

HEADQUARTERS
NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Operations Officer

APO 559.
28 April 1944.

SUBJECT: Report of Operations Officer, Mission of the morning of
27 April 1944.

TO : Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group (H), APO 559.

1. **GENERAL NARRATIVE:** The 95th Group formation took off at 0700 - 0715 hours, and made normal assembly at 2000' above base. The formation was assembled by 0724 and immediately began climb to bombing altitude. The first control point, Splasher 8, was reached four minutes early, at 20,000', and 0850 hours. Splasher 11 and 13; the next two controls, were also crossed four minutes early, at 0907 and 0928 respectively. However, a sweeping turn was made to the Bill of Portland and the English coast crossed at 0940, one minute early, at 20,000'.

Flight across the channel was as briefed - the I.P. reached at 1001, and squadrons took interval in order of lead, high, and low. The lead squadron's bombs were away at 1009 hours. The high and low squadrons bombed and reformed Group formation at Rally Point. Descent was begun at enemy coast at 1012 hours. English coast was recrossed at 1041 hours, at 8,000'. Base reached at 1135 hours - and landing effected 1138 - 1213 hours.

2. **AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING:** Twenty-one aircraft left base in the formation shown in the attached diagram "A". All aircraft were dispatched, attacked target, and are credited with sorties. The formation over target is shown in attached diagram "B".

3. **LOST AIRCRAFT:** None.

HARRY G. MUMFORD,
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

S E C R E T

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Authority 745005

By JE NARA Date 8-10-6

HEADQUARTERS 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 559

E-I-15

27 April 1944

AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING

95th Group Formation

Mission of 27 April 1944

A. Number of A/C Scheduled.....	21
B. Number of A/C Taking Off.....	21
C. A/C Taking Off less unused spares.....	21
D. Number of A/C Dispatched.....	21
E. Number of A/C Attacking.....	21
F. Number of A/C Not Attacking.....	0
G. Number of Sorties.....	21
H. Detailed description of reasons why aircraft did not attack:	

None.

For the Commanding Officer:

HARRY G. HENNING,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

COMBAT

Phoned in 2206

FORM 5

STATION 119DATE 4-27-44

	LET	SHIP	PILOT	TARGET	TIME OFF		LANDING		REMARKS
					DST	ACT	EST	ACT	
412	X	1999	MILWARD			700		1154	
336	Q	2505	JACOBSON			700		1155	
"	E	7120	KIRBY			701		1152	
"	N	9884	CAVALIER			702		1157	
"	S	7334	SLOSSER			703		1158	
412	H	7797	DANCISIN			704		1159	
336	K	2450	RIVENBARK			704		1158	
334	G	1920	HARRIS	HIGH		705		1210	
"	E	8123	ROTTSTEDT			706			Landed at HURN - LT. ROTTSTEDT and SGT. RAGAN WOUNDED
"	J	7201	JOHNSON			707		1204	
"	Q	1924	FORD			707		1144	
"	N	9924	WYRICK			708		1212	
412	K	1887	BERTRAM			709		1213	
"	L	7257	HATHEWAY			710		1211	
334	P	1992	EDWARDS	Low		711		1142	
335	J	7215	DELUCA			711		1138	

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Authority 745005

BOE NARA Date 8-10-6

95 GROUP ASSEMBLY
DIAGRAM "A"

NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Operations Officer

GROUP FORMATION FORM

DATE 27 APRIL 44

LEAD

MILWARD

1999

LOW

KIRBY
71 20

JACOBSON
25 06

HIGH

EDWARDS
19 92

CAVALIER
98 84

HARRIS
19 20

WRIGHT
10 63

DELUCA
72 15

DANCISIN
77 97

SLUSSER
75 34

JENKINSON
72 01

ROTTSTEDT
81 23

HENDERSON
72 64

RIVENBARK
2450

FORM
19 24

BESSER
1600

RIBNAKAR
18 76

BERTRAM
18 87

KYRICK
99 24

GIELEN
7232

HATHWAY
72 57

BRIEFING _____
READINESS _____
STATIONS _____
TAXI _____
TAKE-OFF _____
RENDEZVOUS _____

EXTRA SHIPS
334 _____
335 _____
336 _____
412 _____

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 Authority 745005
 BWF NARA Date 8-10-6

96 GROUP OVER TARGET
 DIAGRAM "B"

NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
 Office of the Operations Officer

GROUP FORMATION FORM

DATE 27 APRIL 44

LEAD

MILFARD

19 99

LOW

KIRBY

71 20

JACOBSON

250 5

HIGH

EDWARDS

19 92

CAVALIER

98 84

HARRIS

19 20

WRIGHT

10 63

DELUCA

72 15

DANCISIN

77 97

SLUSSER

73 34

JOHNSON

72 01

ROTTSTEDT

81 23

HENDERSON

72 64

RIVENBARK

2450

FORD

19 24

BESSER

16 00

RIBNAR

18 76

BERTRAM

18 87

WYRICK

99 24

GIELEN

7252

HATHENAY

7257

BRIEFING _____
 READINESS _____
 STATIONS _____
 TAXI _____
 TAKE-OFF _____
 RENDEZVOUS _____

EXTRA SHIPS

334 _____
 335 _____
 336 _____
 412 _____

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BOE NARA Date 8-10-6

T. F.
W.

FORMATION DIAG
95TH BOMB. GRO
DATE 27-
TIME MORN

MILWARD
19/99

EDWARDS
19/92

KIRBY
71/20

JACOBSON
25/05

HARRIS
19/20

WRIGHT
10/63

DELUCA
72/15

CAVALIER
98/84

JOHNSON
72/01

BOTTSI
81/2:

HENDERSON
72/64

DANCISIN
77/97

SLUSSER
33/34

FORD
19/24

BLEWER
16/00

KIBNIKAR
A/76

RIVENBARK
24/50

BERTRAM
13/57

MYRICK
49/24

GIELEN

HATHEWAY
72/57

EXTRA

ABORTIVE _____

MISSING _____

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 Authority 745005
 By JF NARA Date 8-10-6

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
 AAF STATION 101
 APO 634

E I G H T H A I R F O R C E N A R R A T I V E O F O P E R A T I O N S

322nd Operation - 27 April 1944

M I L I T A R Y I N S T A L L A T I O N S - P A S D E C A L A I S A N D C H E R B O U R G A R E A S

Eleven combat wings, totalling 393 B-17s and 203 B-24s, escorted by 262 P-47s of VIII Fighter Command, were dispatched to attack 25 military installations in the Pas de Calais and Cherbourg areas. Weather was generally clear but a heavy ground haze prevented a few squadrons from identifying their targets. A total of 1,847 tons of G.P. and S.A.P. bombs were dropped on 21 primary targets and 3 other military installations. First phase photo interpretation indicates excellent results on four, very good on four, good on seven, fair on three, poor on five, and unknown on one. No e/a were encountered but flak was intense and accurate and accounted for the loss of three B-17s, one B-24 and one P-47. In addition, one P-51 was lost due to engine failure. Fighters claimed three e/a damaged on the ground.

B O M B E R O P E R A T I O N S

Unit (AB)	Number of A/C		Lost	Tons of G.P.		
	Disp.	Attacked		Primary	O.T.'s	
	Primary	O.T.'s				
<u>1ST BOMB DIV.</u>						
1st C.W. 40	39	7	0	1	28	0
41st C.W. 65	57	53	0	1	(84	
					126.5	
40th C.W. 63	56	37	0	0	142.8	
94th C.W. 62	54	36	18	0	143.5	72
	230	133	18	2	524.8	72
<u>2ND BOMB DIV.</u>						
2nd C.W. 55	54	45	9	0	176.5	36
14th C.W. 38	38	27	0	1	81	
20th C.W. 56	52	40	0	0	160	
96th C.W. 61	59	48	0	0	177.5	
	210	160	9	1	595	36
<u>3RD BOMB DIV.</u>						
4th C.W. 64	63	40	0	1	160	0
13th C.W. 68	63	63	0	0	248.3	0
45th C.W. 69	61	53	0	0	211.0	0
	201	156	0	1	619.3	0
OPERATIONAL TOTALS	641	449	27	4	1739.1	108

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 745005
By JEF NARA Date 8-10-6

BOMBING RESULTS: 289 B-17s and 160 B-24s dropped 84 x 2000 tons G.P., 1011 x 1000 G.P., and 4399 x 500 G.P. - a total of 1347.1 tons-on 24 military installations in the Pas de Calais and Cherbourg areas - with excellent results on four targets, very good on four, good on 7, fair on 3, poor on 5, and unknown on one.

ENCOUNTERS: There was no enemy air opposition to this operation, although four FW-190s were reported seen by one group over one of the installations in the Pas de Calais area.

REASONS FOR FAILURE TO BOMB: 36 B-17s and 34 B-24s failed to bomb - 10 B-17s and 6 B-24s due to mechanical and equipment failure, 21 B-17s and 9 B-24s due to weather, 1 B-17 to enemy action and 54 B-17s and 19 B-24s due to other reasons.

CASUALTIES: Personnel - 1 crew member was killed, 26 were wounded and 40 were missing.

Equipment - 3 B-17s and 1 B-24 were lost, all due to AA.

Estimated Battle Damage - 171 B-17s and 74 B-24s Category "A" and "AC", 43 B-17s Category "B" and 1 B-24 Category "E".

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE: Flak from three Cherbourg installations was intense and accurate. Fire from the Pas de Calais installations was generally meager to moderate and accurate. Very accurate, moderate tracking fire was experienced at St. Omer and Cherbourg, and ground rockets were observed at Dieppe and Oisemont. Two bombers were lost to flak in the Cherbourg area and one to flak in the Pas de Calais area.

WEATHER: In the pas de Calais area, the weather was generally clear and had no effect upon the mission, except in the case of one squadron which was unable to bomb because of the ground haze at Moyenneville. While CAVU conditions prevailed at some targets in the Cherbourg area, at others a very heavy ground haze caused some squadrons to make as many as five bombing runs and prevented three squadrons from identifying their target in time for a bombing run.

OBSERVATIONS: Immediately south of the bay at Point Haut-Banc, long strips that looked like strip mining, with many trucks moving about were observed, and a concentration of small boats at Point Haut-Banc itself. It was reported also that Watten appeared to be better camouflaged than shown in photographs. Mobile guns being moved along the beach from Dunkirk toward Calais were noted. The harbors at these places were free of shipping. It was observed that the land around Etaples was being flooded. Construction work was in progress at approximately 5024N-0136E, with many square buildings being erected.

FIGHTER OPERATIONS

Area support for the operation was provided uneventfully by 94 P-47s from three groups of VIII Fighter Command. No e/a were seen and there were no casualties. Free lance support under type 16 control was given by an additional four groups, totalling 168 P-47s, of the same Command. No e/a were seen in the air by any of these groups, but one group strafed Beaumont-sur-Oise A/F.

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In addition, three groups - 28 P-51s and 102 P-38s (including two as escort) - were dispatched on fighter-bomber attacks against airfields in France) and two groups - 43 P-51s and 47 P-38s - on sweeps. In all these operations only two fighters were lost - one P-47 and one P-51. Escorting fighters made the only e/a claims - 0-0-3 - all on the ground.

VIII Fighter Command

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Type of A/C</u>	<u>Type of Support</u>	<u>No. A/C on Mission</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Claims</u>
<u>65th Fighter Wing</u>					
56A	P-47	Area	24	0	0-0-0
56B	P-47	Area	24	0	0-0-0
<u>66th Fighter Wing</u>					
78A	P-47	Free lance	49	0	0-0-0
78B	P-47	Free Lance	23	0	0-0-0
353	P-47	Free Lance	45	0	0-0-0
361	P-47	Free Lance	51	1	0-0-3+
55	P-38	Fighter-bomber	54	0	0-0-0
357	P-51	Sweep	48	1	0-0-0
			<u>270</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0-0-3</u>
<u>67th Fighter Wing</u>					
359	P-47	Area	46	0	0-0-0
20	P-38	Fighter-Bomber	48	0	0-0-0
352	P-51	Fighter-Bomber	23	0	0-0-0
364	P-38	Sweep	47	0	0-0-0
			<u>169</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0-0-0</u>
OPERATIONAL TOTALS :			487	2	0-0-3

+ On the ground.

BOMBER ESCORT

The 56 A Group made landfall in at Berck-sur-Mer, proceeded to the assigned area and there made 20 to 30 orbits without sighting any e/a. Intense, heavy flak, accurate at the bombers' level, was observed at Abbeville. The 56 B Group made landfall in at the same place and likewise made 20 to 30 orbits over their assigned area, but sighted no e/a. Flak between Dunkirk and Calais was reported as the heaviest and most accurate experienced by this group. The 359th Group, also providing area support, made landfall in at Biville. Squadrons were deployed one each to the western, central and eastern portions of the assigned area. No e/a were sighted. Vertical visibility was poor in the Boulogne-Abbeville area, due to ground haze extending up to 7,000 feet. Moderate, heavy flak was observed on our bombers at Rouen, and intense heavy flak at Abbeville.

Although some squadrons of the 78 A Group, giving free lance support under type 16 control, swept the Beauvais area and the area west of Reims, they saw no e/a on the various A/Fs. Two P-47s were damaged by the heavy accurate flak over Abbeville. The 78B Group swept as far as Paris but sighted no e/a and

C O N F I D E N T I A L

encountered no flak. The 353rd Group likewise sighted no e/a. One flight of P-47s of the 361st Group strafed the A/F at Etampes/Mondésir, shooting up four hangars and a row of workshops. No e/a and no flak were encountered there. The group reported the following observations: One t/e e/a on Villacoublay A/F, six unidentified e/a on an A/F near Guterville, 30 miles north of Orleans and 15 plus He-111s and JU-88s on Etampes/Mondésir A/F.

FIGHTER-BOMBER ATTACKS AND SWEEPS

Finding the primary covered by 10/10 cloud, the 20th Group turned north and bombed Albert/Meaulte A/F from 20,000 feet and then strafed the field. 71 x 1000 lb. G.P. bombs were dropped on that A/F from 20,000 feet, with excellent results reported. 1 x 1000 G.P. bomb was jettisoned in the Channel, 2 x 500 G.P. bombs were jettisoned southeast of Albert/Meaulte A/F, and 4 x 500 G.P. were returned to base.

The 55th Group, comprising 54 P-38s, with 2 P-38s as escort, bombed the Roye/Amy A/F from 17,000 feet, with excellent results. 103 x 1000 G.P. bombs - 51.5 tons - were dropped; 2 x 1000 G.P. bombs were returned to base, and 1 x 1000 bomb was jettisoned as a result of a shackle malfunction. With the exception of a few bursts, all the bombs were seen to fall in a concentrated area about 1000 x 600 yards in the southwest corner of the dispersal area. Heavy flak at the target was skillfully avoided. Flak at Amiens was moderate, heavy and inaccurate. Two t/e e/a were seen on the east-west runway at the target.

28 P-51s of the 352nd Group dive-bombed Corneilles-en-Vexin (Pontoise) A/F, dropping 36 x 500 G.P. with fair results. Bomb hits were seen in the dispersal area in the south end of the field, on the south runway, and on the northwest and southwest corners of the field. The dive was begun at 16,000 feet, and the bombs released at 9,000 feet. 15 bombs were jettisoned - 13 in the Channel, 2 in a field by an aborting a/c. 3 a/c aborted, carrying 6 bombs. No e/a were seen. Meager, inaccurate flak was encountered over the target.

The 357th Group swept the Courtrai-Reims-Orleans areas uneventfully. No e/a were seen in the air, but 5 t/e e/a were observed on an A/F west of Reims. About 12 barrage balloons, evenly spaced in a circle and suspended over both banks of the Loire River were seen 3 miles southwest of Orleans. One P-47 was lost due to engine trouble. The 364th Group made landfall in at Trouville and swept the areas west, southeast and north of Paris without incident. Making landfall out, the group scattered between Fecamp and Calais and swept over numerous A/Fs, including Vendôme, Belleville, Mondésir, Le Bourget and St. Aubin, seeing only 2 JU-88s on Mondésir A/F. The group also swept the Reims area, but saw no e/a. Many of the A/Fs were observed to have numerous covered revetments and effective camouflage.

NOTE: The foregoing is based on preliminary information and should not be used for record purposes.

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