

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

APO 559.
7 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Report of Operations Officer, Frantic Mission of 21 June 1944.

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

1. GENERAL NARRATIVE: The 95th group flying as lead group of the 13A combat wing took off at 0540 - 0550 hours. The group was assembled over the base at 6,000' at 0615. At the first wing rendezvous point, Bu # 22, the 390 A group flying as high group and the 390 B group flying as low group joined the 95th completing the 13 A wing formation. All control points over England were made on time and the three combat wings of the Task Force formed as planned. The 13 A combat wing was trailing the 45th wing by approximately four miles and the 13 B wing was approximately the same distance behind the 13 A wing. The English coast was crossed at 0710, on time, at 6,000'.

The climb to bombing altitude was begun at 0720 and was made at 150 MPH at 200 FPM. Bombing altitude of 20,000' for the 95th group was reached at 0857. The enemy coast was crossed at 0902 and the briefed route was followed to the I.P. The groups peeled off normally at the I.P. and no difficulty was encountered on the bombing run. Bombs were away at 1035 hours, at which time a let down to 15,000' was started. On the bombing run the groups had become somewhat strung out so the 95th group "S"ed until they could rejoin in good wing formation. The 45th wing, leading, also "S"ed enabling the other wings to close up in exceptionally good division formation.

The route from the target was flown as briefed. One brief fighter attack was encountered at 1245 hours but was dispersed by the escorting P-51's. One ship from the 95th group had two engines damaged in this attack but was able to reach the Russian bases without undue difficulty. The bases were reached at 1600 and the 95th group landed at 1600 - 1615 hours.

2. AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING: Sixteen aircraft, including 2 spares and one PFF left the base in the formation shown in attached diagram "A". A/C # 6993 and # 1876 returned at mid-channel as unused spares.

Of the 14 A/C which went over the target one, # 7215,

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By AV NARA Date 09-15-06

did not drop three bombs due to failure of the release mechanism. These bombs were taken on to the Russian bases. The formation over the target is shown in attached diagram "B".

3. LOST AIRCRAFT: None.

JAMES A. HEARN,
Capt., Air Corps,
Asst. Opn. Officer.

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By NARA Date 08-15-04

95th Group
OVER TARGET
Diagram "B"

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

GROUP FORMATION FORM

DATE 21 June 1944

LEAD

HANSEN

73 | 83

GRUNWALD

70 | 50

HOUSER

18 | 67

HIGH

HENDERSON

27 | 00

LOW

SCOTT

73 | 33

HEARN

72 | 15

SHELLER

71 | 94

SLUSSER

71 | 20

PINAS

19 | 20

HENSON

72 | 01

SMARSH

78 | 53

GILLES

18 | 87

SNOWDEN

72 | 05

RIBNIKAR

16 | 75

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

- EXTRA SHIPS
- 334 _____
 - 335 _____
 - 336 _____
 - 412 _____

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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
AAF STATION 101
SPO 634

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NOO 743005
By AF NARA Date 08-15-06

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 52

PERIOD: 0001 hours 21 June 1944 to 2400 hours 21 June 1944.

A. STATISTICS

	Missions	Disp	Sorties	Atkg	Tonnage	Claims	Losses			OT	Totals
							E/A	K/A	N/E		
Heavy Bomber	10	1311	1215	1181	2515	A29-23-22	13	15	5	17	50
Fighter Escort	19	858	749	0	0	A10-0-4/ G 1-0-2	0	2	0	3	5
Fighter Sweeps	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Fighter Bombing	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Photo Recon.	25	26	12	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Weather Recon.	9	9	6	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Oper.	28	28	28	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	91	2232	2012	1181	2515	A39-23-26 G 1-0-2	13	17	5	20	55
IX Fighter Command	10	441	378	0	0	A 9-0-6	0	1	3	3	7
Oper. Totals	101	2673	2390	1181	2515	A48-23-32 G 1-0-2	13	18	8	23	62

/ Does not include a/c which landed in Russia.
// Two a/c lost to AA and L/A.

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

a. First Operation - Four forces of 23 combat wings (868 B-17s, 368 B-24s, 1236 a/c), escorted by 26 fighter groups, dispatched to attack Berlin, and three aero-engine plants, a tank engine works and a synthetic oil plant, all in the Berlin area. 1111 a/c (802 B-17s, 309 B-24s) made the attack dropping 1783 tons G.P. and 532 tons I.B. Tonnage of first force not included. L/a opposition strong in the target area and in penetration. Flak intense over Berlin and Basdorf. 50 a/c lost, 15 to AA, 13 to L/A, 2 to AA and L/A and 20 to other reasons.

First Force - Ruhland

Two combat wings (163 B-17s) escorted by 5 fighter groups were dispatched to attack a synthetic oil plant at Ruhland, 75 miles south of Berlin. 145 a/c attacked the assigned target. Following attack force flew to assigned bases.

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in Russia. Details as to tonnage, claims, e/a opposition unava
 3 B-17s.

Second Force - City of Berlin

Nine combat wings (496 B-17s) escorted by six fighter groups, dispatched to attack center of Berlin. 468 a/c attacked dropping 905 tons G.P. and 206 tons I.B. visually at 1006 - 1027 hours from 25,000 - 29,000 feet. Weather 10/10 undercast enroute, clearing to 2/10 to 4/10 over target with heavy and persistent contrails. One combat wing attacked by 75 - 80 e/a, mainly Me-410s, between Prenslau and point about 30 miles east of Berlin. Flak moderate to intense, accurate at Berlin. Losses: 16 B-17s - 5 to AA, 6 to E/A, 1 to AA and E/A and 4 to other. Claims 16-20-19. Battle damage 71 major, 155 minor. Two a/c possibly landed in Sweden. Details of attacks as follows:

Target	Dispatched	Attacked	Tons		Results
			GP	IB	
Berlin (center of city)	496	456	881	200	Fair to Very Good
T/Os in Berlin area	---	12	24	6	Unobserved
	496	468	905	206	

Third Force - Aero and Tank Engine Works - Genshagen, Marienfelde, Niederschomweide.

Seven combat wings (368 B-24s) escorted by nine fighter groups, dispatched to attack two aero-engine works and a Diesel Motor Tank factory in the Berlin area. 309 a/c attacked dropping 549 tons G.P. and 210 tons I.B. both visual and PFF between 1004 and 1035 hours from 21,000 to 24,400 feet. Weather 6/10 to 8/10 at target prevented visual bombing and caused some groups to bomb other targets. Strong e/a attacks prior to and at the target area by both t/c and s/e e/a. Flak intense accurate over Berlin, rockets seen at target area near Brandenburg. Losses: 22 B-24s, 8 to AA, 7 to E/A, 1 to AA and E/A, 3 to other and 3 crash-landed. Claims: 13-3-3. Battle Damage: 9 major, 141 minor. Details of attack as follows:

Target	Dispatched	Attacked	Tons		Results
			GP	IB	
Genshagen (aero-engine)	198	69	125	46	Fair
Potsdam		40	83	20	Fair
Stendal		8	20		Poor
Berlin		47	69	46	Unobserved
T/Os		7	15	2	Unobserved
Marienfelde (aero-engine)	136	52	97	21	Unobserved
Genshagen		23	4	52	Poor
Rangsdorf		16	40		Poor
Trebbin		10	25		Unobserved
Selvig		8		20	Unobserved
Bederkassa		1	3		Unobserved
Niederschomweide (tank engine)	34	28	68	3	Good
	368	309	549	210	

SECRETFourth Force - Basdorf (aero-engine works), City of Berlin

Seven combat wings (209 B-17s) escorted by six fighter groups, dispatched to attack the aero-engine works at Basdorf and the City of Berlin. 189 a/c attacked dropping 329 tons G.P. and 45.5 tons I.B. visually between 1030 and 1051 hours from 23,000 - 26,000 feet. Weather, good over target, did not affect mission. Flak intense, accurate and barrage type at Basdorf and Berlin. No e/a attacks, although 20 to 25 e/a seen in the vicinity of I.P. Losses: 9 B-17s - 2 to AA, 2 to collision over target, 5 other. Claims: 0-0-0. Battle damage: 30 major, 112 minor. Details of attacks are as follows:

<u>Target</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacked</u>	<u>Tons</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>GP</u>	<u>IB</u>	
Berlin	114	103	204	50	Good
Basdorf	95	80+	118	63	Good
T/Os	—	4	7	3	Unobserved
	209	189	329	116	

+ Two a/c dropped leaflets.

b. Second Operation

In the late afternoon, three combat wings (75 B-24s) dispatched to attack three Noball targets in the Pas de Calais area. 70 a/c attacked by G.H. dropping 200 tons between 1737 - 1924 hours from 20,400 - 21,800 feet. Weather 4/10 - 10/10 over targets and flak meager and accurate. Losses: 0-0-0. Claims: 0-0-0. Battle damage: None major, five minor. Details of attacks as follows:

<u>Target</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacked</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Results</u>
Z-3065	12	12	32	Unobserved
Z-3072	22	19	55	Unobserved
Z-3069	41	39	113	Unobserved
	75	70	200	

2. Fighter Escort

Five fighter groups (72 P-38s, 122 P-51s of VIII Fighter Command and 38 P-47s of IX Fighter Command - 232 a/c) dispatched to escort B-17s which attacked Ruhland and landed at Russian bases. A P-51 Fighter Group (4th) stayed with the bombers and also landed in Russia. It is known that 2 P-51s of this group were lost and 63 had landed safely by 1443 hours. Although details not yet available and not included in the following remarks. Combats in the Juterbog-Magdeburg area at 1445 hours by 1 P-51 group resulted in claims of 3-0-1 s/e. Ground strafing by P-47s resulted in claims of 0-0-2 t/e and 2 locomotives damaged. 1 P-47 of VIII Fighter Command and 1 P-47 of IX Fighter Command lost to unknown reasons.

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Six fighter groups (48 P-47s, 54 P-38s, 73 P-51s of VIII Fighter Command plus 47 P-47s, 55 P-38s of IX Fighter Command - 277 a/c) dispatched to escort B-17s which attacked Berlin. Up 0645-0855 hours, down 1240-1355 hours and 244 sorties. Combats by 1 P-51 group with 20 plus e/a at Neubrandendur resulted in claims of 1-0-2 s/e and 3-0-1 t/e. 1 P-38 group saw 4 s/e e/a attacking B-17s. 7 P-38 groups saw 4 s/e e/a attacking B-17s just prior rendezvous at Wittstock at 1041 hours. There e/a evaded. Strafing of Vvischenahan. A/F by 2 P-51s resulted in claims of results of 1 multi-engined flying boat destroyed. Ground strafing by 1 P-51 group noted in claims of 1 loco destroyed and 4 RR cars damaged. One P-47 (IX Fighter Command) lost to flak.

Nine fighter groups (104 P-47s, 53 P-38s, 34 P-51s of VIII Fighter Command plus 43 P-47s, 95 P-38s, 82 P-51s of IX Fighter Command - 411 a/c) dispatched to escort B-24s which attacked targets in Berlin area. Up 0650-0857 hours, down 1115-1435 hours and 351 sorties. Combats by P-51s with 15 plus e/a, which approached from South Dohme resulted in claims of 8-0-6. Combats with 15 plus Me-410s and 10 Me-109s in the Magdeburg-Dahmstors area at 1000-1020 hours resulted in claims of 2-0-0 s/e and 2-0-0 t/e. Claim of 1 Me-109 destroyed over Berlin. Ground strafing accounts for claims of 1 locomotive destroyed and 9 damaged. 2 P-51s of IX Fighter Command lost to unknown reasons and 1 crash landed in England.

Six fighter groups (108 P-38s, 91 P-51s of VIII Fighter Command plus 81 P-47s of IX Fighter Command - 280 a/c) dispatched as escort to B-17s which attacked Basdorf and Berlin. Up 0621-0823 hours, down 1115-1339 hours and 235 sorties. No e/a seen; ground strafing resulted in claims of 1 locomotive and 4 railroad cars damaged. 1 P-51 and 1 P-38 of VIII Fighter Command lost to flak and 2 P-47s of IX Fighter Command to collision over U.K.

Three fighter groups (99 P-47s) dispatched to give area support to B-24s which attacked Noball targets in Pas de Calais area. Up 1613-1844 hours, down 2001-2102 hours and 98 sorties. No e/a seen. Strafing of communications north and north east of Paris by 1 P-47 group resulted in claims of 1 barge destroyed and 20 plus barges, 3 launches, 71 plus goods cars, 2 locomotives and 1 power house damaged. No losses.

3. Fighter Bombing

Nil

4. Fighter Sweeps

Nil

5. Photo Reconnaissance

Twenty-four a/c (16 F-5s and 8 Spitfires) were dispatched on photo reconnaissance missions. Eight were unsuccessful because of cloud over target, six because of a/c failure and other reasons. Targets assigned included A/Fs and landing grounds, railroad yards and junctions in France, railroads in Belgium and two a/c patrolled area from 1445 to 1715 to photograph German

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expendable pilotless a/c but none came over during that time. Other targets included Lutzendorf, Bohlen, Merseburg, Misburg, Politz, Ostermoor, Berlin and Genshagen. All a/c returned safely.

Two a/c were dispatched to accompany B-24s over Berlin. Photos were taken of bombs being released and hitting targets. B-24 formation leaving target was also photographed.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

Three B-17s on routine weather flight. 1 Mosquito over Berlin, 1 over Brussels, 1 a/c observed 2nd Division Target and 1 a/c observed 1st Division Target. 2 Mosquitoes on special operation, not yet reported. 1 B-17 aborted over England. No a/c or personnel lost.

7. Special Operations - Night 20-21 June 1944

Five a/c dropped leaflets on special targets in France.
23 a/c were dispatched on special operations.
All missions were completed successfully and all a/c returned safely.

C. INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Air Opposition

Two of the heavy bomber forces encountered severe enemy opposition concentrated primarily in the target area. Approximately 250 e/a were observed with attacks pressed by 120 to 140. Escorting fighters sighted approximately 85 e/a of which 70 attacked or were engaged.

The 1st Bomber Force which proceeded to bases in Russia appears to have experienced little opposition although reports are not yet available. Fighters escorting this force report a few sightings of e/a. Several Me-109s were seen in the vicinity of Juterbog and Magdeburg and were engaged at 1145 hours from 14,000 to 15,000 feet, resulting in claims of 3-0-1.

The 2nd Bomber Force dispatched against the city of Berlin encountered no e/a opposition enroute although a few e/a were seen at scattered points. Near the target area one combat wing was attacked by approximately 75 to 80 e/a, all Me-410s, except 12 to 15 Me-109s, apparently acting as top cover. The attacks began at Prenzlau at 0930 and continued until a point about 30 miles east of Berlin. Attacks were pressed mostly from 6 o'clock level and high by small groups of a/c with most of the attacks broken off several hundred yards away. Claims were 16-20-19. Losses to e/a 6 B-17s. Fighters escorting this force sighted and chased 20 plus e/a in the vicinity of Neubrandenburg, engaging ten with claims of 3-0-3.

The 3rd Bomber Force experienced the most extensive attacks of the day. Prior to reaching the target area several groups were attacked by 10 FW-190s and Me-109s and 6 to 10 Ju-88s and Me-410s. Attacks consisted of one pass from two to three o'clock level to low and from eleven to 12 o'clock high. Most of these attacks were broken up by escorting P-51s. In the target area further attacks

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were made by 20 to 40 Me-109s and 10-109s, attacks coming from the nose and from the rear. Fighters supporting this force reported 10 Me-109s and 10 Me-109s engaged by one group in Brandenburg Area from 23,000 to 25,000 feet between ten and 1020 hours resulting in claims of 4-0-0. Another group met 15 plus e/a approaching from South Berlin at 25,000 feet. B/A were aggressive and increased attacks viciously. Attacks on bombers were avoided with claims of 3-0-0. A third group was bounced by 2 Me-109s in the Berlin area with one destroyed.

The 4th Bomber force reported no e/a encounters. Twenty to twenty-five e/a seen in the vicinity of IP but no attacks were made. Fighters escorted uneventfully.

OBSERVATIONS: A B-24 Fighter Command group reported 1 B-24 down on-encountered over Brandenburg. IP reported on side and 2 Me-109s made a right turn, and the bombers were immediately attacked from above and bounced by 2 Me-109s from above and above.

2. Flak

Moderate to intense, accurate. Both heavy and predicted type flak was encountered at Brandenburg, Hagenow, Hagenow, Magdeburg, Hanover, Jena and Potsdam.

Intense predicted type flak was observed at Berlin, Hanover.

Moderate to intense flak was seen at Stettin, Lubek and Neumunster.

Along the coast, both in and out AA flak was meager to moderate and generally inaccurate.

Moderate to intense accurate rockets were observed in the target area at Brandenburg.

3. Observations

Bomber Observations

- At 5325N-1210E, an A/F was seen with a single engine, single strap running east-west.
- Two A/Fs seen under construction, one at 5325N-1210E about half complete and the other at 5355N-1200E about 75% complete.
- About 30 e/a seen on 23 Oct at 5325N-1210E, and another A/F five miles east of Mittenberg had about 20 e/a A/c on it.
- 15 s/e e/a and 2 s-engine e/a on Neubrandenburg A/F.
- 30 e/a on Neuruppin A/F.
- 23 t/e e/a on Hagenow A/F.
- 12 s/e e/a on A/F at 5315N-1231E near Kardstadt.
- 20-25 e/a on A/F near Scholl Lake.
- New A/F just SW of Schwarzin Lake.
- 15 e/a on A/F near Schredt.
- 20 e/a on Schwarzin A/F.

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Bomber Observations (Continued)

Many e/a in woods just north of Wittstock A/F.

25-30 e/a on Rechlin A/F.

A/F observed at 5204N-0935E, south of Rendsburg.

Tempelhof A/F in Berlin had 37 a/c on the ground - planes looked larger than fighters.

A/F observed at 5353N-0942E, at Elmshorn - no activity observed.

At Rangsdorf A/F, 5217N-1342E, 18 t/c silver and green a/c.

A/F at Schonfeld had 75 t/c planes dispersed around the field.

At 5242N-1020E A/F with 13 t/e e/a.

At 5354N-1020E A/F with 6 t/e e/a.

Four miles SW of Rendsburg A/F observed not on map.

15 bombers on A/F near Celle, in wooded area.

A/F under construction at 5144N-0933E - runways being laid.

A/F at 5227N-1331E with many large silver a/c on field, probably assembly plant.

At 5250N-1110E, 20 e/e e/a on A/F in dispersal area in woods, NE corner of field.

New A/F under construction near RI at 5325N-0954E.

A/F with approximately 60 dispersal areas in wooded area, 5317N-1106E.

Approximately 50 e/e e/a observed on A/F at 5225N-1406E near Furstenwalde.

Approximately 14 e/e e/a lined up in front of hangars on Luckenwalde A/F at 5206N-1310E.

20 miles NW of Kiel, 2 or 3 A/Fs under construction.

New A/F under construction SE of Bad Bramstedt, 5340N-0954E.

Large number of planes dispersed on Tempelhof A/F.

Long runways, very wide, in middle of woods, 5242N-1140E, and 5313N-1102E.

M/Y at Neumunster, 5405N-0959E filled with goods wagons.

M/Y full of box cars and very busy at Wesermunde, also at Ulzen.

M/Y at Osterburg full of goods cars.

Smoke screens observed at the following places:

East of Magdeburg, west of Fellersleben on west side of woods 5225N-1040E, Hanover, Brunswick, Rendsburg, A/F at Gishorn in wooded area next to field.

Fighter Observations

25 plus Ju-88s on A/F at Wittenberg.

10 plus Me-109s on A/F at Gardelegen.

Two oil plants sighted, both appeared active, 1 at Eindeck and the other 10 miles west of Hildersheim.

4-5 GO-242, 1 4-engine transport and 20-25 gliders on A/F E of Wittstock.

At Zibelle, 5135N-1453E, synthetic oil plant with 6 orange domes.

4. Damage to Enemy Installations

Berlin - Good Results

Central part, north and northwest of Tempelhof area hit with heavy concentrations. Two direct hits in Friedrichstrasse area, two direct hits on R.R. station, three direct hits on R.R. lines leading into the station area.

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Two direct hits on Anhalter R.R. Station and bomb bursts near Reich residential chancellery. One concentration adjacent to the Tempelhof A/F. Two concentrations in area of Lichtenburg-Seralau, four miles east of center of Berlin. Hits on Lichtenburg M/Y, factories, RR lines in the area, with large fires noted.

One concentration into the NW portion of Karlshorst, six miles SE of the center of the town and on the east choke point of the Rummelsburg M/Y. Direct hits on two large warehouses in the yard and on rail lines and sidings in the yard.

Approximately twenty bursts into the residential section of Elsengrund, seven miles south and east of the center of the town. Heavy concentration can be seen in the Hohenschonhausen, four and three-quarters miles east of the center of the town.

Basdorf - (aero-engine works) - Good Results

The main heavy machine shop received numerous hits. Direct hits on all four sets of test beds. Boiler house, offices and a smaller machine shop covered by bursts. Probable damage to remaining machine shop.

Genshagen - (aero-engine works) - Poor Results

No hits in target area.

Marienfelde - (aero-engine works) - No strikes visible.Niederschonweide - (tank-engine works) - Fair to Good Results

Smaller of two large factory buildings received numerous direct hits. R.R. lines and M/Y adjacent to factory damaged as well as other factory building to the north and south.

Ruhland - (synthetic oil plant) - No Results Available.5. Ground and Naval Situation - To 0500 22 June 1944Ground Situation

Enemy is withdrawing into defenses of Cherbourg. First U.S. Army continues to close in despite increasing opposition and has reached the outer defenses. It is probable that the enemy will make a stand here, although the state of demolition in the port area suggests that they are preparing for speedy collapse. Enemy behind disorganized. Bulk of one SS Panzer Division probably now west of Paris enroute battle area.

Naval Situation

Weather conditions at 1349 still held up sailing of convoys. Accumulation of loaded ships may defer further convoy sailings until 24 hours after discharging recommences. Coastal command attacked 5 U-Boats in western approaches and channel, three with uncertain but promising results. Three Halifaxes attacked a suspected U-Boat at St. Peter Port.

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