

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

AFO 559. 9 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Report of Operations Officer, Mission of 8 June 1944.

TO: : Commanding Officer, 95th Bomb Group (H), APO 559.
95th "A" Group

1. GENERAL NARRATIVE: The 95 A group formation, scheduled to form the lead group of the 13 A Combat Wing, took off at 0500 - 0515 hours. The group assembly was planned at 12,000, but due to built up cloud layers and extremely low visibility in haze between the layers, the group climbed to 26,000 for assembly. The 390 A group and the 95 B group flying as high and low groups respectively, were contacted during the climb and were given the new assembly altitude. By 0710 the 95 A group formation had assembled over the base. During the assembly the 390 A group and the 95 B group were picked up completing the 13 A Wing formation. Course was set for Beachy Head at this time. Due to assembling higher than planned the 13 A Wing was 45 minutes late in leaving the first Combat Wing assembly point.

As Beachy Head was approached the high clouds dissipated somewhat, and the 13 A Wing let down to briefed bombing altitude. The English coast was crossed on the route out at 0747. The enemy coast was crossed at 0809.

The route from the enemy coast to the I.P. was flown as ordered, all times being made approximately 45 minutes late. At the I.P. "Red Flare" was announced on VHF, and the groups peeled off in order. Bombs were away at 0844.

After bombing the rally was effected as planned, and the briefed route was flown on the route out. The descent to minimum altitude was started 10 miles off the French coast on the route out, due to two ships in the Wing being short of oxygen.

The English coast was recrossed at 1054 and the group arrived at the home base at 1205. The 95 A group landed at 1220 - 1230 hours.

2. AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING: Eleven aircraft left the base in the formation shown in attached diagram "A". A/C 8178 did not join the group formation due to mechanical trouble.

Of the eleven A/C over the target all bombed and are credited with sorties. The formation over the target is shown in attached diagram "B".

3. LOST AIRCRAFT: None.

95th "B" Group

1. GENERAL NARHATIVE: Twelve aircraft took off at 0515 - 0525 hours to form the low group of the 15 A Gombat Wing. The lead group of the Wing was joined during the group assembly and the position of the low group was maintained by the 95 B group throughout the mission.

Reference is made to the above report of the 95 A group for the remainder of this narrative.

2. AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING: Of the 12 aircraft in the 95 B group taking off 3 did not join the group formation. One due to mechanical trouble and two were unable to find the formation. The remaining nine A/C bombed the primary and are credited with sorties.

The assembly formation is shown in attached diagram "A", and the formation over the target is shown in attached diagram "B".

3. LOST AIHCRAFT: None.

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

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APO 559

3-I-15

8 June 1944

AIRCRAPT NOT ATTACKING

95 th	A Group Formation	Morning	Wission	of 8	June	194
Α.	Number of A/C Scheduled		12	•		
8.	Humber of A/C Taking Off		12			
	A/C Taking Off less unused spares					
0.	Number of A/C Attacking					
ε.	Number of A/C Not Attacking		1		•	
P.	Number of Sorties	******	11			
G.	Reasons for A/C Not Attackings					
	Engineering - 1 A/C					

For the Commanding Officer:

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

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Authority 145005
NARA Date 8/1/1

HEADQUARTERS 95TH BOURARDIANT GROUP (H)
APO 559

E-I-15

8 June 1944

AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING

95	th B	Group	Formati	on		Morning	Mission	00 8	June	1944
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Э.	Juni	ber of	A/C Tak	ing Off	*******		12			
٥.	::/o	Takin	e Off le	ss unused	spares.		12			
3.	Tum	ber of	A/C Not	Attackin	8		3			
G.	lea	ons f	or A/C N	ot Attack	dngi					
		Zngine	ering -	1 A/C	• '		•			

For the Commanding Officers

HARRY G. THE TORRE, Lt. Col., Air Corps, Operations Officer.

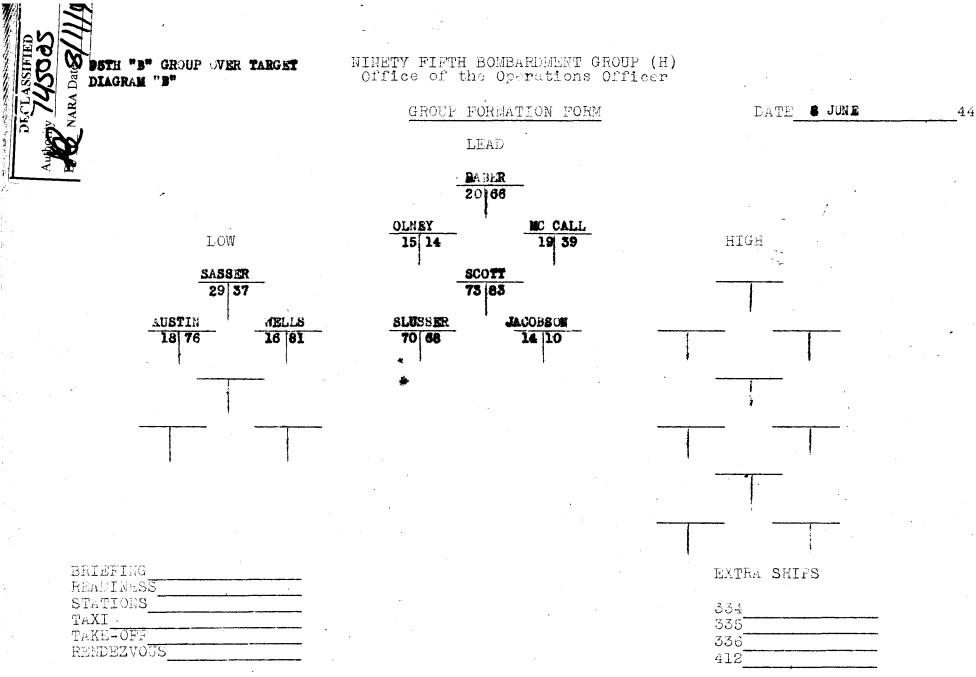


95TH "A" GROUP ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM "A"

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		GROUP FO	RMATION FORM		DATE 8 JUNE
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7450a	NARA Date							
G 3	95TH "B" GROUP DIAGRAM "B"	VER TARGET	NINETY FIFT Office of	TH BOMBARDMENT GI the Operations (ROUP (H) Officer			
A.			GROU1	FORMATION FORM		DATE_	8 JUNE	4
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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE AAF STATION 101 APO 634

Authority 145085

NARA Dat 8//

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 39

PERIOD: 0001 hours 8th June 1944 to 2400 hours 8th June 1944.

A. STATISTICS

<u>M</u>	issions	Disp.	Sorties	Atkg.	Tonnage	Claims	E/A	<u>A/A</u>	N/E	OT	Tot.
Heavy Bomber Attac	k s 1 6	1178	935	735	1932	0-0-0	ı	2	1	0	4*
Fighter Escort	3	126	116	0	0	A 3-0-1	0	0	0	2	2
Fighter Sweeps	32	502	494	0	0	A 1-0-0	0	0	0	4	4
Fighter-Bombing	28	919	859	82 8	256	A27-2-4 G21-0-11	0	0	0	18	18
Photo Reconnaissan	ce 22	22	22	0	0	0-0-0	0	O	O	3	3
Weather Recon.	3	3	3	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0.	0	0
S pecial Operation	s <u>24</u> 128	24 2774	24 2453	0 1563	0 21.88	0-0-0 A31-2-5	0	0 2	0	<u>0</u> 27	31

^{*} Includes 1 B-24 category "E".

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

Although adverse weather conditions limited the extent of bomber operations attacks were continued against A/F and railroad targets principally at Tours, Orleans and Nantes. A total of 1178 heavy bombers (640 B-17s and 538 B-24s) were dispatched in these attacks. Sixteen assigned primaries and an admittional eighteen T/Os were attacked by 735 bombers (430 B-17s and 305 B-24s) which dropped a total of 1,932 tons G.P. with generally good results. Weather over France varied from CAVU to 10/10 but bombing was visual in the majority of instances, effected through breaks in the clouds. Scheduled attacks on three railroad targets in the southeastern area of the Brest peninsula by 15 B-24s using a special bombing technique were abandoned due to 10/10 weather. An entire second operation scheduled for the late afternoon was also cancelled due to weather conditions.

Bombing attacks were carried out between 0758 and 1140 hours from 12,000 to 23,000 feet. Enemy air opposition was very slight causing the loss of one B-24. Flak was generally meager but moderate accurate flak was met at a few targets, chiefly at Rennes, and also at Le Havre. Three bombers were lost; one B-24 to e/a, and one B-24 and one B-17 to AA. An additional B-24 was placed in Category "E" due to unknown reasons. 59 B-17s and 70 B-24s suffered minor battle damage and 4 B-17s and 3 B-24s suffered major battle damage. There were no bomber claims.

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2. Fighter Escort

ll6 P-51s provided escort for heavy bomber operations against targets.

France. Enemy air opposition was slight and alaims were made of 3-0-1 for the los of 2 P-51s. 40 to 50 trucks were also strafed with good results.

3. Fighter-Sweeps and Area Patrols

494 a/c (381 P-38s, 24 P-47s and 89 P-51s) flew area patrols over the beach-head sectors and the Channel. Enemy air opposition was weak. Claims were made of 1-0-0 for the loss of one P-38 and 3 P-51s. Two locomotives and 4 trucks were als shot up and destroyed.

4. Fighter Bombing

333 P-47s and 526 P-51s were dispatched on fighter bomber operations over an extensive area of NW France. Two groups were assigned rail lines in the area NW of Haris. Other fighter bombers ranged from the Loire River north and west of Paris to the Channel, directing their attacks against lines of communication and movements of personnel and equipment. In the afternoon, deteriorated weather conditions reduced fighter bomber activities but one group was dispatched to the Bordeaux area and swept north seeking out RR targets. A total of 256 tons of 500, 250, and 100 lb. G.P. bombs were dropped on numerous RR bridges, M/Ys, and truck convoys, with generally good to excellent results.

Claims were made of 27-2-4 in aerial engagements and of 21-0-11 of e/a found on the ground. Numerous ground targets were attacked resulting in the destruction of 24 locomotives, 116 freight cars, 187 trucks, 19 other vehicles, 11 hangars and buildings, two tanks, and many other ground installations. 18 fighter bombers were lost, 6 P-47s and 12 P-51s.

In the entire fighter operations for the day, 15 fighter groups were active in a near-maximum effort. 4 P-38sgroups flew 29 patrol missions. 4 P-47 groups flew 1 patrol mission and 14 fighter bomber missions. 7 P-51 groups flew 2 patrol missions, 14 fighter missions and 3 escort missions. Total claims were 52-2-16. Total losses were 24 a/c, (1 P-38, 6 P-47s, and 17 P-51s).

5. Photographic Reconnaissance

Twenty-one a/c (18 F-5s and 3 Spitfires) were dispatched on photo reconnsissand One F-5 failed to obtain photographs due to engine failure. Two F-5s failed to return. Photographs were obtained of Bourges, Ramorantin, St. Avord, Paris, Ville Franche, Orleans, Le Mans/Arnage A/F, Angers A/F, Rennes/St., Jacques A/F, Pont-aubault, Nantes, Laval, Redon, Vannes, Falaise, Coutances, Thury/Harcourt, Orleans, Bricy, Vire, Tinchebray, Vicomte-Sur-Rance. Additional photos were obtained of L'Aigle, Alencon, Tours/Farcay A/F, RR station at Chavaigne, Vannes/Meucan A/F, and Dinard Fleurituit.

In addition to the above one Mosquito did special photorreconnaissance over the beach-head area. This a/c crashed in England with pilot and combat cameraman aboard.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

Two B-17s were dispatched on routine weather flights, I Mosquito was dispatched on a mission to Dunkerque, Paris, and the Cherbourg area. All a/c returned safely.



7. Special Operations - Night 7/8 June 1914.

Ten B-17s dropped leaflet bombs over France, Belgium and Holland. All a/c returned safely.

Fourteen a/c were dispatched on special operations. No a/c were lost.

C. INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Air Boposition

Opposition to bomber operations was very slight. Most formations reported seeing no e/a. Only two formations were under enemy attacks. Twelve Me-109s attacked a small formation of B-24s over Jersey Island on withdrawal. One B-24 was lost to these attacks. 15 FW-190s attacked a high group of B-17s on withdrawal in the vicinity of Mezidon (4902N-0001W) but e/a were driven off by Spitfires patrolling in this area.

Fighters accompanying bomber operations met equally slight opposition and made claims of 3-0-1 for the loss of 2 P-51s to unknown reasons. However, fighter bombers which ranged over a more extensive area of eastern and NE France reported seeing a total of approximately 130 e/a operating generally in small units of 2 or 3 a/c or singly. Claims are made in air engagements of 27-2-4 with a loss of 18 fighters of which the number lost to e/a attacks are anavailable.

Indications are apparent that anticipated reinforcements of air units have been brought up to the battle area from NW of Germany and possibly from other areas in the Reich. At present the enemy apparently is choosing to use his a/c for standing patrols and presumably for direct support of hisgground force which are under constant danger of harrassing attacks from allied fighters. However, the possibility of mass attacks against bomber formations may develop in the near future.

2. Flak

Flak was generally meager to nil against bomber attacks. Intense and accurate fire were encountered at Rennes and moderate accurate fire at Le Havre. One formation of B-24s ran into accurate flak at 4717N-0004W which damaged 25 a/c, 24 minor and 1 major. Two heavy bombers were lost to flak.

3. OBSERVATIONS

Bomber Observations

Undamaged bridge observed over Huisne east and northeast of LeMans. A/F just west of Caen open, runways appearing to be repaired, but no e/a activity seen.

Rennes A/F well camouflaged with many dispersals built on south side. 50 tank cars observed on siding just northeast of the Chateaubrant. Targe column of smoke seen from wooded area two miles southwest of Laval. At 0758 hours, from 22,000 feet, a train seen heading northeast at the bridge in Tours/La Frilliere.

At 0921 hours, 4857N-0006E, motor convoy observed. RR yard at 4901-0002W jammed with goods cars.

At 0858 hours, approximately 200 freight cars were observed c NARA Date at Mezidon.

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Troop concentration noted in middle of wooded area northeast of Fraze, 4817N-0107E. (W 1245)

At 0845 hours, smoke screen observed along road at Falaise.

What appeared to be a military camp observed at Chateaudun near A/F, also numerous gas or oil drums were seen.

Large Red Cross sign on large building or open area at Alendon.

100 small craft, apparently an evacuation party, observed near Cancale, at 0831 hours, 4840-0150W.

At 0912 hours, 14,000 feet, 4 trains stationary on track at 4753N-0004N were seen.

At 0906 hours; 1 long trains were observed on siding 8 miles southeast of Angu At 0840 hours, RR construction seen in progress 5 miles south of Pouis; extensive damaged area under repair.

Enemy pontoon bridge replacing bombed concrete bridge observed at 4723N-0045W.

At 0858 hours, 12,000 feet, 50 vehicles 100 yards apart seen crossing bridge south of Angers headed north - 5726N-0031W.

At 0900 hours, heavy rail traffic observed near Montfort, 4815N-0207W.

At 0997 hours, convoy seen stationary on highway, 4823N-0245W.

At 0917 hours, convoy seen headed north, 4737N-0035W.

At 0823 hours, a large column of black smoke seen from highway outside of Alencon, 4825N-0008E.

At 0859 hours, 4717N-0003W, railroad bridge seen destroyed at Faumer.

Large barracks area with 100 large huts seen at 4748N -0213W.

At 0842 hours, 4727N-0015E, a train was seen heading northwest fast.

At 0828 hours, 4709N-0120W (9 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of Nantes), a train was seen

heading northwest over bridge enroute to Nantes.

At 0830 hours, 4740N - 0000W, all highways around La Flache observed clogged with vehicles.

At 0910 hours, 10 mobile tanks parked east of Angiers.

At 0834 hours, 4748N-0058E, train seen going east.

At 1020 hours, 4745N-0156W, a column of vehicles 5 to 6 miles long seen heading north.

At 1058 hours, a large amount of rolling stock and M/Ys seen at Brieuc, 4831N-0247W.

Tours A/F observed to be non-operational with non/a seen.

Truck convoy seen stationary at Le Mans.

At 1100 hours, 4838-0010E, near town of Sees, 20 car train seen heading north. At 0758 hours, 4802N-0010W, 20 to 30 trucks stationary on east-west highway.

(West of LeMans.) At 0917 hours, 4824N-0222W, truck convoy seen headed west.

At 0845 hours, 474/N-0105W, 700 ft. freight train observed stationary.

M/Ys at Fielle, 4811N-0007W observed to be full of freight cars. At O811 hours, A812N-0028E, a barracks area with many troops was observed.

At Tounance, a heavy concentration of stationary vehicles seen around a large

warehouse adjacent to railroad. 250 Freight cars seen stationary at Chinon M/Ys.

Two miles north of Angers, 4730N-0033W, 8 barrage balloons seen over camouflaged factory.

At 0748 hours, 4747N-0105E, smoke and fire were seen in a bivouac area near Le Mans.

At 0858 hours, approximately 200 freight cars were observed at Mezidon.

Troop concentration noted in middle of wooded area northeast of Fraze.

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Fighter Observat...s

10 plus RW 190s seen on Dreux A/F at 1445 hours, R-3234.

12 u/i e/a on ground in Rennes area.

Many stationary freight cars and flat cars seen in M-3564 area near Envermen with flak cars interspersed.

A/F observed at Bentre-Pagny.

Numerous flak towers in area NW of Rouen.

At 0625 hours, two truck convoys of 30 plus cars each were seen going in opposite directions in area between R-5362 and R-5961.

At 0625 hours in R-5862 area a M/Y with 4 trucks and 40 plus goods cars was

At 0625 hours, R-1198 at Elben, a new siding was observed with several cars on it.

At 0645 hours M-5223, 4 to 5 cars seen in town.

At 0700 hours in the area bounded on the south by Amiens, NW by Abbeville and E by Boullens, an A/F was seen with 2 Me-109s on it and considerable personnel activity.

At approximately 0730 hours a long truck convoy was observed facing SE at N-3324; also a truck convoy heading north seen at N-0536.

At approximately 0740 hours, in area R-2090, a camouflaged A/F observed from 2,000 feet in good condition with no e/a on it.

At 0715 hours, Q-8629, a convoy of 30 military trucks seen moving NW. 0750 hours, 5,000 feet - 5 small naval vessels or barges seen at M-4583

shooting 20 and 40 mm.

7 balloon barrages at 500 feet, 7 miles north of Le Touquet observed from 5,000 feet.

50 to 70 box cars stationary south of Marquise.

12 goods wagons observed from 12,500 feet, WL 7888 at 0850 hours.

20 plus motor trucks at Gournay VM 6515 headed west.

36 gas dumps in separate revetments at WL-7075, 0845 hours, from 14,000 ft.

Brombos A/F seen at N-7833 with no activity.

Ammunition dump seen SE of Blezy, VR-1824; 8 rows of Nissen hut type buildings, 16 structures in a row, observed in wooded area. Several flak dispersal posts around dump.

12 FW-190s and Me-109s took off from Illies A/F, VR 2545, with 10 more seen

on the ground.

5 plus t/e e/a, probably He-177s, at Droisy, VR 1744, either an A/F or landing strip.

Smoke pots seen at Nantes prior to bombing.

At approximately 0930 hours, convoys observed in Cleremont area and at N-1505.

Two long trains observed in Beauvais area at 1215 hours; also a large and a small M/Y in same area.

Small M/Y at M-9305, 1215 hours.

In S-0375 at 1210 hours, M/Y and factory seen.

At 1245 hours, M-5231, observed six supply trucks pulling trailers heading SE.

At approximately 1215 hours, a large concentration of gliders, believed to be Horsa type, observed at U-1218.

2 small satellite A/Fs observed on south side of Le Mans with approximately 40 FW 190s dispersed on them.

A/F observed in R-5597, Etretagny, in excellent condition.

Several large cargo vessels observed in Boulogne harbor.

At approximately 1315 hours, T-4802, convoy of 30 to 40 trucks seen.

At 1415 hours, 60 box cars and 15 oil cars observed in small M/Y at Voves, W-4783.

30 plus trucks observed E of Chartres, W-7224, at 1420 hours, heading west.

At 1430 hours, 10 plus trucks were seen heading W at R-7624.

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Camouflaged army camp observed in wooded area at T-9203. At 1510 hours, Y-4282, convoy of 15 armored cars and trucks.

A series of revetments with tarpaulin covers observed along road from M-8382, to M-8781.

At 1545 hours, M-9210, 25 FW-190s seen on A/F, probably Beauvais/Nevilliers A/F Le Havre harbor observed to be unoccupied except for 2 small u/i craft and 1 sunken medium sized vessel.

Two large ships, possibly battleships, observed; one at VS 3009 and one at VS 8025.

75 goods wagons and 2 trains observed on M/Y at 4VN 2729, at 1945 hours.

At 1845 hours, 80 plus goods wagons seen in M/Y, VN 1356.

At 1900 hours, 4 VN-3629, armored convoy of 10 vehicles hauling guns seen moving in westerly direction.

At 1900 hours, 4 VN-4081, an armored convoy seen parked in woods. Vehicles resembled U.S. half-tracks.

At 1905 hours, 4 VR-3760, train of six goods wagons seen heading west.

At 1910 hours, parked train seen with 30 plus cars at 4 VR-4840.

At 1915 hours, 50 plus trucks in personnel truck convoy seen heading west, 4 VR-2139.

At approximately 2000 hours, a 15-truck convoy seen at 4 VL-9427.

At approximately 1700 hours, a motor convoy of 50 trucks and 10 light tanks was seen travelling NW at 2 VP 3595

No traffic seen between Bordeaux, Perigeux, Limoges and La Soutraine.

Main highway north from Bordeaux empty of all traffic.

50 freight cars seen in M/Y at 2 AT 8551.

At 2045 hours at 1 VU 2225, sighted convoy headed north.

At 2050 hours at 2 VM 0119, convoy of 30 trucks headed NW.

At 2045 hours, Lisieux at 4 VQ 1388 seen to be on fire.

The area at 1 VU 1700 and 1 VU 2500 north to the coast seen to be flooded.

4. Damage to Enemy Installations

Angers - Good Results
Raid Line was out in at least two places. Rail junction and roundhouse are see
to be covered with bursts on cloud-obscured photographs.

Le Mans A/F - Very Good Results

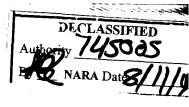
Bursts extend across north and south dispersal areas. Hits are noted on main facilities and there are also possible hits on the rail line adjacent to the field on its western border.

T/O - Very Good Results

Possible direct hits are seen on a railroad bridge approximately one and a half miles northwest of Vicomte sur Rance railroad bridge.

T/O - Very Good Results

Hits are seen on the railroad about 5 miles southwest of Precoy which cut the railroad and Avranches highway at that point.



Granville Harbor - Fair Results

Fragmentation clusters were strewn across the harbor with possible hits achieved on light craft. Slight damage.

34/C/13 - Very Good Results

At heast three direct hits seen on the target. One span is completely knocked out. In addition the central portion is severely damaged. There are also two hits on the rail line at both extremities of the bridge.

33/21/B - Fair to Good Results

Three heavy concentrations of bombs fell adjacent to the target area. One probable direct hit is seen near the southern terminal of the bridge. There are at least three direct hits on the rail line where it joins the bridge. Three direct hits are also seen on the rail line at the northern terminal of the bridge.

Z/432 - Fair to Good Results

One concentration of bombs fell near northern choke point of RR M/Y in a military depot area. Direct hits can be seen on a few warehouses hear the RR line. Both of these buildings can be seen to be severely damaged. A heavy concentration of RR cars were seen immediately adjacent to the military depot and at least 9 direct hits were made on these cars. Damage throughout this entire area approved to be severe. Two other concentrations of bombs fell near the southern end of the M/Y in a factory warehouse area. Two medium sized buildings received direct hits and overhead road bridge received a probable direct hit, and one small building received a direct hit and was seen to be burning very fiercely. Black smoke in the area would indicate that this was probably being used as oil storage. Some damage will be done to the village of Lesaubrais at the southern end of the M/Y.