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HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 553

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

FIELD ORDER NO.

563

TARGET

ZWICKAU
OSCHERSLEBEN

DATE

12 APRIL 1944

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9, 27 SEP 58

4340-1 HHH

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HEADQUARTERS
2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 558

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

ATTACHMENT NO.

563

TARGET

ZWICKAU
OSCHERSLEBEN

DATE

12 APRIL 1944

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2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

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DOD DIR 52007, 27 Sep 58

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- ANNEX 4 - ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS
- ANNEX 5 - COMMUNICATIONS
- ANNEX 6 - STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

COPY NO. 2

: S E C R E T
: By Auth of CG
: 2d Bomb Div
: Initials [Signature]
: Date 7 Feb 1964

4 May 1944

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, AAF 101, APO 634.

1. Data.

- | 1st Air Task Force | Primary | Secondary |
|--------------------|---------|--|
| 2nd Combat Wing | - | Zwickau - Center of Plant and A/C on A/D |
| 389th Bomb Group | | Oschersleben - center of fac- |
| 453rd Bomb Group | | ories |
| 445th Bomb Group | | |
| 14th Combat Wing | - | " " |
| 392nd Bomb Group | | |
| 44th Bomb Group | | |
| 4th Air Task Force | Primary | Secondary |
| 96th Combat Wing | - | Oschersleben - Brunswick - Cente |
| 466th Bomb Group | | Center of Plant of A/D Hangars and |
| 467th Bomb Group | | Factories |
| 458th Bomb Group | | |
| 20th Combat Wing | - | " " |
| 93rd Bomb Group | | |
| 446th Bomb Group | | |
| 448th Bomb Group | | |

- c. Last Resort Target - Any airdrome or industrial center positively identified as in Germany or any airdrome in occupied territory not adjacent to built-up areas.

2. Narrative.

- a. 182 aircraft were dispatched to attack targets listed above. Fighter support was provided by seven Groups of P-51s, three Groups of P-38s and nine Groups of P-47s.

b. Group, Wing and Air Task Force assemblies were accomplished without incident. No difficulty was experienced until departing buncher 5, where all units encountered heavy contrails and beginnings of dense haze and cloud layers. The 96th Combat Wing, leading 4th Air Task Force, abandoned the mission in mid-channel, and the 20th Combat Wing broke up during the climb, as a result of these conditions. The 2nd and 14th Combat Wings, comprising the 1st Air Task Force, lost contact at buncher 5 but regained control at the French Coast due to a series of dog legs which the 2nd Combat Wing executed. Just inside the German border increasingly bad weather conditions finally forced the 1st Air Task Force leader to abandon the mission and return to base.

- c. Anti-aircraft fire was negligible, and fighter support excellent until the 2nd Wing made its turn on abandoning the mission. In the turn, 20-30 enemy aircraft attacked the formation, causing the loss of 5 aircraft. Claims were 10 enemy aircraft destroyed and 5 probables.

For the Commanding General:

CHARLES B. WESTOVER
10101
10101

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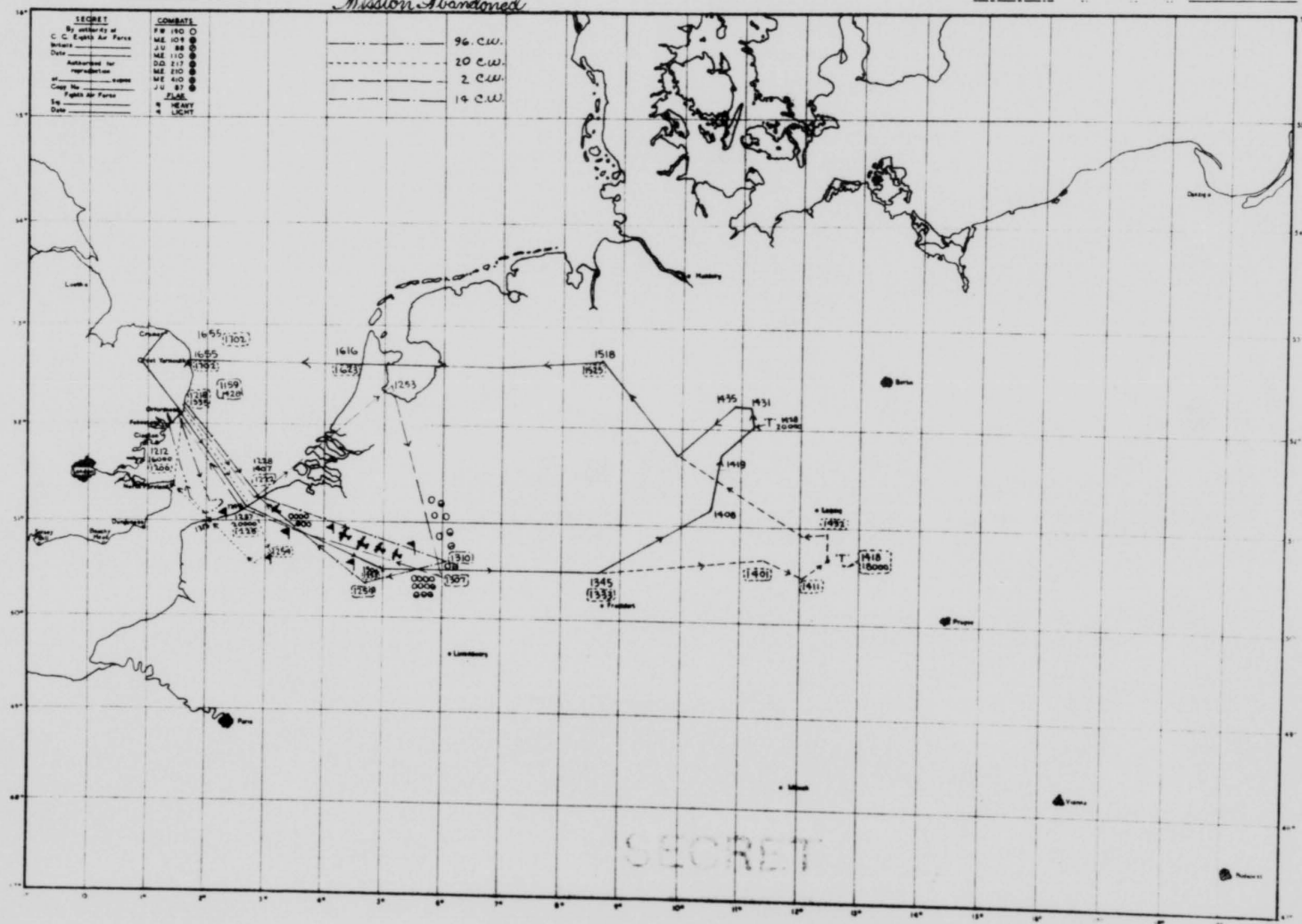
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TARGETS
PRIMARY Oschersleben 96420
Zwickov 24614

TRACK CHART
DATE April 12, 1944

BRIEFED FOR 96420
ROUTE FOLLOWED BY
BRIEFED FOR 24614

Mission Abandoned



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Tactical Report of Mission, 12 April 1944

3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. Gunfire was encountered at Dunkirk, Lille, Courtrai, Charleroi. Brussels and Liege. Green and yellow bursts were seen various places.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 12 April 1944

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4. Enemy Aircraft Encounters.

- a. The 2nd Combat Wing, leading the 1st Air Task Force, reported encounters and attacks. The Group flying the low left spot report attacks by 30 to 40 ME 109s and FW 190s, predominantly the latter. Some long nosed 190s participated. In general no specific types of tactics were used except in some cases where three E/A in trail attacked from the tail, while at the same time one E/A attacked from nine o'clock. The attacks lasted about 15 minutes and occurred as the Group turned to abandon the mission at 5018N-0618E. Friendly fighters were called and they broke up the attack. This Group lost five A/C from these attacks. The E/A were painted with yellow noses and cowlings. Some were dark grey and brown. Some were silver. The Group flying the lead position of the 2nd Wing reported sighting large numbers of SE E/A, a few of which attacked, but did not press home their attacks. The E/A concentrated on the Group in the low left position. The Group in the high right position report no encounters.
- b. The 14th Combat Wing followed the 2nd by three minutes. Sightings of two SE E/A were made in the area of Liege. They passed under the high right Group, spraying the low section from three o'clock. Four more E/A, identified as two ME 109s and two FW 190s, were sighted in the Charleroi area. They made one pass toward the rear of the lead Group. All sightings occurred on the way back to base.
- c. No sightings of E/A were made by units making up the 96th and 20th Combat Wings.
- d. It is estimated that a total of 60 E/A were sighted by Groups of the 2d Division. These were entirely SE type, predominantly FW 190s. These E/A were encountered in an area just northwest of the country of Luxembourg. Through a combination of circumstances these E/A exploited an advantage with telling effect. Their attacks were concentrated on the low left Group of the leading Combat Wing and occurred just as this Group was turning to abandon the mission. This, plus weather conditions prevalent at the time, gave the E/A several minutes in which to concentrate their attacks before being driven off by friendly fighters.

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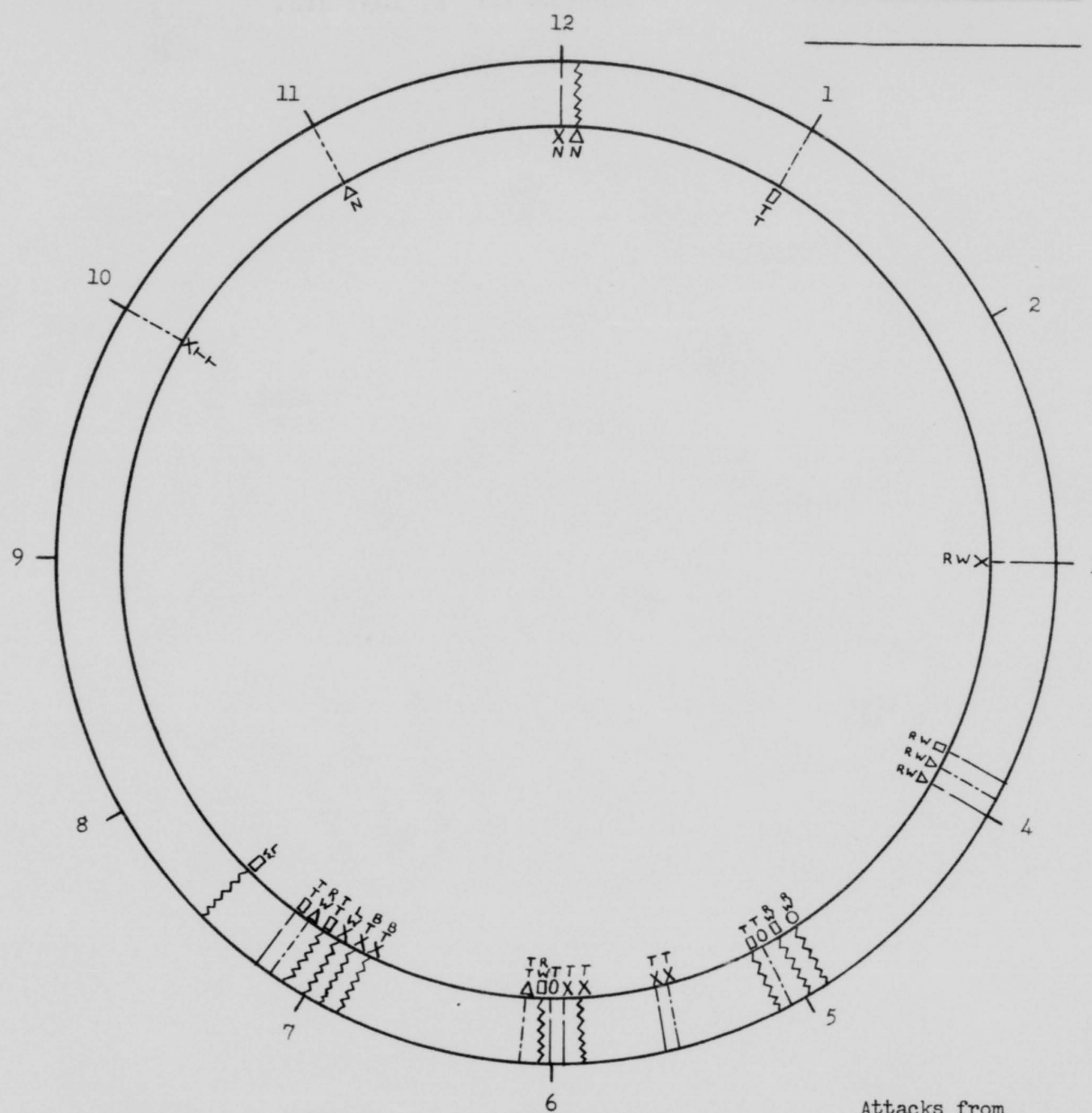
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COMBAT REPORT FORM (WING)

TARGET _____ WING _____ DATE _____

TIME OF ATTACKS _____

VICINITY OF ATTACKS _____



Attacks from
 Above - - - - -
 Level - - - - -
 Below - - - - -

Destroyed - X
 Probable - Δ
 Damaged - □
 No Claim - O

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Tactical Report of Mission, 12 April 1944

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5. Communications.

a. Channels.

- (1) A carrier was on for five minutes at 1045, and again at 1138 interfering with traffic on VHF Division Channel. Net discipline was poor between 1235 and 1305 hours when more than one aircraft was transmitting at the same time. Mention was made twice of geographical locations, once at 1243 and once at 1435 hours. W/T Division channel was satisfactory.

b. Navigational Aids.

- (1) GEE and other aids operated satisfactorily.

c. Equipment Failures and Performance.

- (1) Failures reported were of a minor nature.

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FORM V-31

UNIT		2d BD	389	389SH	445	453	44	392	93	446
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF	268	21	4	25	26	20	26	23	26
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED	182	9	2	23	1	18	21	20	-
	NO. A/C ATTACKING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING	268	21	4	25	26	20	26	23	26
	NO. A/C SORTIES	114	9	2	23	1	18	21	20	-
B O M B S	PT R A I R M A G E T Y	NO. A/C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		NO. & TYPE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		TONNAGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	O T T A R G E T S	TARGET	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		NO. OF A/C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		NO. & TYPE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		TONNAGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B A T T L E R E S U L T S	A/C LOST TO FLAK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO E/A	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO FLAK-E/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	CASUALTIES - KILLED, WOUNDED SER., SLT., MIA	0-2-0-52	-	-	0-2-0-50	-	-	0-0-0-2	-	-
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM	10-5-8-4	1-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	9-5-8-4	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE CAT. A-AC-B-E	14-12-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	5-5-0-0	0-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	6-0-0-0	0-7-0-0	0-0-0-0

TACTICAL COMMANDER'S REPORT
6. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
12 April 1944PREPARED BY
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2d BOMB DIVISION

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FORM V-21

UNIT		2d BD	448	458	466	467			
A I R C R A F T	NO. A/C TAKING OFF		23	24	23	27			
	NO. A/C DISPATCHED		21	19	21	27			
	NO. A/C ATTACKING		-	-	-	-			
	NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING		23	24	23	27			
	NO. A/C SORTIES		20	-	-	-			
B O M B S	P R I M A R Y	NO. A/C							
		NO. & TYPE							
		TONNAGE							
	O T H E R S	TARGET							
		NO. OF A/C							
		NO. & TYPE							
		TONNAGE							
TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS									
B A T T L E R E S U L T S	A/C LOST TO FLAK								
	A/C LOST TO E/A								
	A/C LOST TO FLAK-E/A								
	A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT								
	A/C LOST UNKNOWN								
	CASUALTIES - KILLED, WOUNDED SER., SLT., MIA		0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0			
	CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, PROB., DAM., NO CLAIM		0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0			
	A/C BATTLE DAMAGE C/T. A-AC-3-E		2-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0			

TACTICAL COMMANDER'S REPORT
6. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
12 April 1944

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STATISTICAL CONTROL
2d BOMB DIVISION

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HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
APO 634

RELATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF GUN POSITIONS - B-24's

12 April 1944

	Total	% of Total	Des- troyed	Prob.	Dam.	No Claim	% Des- troyed	% Prob.	% Dam.	% No Claim
Nose	3		1	1		1				
Top T.	5		1	2	2	0				
Ball T.	2		2	0	0	0				
Tunnel	0									
Waist	3		1	0	2	0				
R. Waist	7		1	2	3	1				
Tail T.	7		4	0	1	2				
Other										
TOTAL	27		10	5	8	4				

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VULNERABILITY OF E/A

	Total	% of Total	Des- troyed	Prob.	Dam.	No Claim	% Des- troyed	% Prob.	% Dam.	% No Claim
190	17		4	4	5	4				
109	10		6	1	3	0				
TOTAL	27		10	5	8	4				

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REF: 004586P

INITIALS: JLV

DATE: 13 Apr.

HEADQUARTERS
458TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Group Operations Officer
AAF 123 APO 508

13 April 1944

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary of Operations, Mission of 12 April 1944.

TO : Commanding Officer, 458th Bombardment Group (H)
AAF 123, APO 508

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A. Group	458
B. Date of Operation	12 APRIL 1944
C. Division F.O. No.	259
D. Ordered Primary Target.	Oschersleben - JU 88 and 188 A/C Factory.
E. A/C Taking Off.	24
F. A/C Dispatched.	19
G. Sorties	Nil
H. A/C Attacking	Nil
I. A/C Not Attacking	24
J. A/C Attacking-Primary Target.	Nil
K. A/C Attacking-Secondary Target.	Nil
L. A/C Attacking-Last Resort Target.	Nil
M. A/C Attacking-Opportunity Target.	Nil
N. A/C Lost-Flak	Nil
O. A/C Lost-Flak and E/A	Nil
P. A/C Lost-E/A	Nil
Q. A/C Lost-Accident	Nil
R. A/C Lost-Cause Unknown.	Nil

Joseph L. Williams
JOSEPH L. WILLIAMS
1st Lt, Air Corps
GROUP STATISTICAL OFFICER

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MISSION - 12 APRIL 1944

GLENN - JAMISON
K21 B 433 Nav-NIXON

SECTION I

BARTON
K21 I 682 ABORT

SLATON
K20 E 059

COMES-OLLUM
K21 A 362

SCHULZE
K20 B 366 ABORT

DAVIS
N 305

COUCH
K20 J 353

STEWART
K20 P 302

OINEY
K21 I 441

STILSON
K21 Q 404

WATSON
O 738

MELTON
Q 719

TOOMAN - HENSLEY
K21 B 431 Nav - Sullivan

SECTION II

GRANT
K21 J 382

UMPHREY
K20 Q 273

KECK-CHAMBERLAIN
K21 A 341

SCHUMAN
K20 T 276 NTO

GULICK
N 340 NTO

ZIMMERMAN
K20 Q 457 ABORT

SCHAAF
K21 O 455

GAINES
S 735 ABORT

DAVIDSON
K20 L 721

TAYLOR
M 718

NEDROW
K20 H 303

ANDREW
K21 P 733

De NEERE
F 706 NTO

CRAGIN
K 352

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
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	ANDREW	REC	--			41-28733	733	P	J4	--	RHAPSODY IN JUNK	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	BARTON	REC	ABT			41-28682	682	I	Z5	--	UNKNOWN 003	ABORT - RECALL #4 ENG OIL GASKET BLEW
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	COMBS	REC	--	OLLUM	D1	42-100362	362	A	Z5	--	SWEET LORRAINE	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	COUCH	REC	ABT			42-52353	353	J	Z5	--	UNKNOWN 049	ABORT - RECALL LOST FORMATION
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	CRAGUN	REC	--			41-29352	352	K	7V	--	WOLVE'S LAIR	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	DAVIDSON	REC	--			41-28721	721	L	J4	--	DOWNWIND LEG	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	DAVIS	REC	--			41-29305	305	N	Z5	--	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	DeNEFFE	REC	NTO			41-28706	706	F	J4	--	DREAM BOAT/SPARE PARTS	NO TAKE OFF - RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	GAINES	REC	ABT			41-28735	735	S	J4	--	UNKNOWN 005	ABORT - RECALL GAS LEAK RGT WING FILLER CAP
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	GLENN	REC	--	JAMISON	L1	42-100433	433	B	J3	9	BIG DICK HARD TO HIT	RECALL (NAV NIXON)
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	GRANT	REC	--			42-52382	382	J	7V	--	WURF'LESS	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	GULICK	REC	NTO			41-29340	340	N	7V	--	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	NO TAKE OFF - RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	KECK	REC	--	CHAMBERLAIN	D2	42-100341	341	A	J4	--	SATAN'S MATE	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	MELTON	REC	--			41-28719	719	Q	J3	--	PADDLEFOOT	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	NEDROW	REC	--			41-29303	303	H	Z5	--	LIBERTY LIB	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	OLNEY	REC	--			42-52441	441	I	J3	--	LAST CARD LOUIE	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	SCHAAF	REC	--			42-52455	455	O	7V	--	PLUTOCRAT	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	SCHULZE	REC	ABT			42-100366	366	B	Z5	--	MIZPAH	ABORT - RECALL #4 ENG LOST OIL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	SCHUMAN	REC	NTO			41-29276	276	T	J4	--	URGIN VIRGIN/The ROTTEN SOCK	NO TAKE OFF - RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	SLATON	REC	--			42-110059	059	E	J3	--	UNKNOWN 056	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	STEWART	REC	--			41-29302	302	P	7V	--	NOKKISH	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	STILSON	REC	--			42-52404	404	Q	Z5	--	BELLE OF BOSTON	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	TAYLOR, O	REC	--			41-28718	718	M	7V	--	BO	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	TOOMAN	REC	--	HENSLER	L2	42-100431	431	B	J4	--	BOMB-AH-DEAR	RECALL (NAV SULLIVAN)
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	UMPHREY	REC	--			41-29273	273	Q	J4	--	FLAK MAGNET	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	WATSON	REC	--			41-28738	738	O	Z5	--	MEAT AROUND THE CORNER	RECALL
12-Apr-44	OSCHERSLEBEN	ZIMMERMAN	REC	ABT			42-52457	457	Q	7V	--	FINAL APPROACH	ABORT - RECALL #2 ENG LOST MANIF PRES