were to broadcast target weather forty-five minutes early and, if a delay would help visual bombing, Combat Wings would make a 360 degree turn in place prior to the Continental coast in order to lose time.

b. Execution - No weather trouble was encountered on penetration. Cloud cover in the target area was from 5 - 10/10. Scouts advised that a delay would help but make no vital difference - Combat Wings did not delay. Units let down after the rally and returned below low cloud.

9. Screening Force

a. Planning

(1) The normal Screening Force was planned with the force being 400 feet above and one minute ahead of the Bombers.

b. Execution

(1) The Screening Force made R/V properly. Communications were good. However, the Screening Force leader did not realize that the main force had arrived at the IP and did not pull ahead until it was too late. The 25th Recon Squadron at Watton is taking steps to see that this does not occur again.

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Tactical Analysis of Mission 30 March 194510. 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	4	4	4	
445th	4	4	4	4	
453rd	4	4	3	3	1 equipment malfunction
44th	4	4	4	4	
392nd	4	4	4	4	
491st	4	4	4	4	
93rd	4	4	4	4	
446th	4	4	4	3	1 equipment malfunction
448th	4	4	2	2	2 equipment malfunction
458th	6	6	6	6	
466th	4	4	4	4	
467th	4	4	4	4	
	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>46</u>	

(1) A satisfactory mission as far as H2X results were concerned. The 14th and 96th Combat Wings had perfect records.

b. Jamming was reported on both the Ruhr and Rheims chains. Fixes were obtained past 08<sup>00</sup>E on the Ruhr chain. Eight GEE failures of 379th GEE A/C dispatched occurred.

11. Comments

a. The deviation from briefed course at the English coast in by the 2nd Combat Wing and the 491st Group (Par 4b) denotes a laxness of discipline. A mission is not completed until engines are cut in the dispersal areas. Briefed routes and standard procedures must be followed as closely as weather and other factors beyond our control permit. Combat Wing integrity must be maintained up to the Combat Wing area.

b. Lack of air discipline results in lack of efficient control and lack of efficient control always results in a loss of efficiency.

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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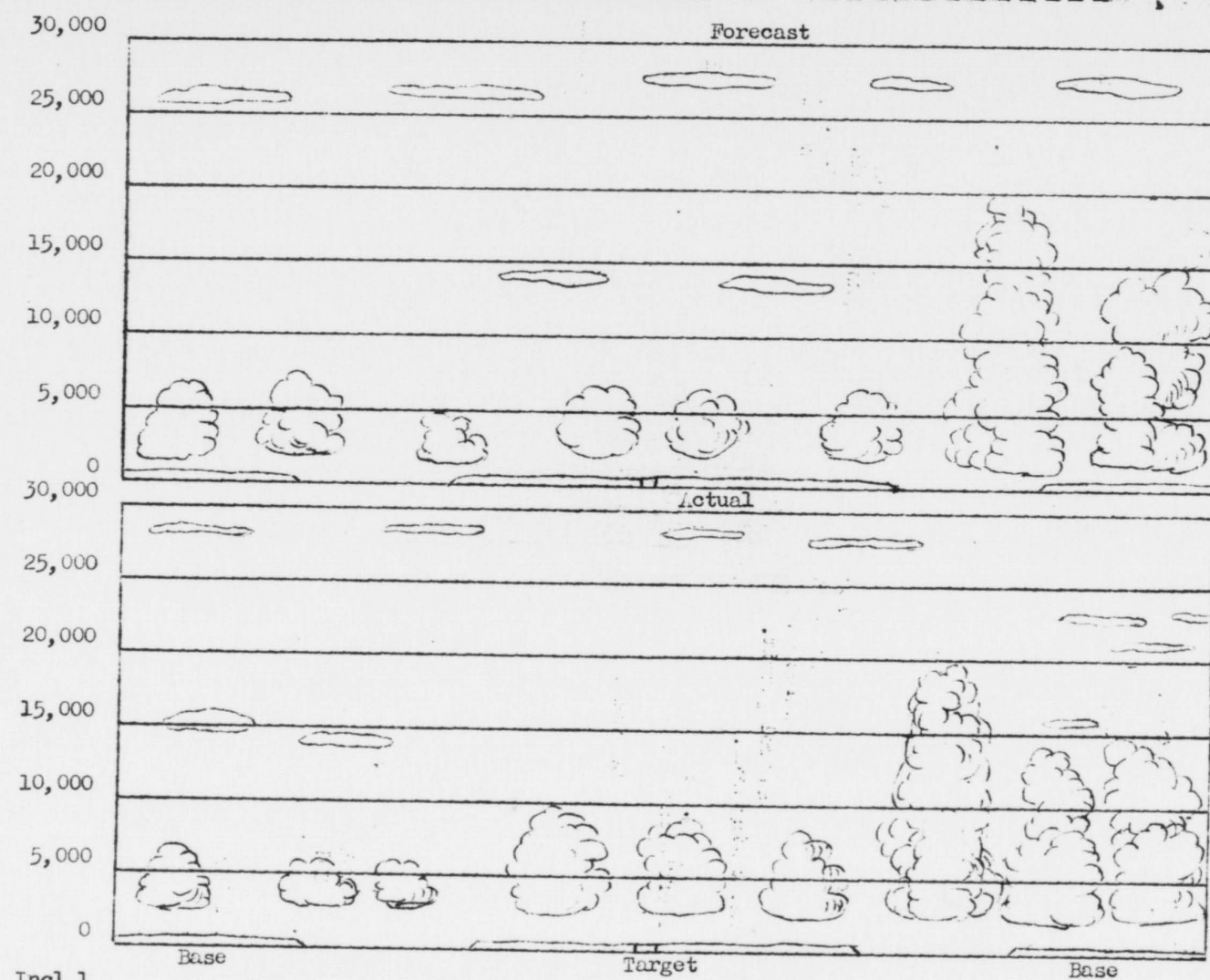


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Weather Summary

a. Forecast - Target winds: at 20,000 - 240/65, at 25,000 - 230/75. Light non-persistent contrails at 25,000 feet, and moderate persistent at 26,000 feet in cirrus cloud. Light rime ice, except moderate to heavy cl in swelling cumulus.

b. Actual - Winds and temperatures as forecast. Moderate, non-persistent contrail between 14,000 and 16,000 feet from bases to 03°E in occasional patches of medium cloud. Moderate non-persistent contrails above 23,000 feet at 06°E on penetration. Light rime ice on descent over the North Sea.

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H2K

Wilhelmsson - Naval Academy

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NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIE SUMMARY (Part 3)

Footnote	1	MA1
Footnote	2	MA1
Footnote	3	MA2

## LEAD SQUADRON

Ellis - MAJ BREEDING

J3 : 936I

Scope

2AD

Pollard - MAJ LAVELLE Sigvertson

J3 : 557H

K-20

2AD-RCM

TV : 514B

Leird

TV : 4250

K-21

8AF (Cont)

2AD- (Cont)

Hiner

TV : 316H

K-21

Denard

TV : 352K

8AF

Schuch

TV : 487H

Clutter

TV : 424F

## SECOND SQUADRON

Floyd

J3 : 669J

Scope

8AF

Pelton

TV : 1810

8AF

Sidelberg

J4 : 555A

K-21

8AF

Glean

J4 : 1602E

2AD

Gilbert

J4 : 1634

McCartney

J3 : 743F

Scope

8AF

Duriavich

J4 : 539B

RCM

Dentler

J4 : 287J

K-21

2AD

Hoer

J4 : 912P

K-21

Robinson

J4 : 277P

## THIRD SQUADRON

Darm

J3 : 939G

Scope

2AD

Wallis

Z5 : 298E

8AF

Hodges

Z5 : 179P

K-21

8AF

Fletcher

Z5 : 199A

8AF

Hodge

Z5 : 366H

Dye

J3 : 618Y

K-20

2AD

Minor

Z5 : 578F

2AD

Thomas

Z5 : 120M

K-21

RCM

Matteer

Z5 : 196Q

## FOURTH SQUADRON

Lanquist

J3 : 837L

Scope

8AF

Martin

TV : 502E

8AF

Kelly

J4 : 768Y

K-21

8AF-RCM

Welch

Z5 : 456D

8AF

McGoy

J4 : 980V

8AF

Montgomery

J4 : 208F

Snyder

Z5 : 183U

K-21

Nutter

Z5 : 108B

Brown

TV : 278M

SPARES

EVERL

J3 : 428K

H2X 11

Z5 : 018J

Z5 : 305N

2AD 8

Z5 : 6400

2AD 25

BOOMER LOAD

1st Sq plus 6400 (Spares) - 8x1000 GP - 1/100 Nose 1/40 Tail.

2nd, 3rd &amp; 4th Sqds plus all other spares 12x500 GP 1/10N - 1/100 T.

## SIDELOADING PLAN

## Runway 21

All 1/0 will marchall to the West

T.O.	A/C	Disp.	T.O.	A/C	Disp.	T.O.	A/C	Disp.	T.O.	A/C	Disp.
1	936I	24	11	4250	46	21	602E	51	31	1964	9
2	557H	26	12	424F	28	22	163M	49	32	502E	27
3	669J	18	13	487R	32	23	277P	47	33	200F	53
4	743F	20	14	352K	31	24	298E	21	34	768Y	51
5	939G	13	15	316H	30	25	578F	19	35	270A	33
6	183U	22	16	141U	40	26	179P	19	36	183V	12
7	837L	15	17	539B	38	27	128L	8	37	498B	23
8	567G	30	18	555A	45	28	120M	39	38	980V	41
9	514B	34	19	812U	42	29	199A	10	39	108B	53
10	110M	31	20	287J	49	30	306E	25			

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
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	BROWN, C	215	6			42-51270	270	A	7V	32	MY BUNNIE II	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	CLUTTER	215	6			44-40424	424	F	7V	4	MONYA	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	DAHM	215	31		L3	42-95628	628	K	J3	22	UNKNOWN 038	REPLACED 939
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	DANIEL	215	6			44-40126	126	L	Z5	75	SPITTEN KITTEN / SKY TRAMP	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	DANTLER	215	5			44-40287	287	J	J4	56	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	DENARD	215	5			41-29352	352	K	7V	86	WOLVE'S LAIR	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	DURIAVICH	215	5			44-50539	539	B	J4	8	UNKNOWN 045	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	DYE	215	7			44-10618	618	T	J3	12	UNKNOWN 038	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	EIDELSBERG	215	28			42-50555	555	A	J4	34	BABY SHOES	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	ELLIS	215	12	BREEDING	L1	42-51936	936	I	J3	26	UNKNOWN 027	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	FLETCHER	215	25			42-110059	059	T	Z5	74	UNKNOWN 056	REPLACED 199
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	FLOYD	215	31		L2	42-51669	669	J	J3	25	UNKNOWN 026	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	GILBERT	215	3			42-110163	163	M	J4	78	TIME'S A WASTIN	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	HINER	215	16			42-95316	316	H	7V	98	PRINCESS PAT	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	HODGE	215	14			42-100366	366	H	Z5	73	MIZPAH	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	HOEY	215	34			41-29305	305	N	Z5	46	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	REPLACED 912
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	JACKSON, WE	215	16			41-29567	567	G	7V	21	MY BUNNIE / BAMBI	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	KELLY	215	17			42-50768	768	Y	J4	45	ARISE MY LOVE AND COME WITH ME	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	LAIRD	215	17			42-100425	425	O	7V	74	THE BIRD	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	LANQUIST	215	13		L4	44-48837	837	L	J3	21	UNKNOWN 041	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	MARTIN, W	215	3			42-50502	502	E	7V	55	LARRUPIN' LINDA	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	MATEER	215	7			42-51196	196	Q	J3	52	THE GYPSY QUEEN	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	McCARTNEY	215	12			42-51743	743	F	J3	27	UNKNOWN 006	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	McCOY	215	16			41-28980	980	V	J4	30	UNKNOWN 009	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	MINOR	215	24			42-50578	578	F	Z5	51	SKY ROOM	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	MONTGOMERY	215	7			42-51200	200	F	J4	6	STINKY	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	NUTTER	215	11			42-95108	108	B	Z5	74	ENVY OF 'EM ALL II	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	PELTON	215	4			42-110141	141	U	J4	49	BREEZY LADY / MARIE / SUPERMAN	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	POLLIARD	215	23	LaVALLE	D1	42-95557	557	H	J3	42	LADY PEACE	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	RHOADES	215	26			42-51179	179	P	Z5	84	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	ROBINSON	215	5			44-40277	277	P	J4	56	MISS USED	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	SCHUCH	215	5			44-10487	487	R	7V	51	Girl on surfboard (no name)	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	SIEVERTSON	215	34			42-51514	514	B	7V	30	BIG CHIEF LIL' BEAVER	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	SLOAN	215	4			44-10602	602	E	J4	40	TEN GUN DOTTIE	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	SNYDER	215	5			42-95183	183	U	Z5	94	BRINEY MARLIN	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	SPRATT	215	21			42-51110	110	M	7V	98	TOP O' THE MARK	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	THOMAS	215	9			42-95120	120	M	Z5	87	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	WALLIS	215	11			42-95018	018	J	Z5	96	OLD DOC'S YACHT	REPLACED 298
30-Mar-45	WILHELMSHAVEN	WELCH	215	6			42-50456	456	D	Z5	54	DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL	