

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

APO 559,  
28 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Report of Operations Officer - Mission 28 April 1944,  
TO : Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group (H), A.A.F.

1. General Narrative. Twenty-one Air Craft of the 95th Group took off from base at 0715 - 0731 hours. Group assembly was effected at 2000' over base as planned. By 0843 an altitude of 13,500' had been reached over Spl #8. Spl #11 was crossed at 20,000' at 0904 with Group in good formation. A 360° turn by a group ahead forced the 95th to continue past Spl #13 before leaving the English coast at 50°42'N - 03°05'W.

Approaching the briefed I.P. it was decided, due to cloud cover to change the I.P. A break in the clouds was seen just as the French coast was sighted at 1022 hours. Squadron peel off was effected at new I.P. on flare signal. The target area was 5/10 - 8/10 cloud covered, thus lead Bombardier did not drop. A/C # 7120 was hit by flak and dropped it's bombs on bombing run. Two wingmen and A/C from 100th Group dropped on him also. The low squadron made two runs on the target, but failed to bomb due to cloud coverage.

The French coast was recrossed at 49°25'N 01°10'W and landfall made on English coast at 1112 hours at 6,000'. Landings were from 1209 -1240 hours.

2. Aircraft Not Attacking. Twenty-one Aircraft left base shown in attached diagram A. All twenty-one Aircraft were dispatched and are credited with sorties. Cloud cover prevented the target from being attacked.

Aircraft # 7120 hit on two engines by flak on bomb run and dropped it's bombs. Three other Aircraft, 7290, 2450, and 100th Group dropped on him. Aircraft # 1939 salvoed bomb in channel due to fire in bomb bay. Formation over target shown in diagram B.

3. Lost Aircraft. There were no aircraft losses.

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

S E C R E T

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 745005

By JF NARA Date 8-10-6

HEADQUARTERS 65TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
APO 559

7-1-15

28 April 1944

AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING

65th Group Formation

Mission of 28 April 1944

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

1. A/C 42-97194, 42-97210, 42-31939, 42-92505, 42-107154, 42-102450  
42-97290, 42-31462, 42-31589, 42-97264, 42-31514, 42-37389  
42-31924, 42-107201, 42-31320, 42-97232, 42-31275, 42-38178,  
42-39924, 42-31687, 42-97707. Sorties. Failed to attack  
after being dispatched because of: (a) Weather.

For the Commanding Officer:

HARRY C. MERRITT,  
Lt. Col., Air Corps,  
Operations Officer.

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BOJF NARA Date 8-10-6

th GROUP ASSEMBLY  
AGRAM "A"

NINETY FIFTH FORWARDMENT GROUP (E)  
Office of the Operations Officer

GROUP FORMATION CORE

DATE 28 April 1944.

LEAD

BECKELMAM

71 | 94

DOHERTY

19 | 39

KIRBY

71 | 20

LCN

RCN

LEASER

13 | 20

SCOTT

25 | 05

CRUTCHFIELD

14 | 62

RIBNIKAR

16 | 75

PSOTA

72 | 32

BACHUZEWSKI

72 | 90

McREYNOLDS

71 | 54

MARTIN

72 | 64

BESSER

15 | 89

ENGLE

81 | 78

BABER

15 | 14

BERTRAM

18 | 87

LEMPERT

99 | 24

MADIGAN

19 | 24

ROSETTI

78 | 89

DANCISIN

7797

JOHNSON

72 | 01

BRIEFING \_\_\_\_\_

READINESS \_\_\_\_\_

STATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

TAXI \_\_\_\_\_

TAKS-OFF \_\_\_\_\_

REMEZVO IS \_\_\_\_\_

EXTRA SPIES

354 \_\_\_\_\_

386 \_\_\_\_\_

388 \_\_\_\_\_

412 \_\_\_\_\_

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Authority 745005

By JF NARA Date 8-10-6

h. GROUP OVER TARGET  
GRAM "B"

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

GROUP FORMATION CORE

DATE 28 April 1944.

LEAD

BECKELMAN

71 | 94

DOHERTY

19 | 39

KIRBY

71 | 20

LOW

LEASER

13 | 20

SCOTT

25 | 05

HIGH

CRUTCHFIELD

14 | 62

RIBNIKAR

16 | 75

PSOTA

72 | 32

BACHUZEWSKI

72 | 90

McREYNOLDS

71 | 54

MARTIN

72 | 64

BESSER

15 | 89

ENGLE

81 | 78

100th Ship

70 | 71

BABER

15 | 14

BERTRAM

18 | 87

LEMPERT

99 | 24

SLUSSER

24 | 50

MADIGAN

19 | 24

ROSETTI

78 | 89

DANCISIN

77 | 97

JOHNSON

72 | 01

BRIEFING \_\_\_\_\_

READINESS \_\_\_\_\_

STATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

TAXI \_\_\_\_\_

TAKE-OFF \_\_\_\_\_

RENDEZVOUS \_\_\_\_\_

ALTRA SIPS

334 \_\_\_\_\_

335 \_\_\_\_\_

336 \_\_\_\_\_

412 \_\_\_\_\_

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Authority 745005

By JF NARA Date 8-10-6

A.T.F.

C.W.

FORMATION DIAGRAM

95TH BOMB. GROUP (H)

DATE 28-4-44

TIME

BECKELMAN  
71/94

LEASER  
13/20

Doherty  
19/39

KIRBY  
71/20

CRUTCHFIELD  
14/62

RIBNIKAR  
16/75

PSOTA  
72/32

Scott  
25/05

MARTIN  
72/64

BESSER  
15/89

ENGLE  
81/78

Bachuzewski  
72/90

McReynolds  
71/54

BABER  
15/14

BERTRAM  
18/87

LEMPERT  
99/24

MADIGAN  
19/24

ROSETTI  
78/89

DANCISIN  
77/97

Johnson  
72/01

ABORTIVE

EXTRA

EXTRA A/C

MISSING

CHANGES

## COMBAT MISSION

FORM 3

STATION 119DATE April 28, 1944

	LET	SHIP	PILOT	TARGET	TIME OFF		LANDING		REMARKS
					EST	ACT	EST	ACT	
336	O	7194	Beckelman		0715		1218		
"	E	7120	Kirby		0716		1216		
"	J	1939	Doherty		0717		1217		
"	Q	2505	Scott		0717		1220		
334	F	7154	McReynolds		0718		1219		
336	K	2450	Slusser		0719		1221		
334	H	7290	Bachuzewski		0719		1220		
335	R	1462	Crutchfield	High	0720		1210		
"	O	1589	Besser		0721		1210		
"	H	7264	Martin		0722		1209		
"	K	1514	Baber		0723		1213		
"	L	7889	Rosetti		0723		1214		
334	Q	1924	Madigan		0724		1215		
"	J	7201	Johnson		0725		1215		
412	M	1320	Leaser	Low	0726		1226		
"	O	7232	Psota		0727		1227		
"	W	1675	Ribnikar		0727		1227		

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority NAVJ 145005  
 BY SA NARA Date 8/12/08



HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
AAF STATION 101  
APO 634

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

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

325th Operation - 28 April 1944

- 1st Bombardment Division - Avord A/F.
- 2nd Bombardment Division - Military Installation -  
Pas de Calais area.
- 3rd Bombardment Division - Military Installation -  
Cherbourg area.

In morning and afternoon attacks four combat wings of B-17s and three of B-24s were dispatched on missions against Avord A/F and military installations in the Pas de Calais and Cherbourg area. Escort to these operations was provided by eight groups of the VIII Fighter Command. Weather over military installations in the Cherbourg area prevented all but 15 a/c from attacking and hindered photographic assessment of results. However, the Avord A/F and an important military installation in the Pas de Calais area were attacked by a preponderant number of bombers dispatched and results were very good on the former and fair on the other. There was no enemy opposition to the attacks on the military installation and opposition to the a/c which went to Avord A/F was slight, the heaviest concentration being 25-40 e/a in the target area in weak and non-persistent attacks. Four B-17s were lost, all to flak. Three fighters were also lost, two on escort patrol and one from one of the four fighter-bomber attacks which were carried out in concentration with the main bomber operations. Bomber claims are not available. Fighter claims for the entire day's operations were 9-0-6, all 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				Primary		Tons	O.T.'s	
		Disp.	Attacked	Lost)	G.P.	I.B.	Frag.	G.P.	I.B.	
<u>1ST BOMB DIV.</u>			Primary	O.T.'s						
1st C.W.	59	59	58	0	2	174	0	0	0	0
40th C.W.	65	58	58	0	0	65.7	37	34	0	0
	<u>124</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>239.7</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>2ND BOMB DIV.</u>										
2nd C.W.	15	14	14	0	0	56	0	0	0	0
20th C.W.	23	23	23	0	0	88	0	0	0	0
96th C.W.	10	10	10	0	0	39	0	0	0	0
	<u>48</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>3RD BOMB DIV.</u>										
4th C.W.	42	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13th C.W.	68	64	15	3	2	45	0	0	9	0
	<u>110</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>OPERATIONAL</u>										
TOTALS	282	270	178	3	4	467.7	37	34	9	0



Avord A/F - Very good results.

116 B-17s dropped 348 x 1000 G.P., 438 x 300 G.P. and 680 x 100 fragmentation bombs - 273.7 tons - and 741 x 100 I.B. - 37 tons between 1154 and 1203 hours from 14,000 to 17,000 feet.

Two concentrations of H.E. fell into the hangar and barracks area at the southern edge of the field causing extensive damage. Four large double-bay hangars received direct hits, and one can be seen to be 50 percent destroyed. Two of the hangars were burning fiercely at the end of the attack. A fifth hangar received a direct hit near corner with slight damage resulting. Direct hits also fell in the barracks area where damage is considered severe.

A concentration of H.E. also fell into the hangar area on the eastern edge of the field and three large hangars received direct hits, of which the first is completely demolished and the second, 50 percent destroyed. I.B.'s fell into the workshop-barracks area and at least 14 barracks or workshops received direct hits. Fragmentation bombs covered most of the dispersal area on the northwestern edge of the field. Five a/c were visible on the field during the attack, two of which are burning and can be considered as destroyed.

Military Installation - Pas de Calais area - Fair results.

47 B-24s dropped 60 x 2000 G.P. and 246 x 1000 G.P. - 183 tons - between 1759 and 1805 hours from 21,000 to 22,800 feet.

Bombs fell in the target area, but did not hit the most vital components. One of the five vital sections was damaged to a slight extent.

Military Installation - Cherbourg - Unknown results.

15 B-17s dropped 90 x 1000 G.P. - 45 tons - between 1018 and 1035 hours from 21,000 to 22,200 feet.

Strike attack photographs show bombs in vicinity of target, but results cannot be conclusively assessed because of 8/10 cloud. Ground detail in target area has been positively identified, however.

Target of Opportunity - Unknown results.

Three B-17s dropped 18 x 1000 G.P. - 9 tons - on a T/O in the Cherbourg area at 1035 hours from 22,000 feet.

ENCOUNTERS: Enemy air opposition to the B-17s attacking Avord A/F was slight, and there was no air opposition to either the morning or afternoon attacks on military installations in the Pas de Calais and Cherbourg areas. No bombers were lost during the day's operations to enemy fighter attacks.

One wing of the force attacking Avord A/F were bounced by 25 to 40 Me-109s and FW-190s about ten minutes past the target at 4725N-0210E. Attacks lasted for only three minutes. A mass attack was made from 12 o'clock, but was not pressed home by all e/a, many failing to come within .50 caliber range of our bombers' guns. However, one report was made of eight FW-190s breaking through clouds beneath the formation and climbing straight up through the bombers. FW-190s with inline engines were noted.

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

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Authority 745005  
By JF NARA Date 8-10-6

REASONS FOR FAILURE TO BOMB: 88 B-17s failed to bomb - 1 B-17 due to mechanical failure and 87 B-17s because of adverse weather.

CASUALTIES: Personnel - 12 crew members were wounded and 41 are missing.  
Equipment - 4 a/c were lost, all to AA.  
Estimated Battle Damage - 82 B-17s and 19 B-24s suffered minor damage and 15 B-17s suffered major damage.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE: Moderate and fairly accurate flak was encountered at Avord A/F, causing the loss of two B-17s. Flak was meager to moderate and accurate in the Cherbourg area and meager and inaccurate over Guernsey Island, accounting for the loss of two additional B-17s. In the Pas de Calais area flak was moderate, accurate and predictor-controlled at the target; and moderate, fairly accurate between Calais and Gravelines.

WEATHER: 3/10 to 4/10 cloud at Avord A/F and considerable ground haze made it difficult to positively identify MPI's. On route to and from the target, there were scattered clouds. Weather did not affect mission to target in the Pas de Calais area, but cloud cover obscuring target areas in the Cherbourg area, prevented all but 15 a/c of one force from bombing assigned targets. Some squadrons made two runs over targets awaiting breaks without success.

OBSERVATIONS: There was much activity observed at Romorantin A/F. Approximately 40 vehicles parked on beach, and 25 barges in the water at 5100N-0158E.

FIGHTER OPERATIONS

Eight groups, totalling 301 fighters provided escort for both the morning and afternoon bomber operations. An additional four groups totalling 158 fighters, carried out fighter-bomber attacks on Tours, Chateaudun and an unidentified A/F northeast of Paris in conjunction with the bomber operations.

118 P-47s and 87 P-51s of six groups escorted the B-17s which attacked Avord A/F, making claims of 3-0-3 in strafing attacks for the loss of two P-51s, one of which was lost to flak. One group of 46 P-47s escorted the B-17s which attacked a military installation in the Cherbourg area in the morning. Mission was uneventful and there were no claims or losses. 50 P-47s of another group escorted the B-24s in the Pas de Calais area without incident.

Altogether three fighters were lost, two P-51s and one P-38 while total fighter claims were 9-0-6, all on the ground.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Type of A/C</u>	<u>Type of Mission</u>	<u>No A/C on Mission</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Claims</u>
<u>65th Fighter Wing</u>					
356	P-47	Pen., Tgt., & Withdrawal	46	0	0-0-0
56A	P-47	Area Support	24	0	0-0-0
56B	P-47	Area Support	24	0	0-0-0
56	P-47	Dive-Bombing	24	0	0-0-0
			<u>118</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0-0-0</u>
<u>66th Fighter Wing</u>					
55	P-38	Bombing	52	0	0-0-0
353	P-47	Dive-Bombing	36	0	1-0-1+
78A	P-47	Penetration	46	0	0-0-2+
357	P-51	Target Support (Avord)	45	1	0-0-0
78B	P-47	Withdrawal Support (Avord)	24	0	0-0-0
			<u>203</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1-0-3</u>

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Type of A/C</u>	<u>Type of Mission</u>	<u>No A/C on Missio</u>	
352	P-51	Area Support (Avord)	42	1 8-0-3+
20	P-38	Bombing	47	1 0-0-0
361	P-47	Close escort & area support	50	0 0-0-0
			<u>139</u>	<u>2 8-0-3</u>
OPERATIONAL TOTAL			460	3 9-0-6

+ on ground

Escort to Bombers

Escort to B-17 Force Assigned to Attack Avord A/F.

The 78 A Group rendezvoused at 1048 hours and escorted the bombers to Romorantin, leaving them after the 357th Group had taken over. No e/a were seen in the air. The 56 A Group, on type 16 control, reached the Chartres area at 0945 hours, vectored east and then south orbiting between Chartres and Orleans and patrolling as vectored. No e/a were seen in the sky, but through a break in the overcast, 20 plus s/e e/a were seen on the Orleans/Bricy A/F. Big fires were observed on the southeast side of Chateaudun A/F. The 56 B Group, also on type 16 control, made landfall in at Caen at 1034 hours, patrolling uneventfully the Chalons, Le Mans, Chartres and Tours areas. No e/a were seen in the air. The 357th Group rendezvoused with the bombers at Chateaudun at 1118 hours, escorting them through the target area to 50 miles southwest of Chateaudun at 1250 hours. South of the target, 10 to 20 s/e e/a made one head-on pass at the front box of bombers, diving into undercast away from our fighters. Two bombers were seen to go down near the target. The 352nd Group, under type 16 control, was vectored away from their area as briefed and rendezvoused with two combat wings in the vicinity of Vatan. Escort was broken in the vicinity of Lisieux at 1300 hours. The 78 B Group made rendezvous 15 miles west of Chateaudun at 1235 hours, leaving them at 1345 hours a few minutes before reaching the English Coast. No e/a were seen.

Fighter-Bomber Attacks

Chateaudun A/F:- Chateaudun A/F was attacked by P-38s of the 55th Group using level bombing technique and P-47s of the 353rd Group which dive-bombed the target. P-38s attacked first, 49 a/c dropping 49 x 100 G.P. - 24.5 tons - with excellent results, pilots reporting that bombs saturated the northeast dispersal area. Three additional P-38s acted as escort to the remainder of the group. After the 55th had dropped its bombs, the P-38s circled the A/F rendering top cover to P-47s of the 353rd Group. 34 P-47s each carrying 2 x 500 G.P. dive-bombed the target with two additional P-47s as escort. 65 x 500 G.P. - 16.2 tons - were dropped with bursts reported on the hangar area, southeast dispersal and ammunition dump. After bombing, the southeast dispersal area was strafed with one unidentified e/a observed to explode and one t/e e/a believed damaged. Fighters reported intense light flak in the vicinity of the field and one fighter received minor damage. No e/a were met in the air and only claims are 1-0-1 for the strafing attacks.

Tours A/F:- 35 P-38s of the 20th Fighter Group dropped 34 x 1000 G.P. - 17 tons - on Tours A/F with results reported as excellent. Level bombing technique was used from 20,000 feet. The only opposition was by moderate, accurate, heavy flak over the target, and one P-38 was lost to this fire. No claims are made.

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

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Authority 745005

By JF NARA Date 8-10-6

A/F Northeast of Paris: - 16 P-47s carrying fragmentation bombs, all of the 56th Group found their primary target, a French A/F, cloud covered, and dive-bombed an unidentified A/F northeast of Paris, dropping 96 x 500 frags. with unobserved results. Neither e/a nor flak were reported and there were no claims or losses.

Strafing Attacks and Fighter Observations

65th Fighter Wing: - Pilots of the 56 A Group reported 20 plus s/e e/a on Orleans/Bricy A/F and also verified results of the attack on Chateaudun A/F reporting large fires on the southeast side of the field.

66th Fighter Wing: - One flight of the 78 A Group strafed Chateaudun A/F, damaging 2 He-111s and also shooting up a guard house and gun positions. This group also reported buildings on the field badly damaged and fires still burning.

67th Fighter Wing: - The 352nd Group strafed two unidentified A/Fs in the vicinity of Avord, two A/Fs in the vicinity of Bourges and an A/F near Chateaudun. The group claims one s/e and 7 t/e e/a destroyed and 3 t/e e/a damaged by these attacks.

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

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

326th Operation - 28/29 April 1944

Night Leaflet Operation - France, Belgium and Holland.

Five B-17s of the 422nd Squadron, 305th Group, 1st Bombardment Division, dropped 1,640,000 leaflets over France, Belgium and Holland at 2334 - 0110 hours from 20,000 to 25,000 feet. One unidentified aircraft was observed at 4942 - 0015E, but no attacks were made. All a/c returned safely.

Leaflets were distributed as follows:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Number of A/C</u>	<u>Type of Leaflets</u>	<u>Number of Leaflets</u>
Antwerp	1	X B 8	200,000
Brussels	1	X B 8	160,000
Malines		T 11	20,000
Lokeren		T 11	20,000
Paris	1	US F 104	50,000
		US F 91	50,000
		US F 105	120,000
		US F 106	20,000
		US F 103	40,000
Orleans	1	US F 107	160,000
Tours		US F 107	160,000
Nantes		US F 107	160,000
Lorient		(US F 107	240,000
		(US F 105	80,000
Zwolle	1	T 11	20,000
Leeuwarden		T 11	20,000
Amersfoort		T 11	20,000
Dudzele		T 11	20,000
Turnhout		T 11	20,000
Gheel		T 11	20,000
Selzaete		T 11	20,000
Allkmaar	-	T 11	20,000
TOTALS	5		1,640,000