

1 AUG 1944

INTERPRETATION REPORT S.A. 2385ATTACK ON MUNICH ON 31 JUL 1944

Kum

(i) INFORMATION RECEIVED ON THE ATTACK

(a) No. of aircraft : 646, with full fighter escort.
 (b) Command : U.S. 8th AIR FORCE.
 (c) Time : 1253 - 1330 hours.
 (d) Bombs : 257 x 1000 lb. G.P.
 3472 x 500 lb. G.P.
 2715 x 500 lb. I.B.
 15 x 600 lb. D.A.
 44 x 500 lb. D.A.

(ii) DETAILS OF THE ATTACK

(a) All photographs received are well covered by clouds, and hence it is impossible to say where all of the bombs fell or in many cases, to make precise statements as to direct hits.

(b) Bursts and fires are observed as follows:

(Distances given after each area of bursts give the distance from the center of MUNICH to the center of the area of bursts. Numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 correspond to the numbers on the bomb plot.

1. BAYERISCHE MOTORENWERKE A.G. at MUNICH (2½ miles North)
 The Northern quarter of the factory area is blanketed by I.B. bursts which include direct hits on storage shops, a storage area, and on huts used for factory personnel. Smoke from H.E. bombs is seen over the Southern quarter of the factory area and over the residential area immediately to the South.
2. MUNICH/OBERWIESENFELD A/F (2½ miles North).
 The Northern third of the airfield is blanketed by I.B. bursts which include possible hits on all of the three hangars on the North side of the airfield.
3. BAYERISCHE MOTORENWERKE A.G. at ALLACH (7 miles Northwest).
 A large fire is seen burning in the Northern workshop and storebuilding.
4. SCHLEISSHEIM A/F (7 miles North).
 A few I.B. bursts, of a concentration located to the West of the airfield, are possibly on the airfield. Later in the attack a fire is seen burning to the West of the airfield. A few H.E. bursts of a concentration of at least 50 are in the Southeast Dispersal Area and include possible hits on 2 shelters.
5. BAYERISCHE LEICHTMETALLWERK (4 miles North)
 Four scattered bursts are visible through clouds in the vicinity of this factory.
6. MOTORENWERKE MANNHEIM A.G. (2½ miles North)
 There are possible I.B. bursts in the factory area.
7. Bursts are observed in residential areas and in fields and woods as follows:
 - a. A portion of a concentration of at least 50 H.E. bursts in the residential area 4 miles North-Northwest of the center of MUNICH. Included are possible hits on railway tracks.

- b. At least 75 H.E. bursts scattered in a residential area and in fields 2 1/2 miles Southeast of the center of MUNICH.
- c. A concentration of I.B. bursts in a residential area 2 miles South of the center of MUNICH.
- d. A concentration and 3 groups of H.E. bursts, totalling at least 160, in fields and woods East of the SCHLEISSHEIM A/F located 7 miles North of the center of MUNICH.
- e. Three concentrations and a group of I.B. bursts mostly in fields Southeast of DACHAU, which is located 10 miles Northwest of MUNICH.

(iii) SMOKE SCREEN

Smoke generators are seen in operation in an area 2 miles Northwest of the center of MUNICH and in an area South of DACHAU, which is located 10 miles Northwest of MUNICH.

(iv) ACTIVITY

(a) SCHLEISSHEIM A/F

- 1. Eighteen medium/large aircraft are visible as follows:

S.W. Dispersal	S.E. Dispersal	S.W. Landing Ground
9	4	5

- (b) 2. On 26 Jul 1944 (US/7GP/2510) 23 aircraft were visible.

MUNICH/OBERWILSENFELD A/F

- 1. The airfield is covered on very poor photographs.
- 2. No aircraft are visible.
- 3. On 26 Jul 1944 (US/7GP/2510) 30 aircraft were visible.

(v) ANNOTATED PRINT: None

(vi) BOMB PLOT: A diagrammatic bomb plot has been prepared and will be distributed.

(vii) PHOTOGRAPHS RECEIVED:

SAV 91/566	31 JUL 1944	1301 hrs.	1/45000 (F.L.7")	26300'	'B'
SAV 91/564	"	"	1/27300 (F.L.12")	27300'	'B'
SAV 92/457	"	1305 "	1/43100 (F.L.7")	25200'	'B'
SAV 92/456, 458	"	1306 "	1/26000 (F.L.12")	26000'	'B'
SAV 94/806, 808	"	1322 "	1/22000 (F.L.7")	24500'	'B'
SAV 94/807	"	1330 "	1/25000 (F.L.12")	25000'	'B'
SAV 95/901, 902, 906, 907	"	1325 "	1/42400 (F.L.7")	24700'	'B'
SAV 95/903	"	1326 "	1/25200 (F.L.12")	25200'	'B'
SAV 96/455	"	1326 "	1/43500 (F.L.7")	25500'	'B'
SAV 100/739, 741, 743	"	1325 "	1/43100 (F.L.7")	25200'	'B'
SAV 100/740	"	1325 "	1/25000 (F.L.12")	25000'	'B'
SAV 303/832-834	"	1319 "	1/43500 (F.L.7")	25600'	'B'
SAV 305/654-656, 659	"	1256 "	1/42800 (F.L.7")	25000'	'B'
SAV 305/657	"	1259 "	1/26000 (F.L.12")	26000'	'B'
SAV 306/781, 783	"	1254 "	1/40250 (F.L.7")	23500'	'C'
SAV 306/785	"	1253 "	1/23500 (F.L.12")	23500'	'C'
SAV 351/596, 597	"	1302 "	1/24000 (F.L.12")	24000'	'B'
SAV 379/452	"	1314 "	1/23000 (F.L.12")	23000'	'C'
SAV 381/696-698	"	1302 "	1/42800 (F.L.7")	24900'	'B'
SAV 384/753	"	1318 "	1/44100 (F.L.7")	25700'	'C'
SAV 384/752, 754	"	1316 "	1/25600 (F.L.12")	25600'	'C'

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

AGO 559,
2 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Operations Officers Narrative - Mission 31 July 1944.

TO : Commanding Officer, 95th Bomb Gp (H).

1. **GENERAL NARRATIVE:** The 95th A Group took-off at 0835-0855 hours to form the lead of the 13th B Combat Wing. Group assembly was made over the field at 1010 hours at 16,000'. Wing and division assembly were made as briefed. The group departed the English coast three miles south of Southwold at 17,500' at 1109 hours.

The enemy coast was crossed at 5145N 0346E at 20,000' at 1135 hours. The briefed course was followed fairly well to the IP. 4840N 1050E at 25,000' at 1316 hours. Bombs were dropped on primary target at 25,000' at 1325 hours. The briefed route back was followed with a few variations to avoid prop wash and flak. The group departed the enemy coast at 5129N 0532E, at 17,000' at 1610 hours. The English coast was crossed two miles south of Southwold at 1646 hours at 2000'.

Base was reached at 1706 hours and landings were made at 1709-1752 hours.

2. **AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING:** Twenty aircraft of 95A Group left base in formation as shown in attached diagram A and bombed the target in formation as shown in attached diagram B, all were credited with sorties.

3. **AIRCRAFT LOST:** None.

95TH B GROUP

1. **GENERAL NARRATIVE:** 95B Group took-off from base at 0856-0910 hours to fly as low group in the 13th Combat Wing. Group assembly was made over base at 15,000' at 1020 hours.

For further details reference is made to General Narrative of 95 A Group, with exceptions as noted below.

-Bombs were away at 24,500' at 1325 1/8 hours.
Landings were made at 1715-1753 hours.

2. **AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING:** Thirteen aircraft of 95 B Group plus six aircraft furnished by the 100th Group as low Squadron left base in formation as shown in diagram A.

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By KJ NARA Date 07/12

Formation over the target is shown in attached diagram B. All aircraft are credited with sorties.

3. AIRCRAFT LOST: None/

LARRY L. KERR,
Major, Air Corps,
Actg Operations Officer.

95th Bomb Group
Assembly
Diagram "A"

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

GROUP FORMATION FORM

DATE 21 July 1944

LEAD

REVERBANK (377)

75 | 81

MC GULLEY

80 | 85

JOHNSON

72 | 82

VERICK

84 | 87

ANDERSON

78 | 80

BAZ

28 | 34

HIGH

HOWES

89 | 91

GRIFFIN

72 | 75

FERRISAN

80 | 78

ROBARNSON

84 | 86

WREN

20 | 24

SHIRLEY

18 | 07

CONNELL

71 | 84

LOW

BYRNE

87 | 88

MURPHY

75 | 83

HANSEN

16 | 78

MINNICK

77 | 87

WYATT

18 | 78

SCHEIDT

14 | 88

WHEEL

82 | 83

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

EXTRA SHIPS

334 _____
335 _____
336 _____
412 _____

B

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 745006

By KJ NARA Date 07/12/07

A.T.F.

C.W.

FORMATION DIAGRAM

9ETH BOMB. GROUP (H)

DATE 31 July 1944

TIME

Streeton (Maj Lindley)
7945

100

Brodersen
1939

Harvey
6098

Gilbert
7383

100

100

Besser
2427

Gatner
7801

Orndorff
2450

100

Hamilton
1989

Olney
7194

Herchenbahn
6013

100

100

Psota
7898

Hofsaes
1887

Feiss
7844

EXTRA

EXTRA A/C

ABORTIVE _____

MISSING _____

CHANGES _____

S E C R E T

15
DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 745006
By KJ NARA Date 87/12/17

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
AAF STATION 101
APO 634

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 92

PERIOD: 0001 hours 31 July 1944 to 2400 hours 31 July 1944.

A. STATISTICS

	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Disp.</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Atkg.</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Claims</u>	<u>Losses</u>				<u>Totals</u>
							<u>E/A</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>N/E</u>	<u>OT</u>	
Heavy Bomber Atks.	6	1295	1235	1181	3126.1	0-0-0	0	11	0	5	16
Fighter Support	18	784	692	0	0	0-1-0A 18-0-12G	0	0	0	5	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.	35	35	35	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Weather Recon.	18	18	13	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Operations	32	32	31	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	109	2164	2006	1181	3126.1	0-1-0 A 18-0-12G	0	11	0	10	21

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

23 combat wings (705 B-17s, 590 B-24s - 1295 a/c) dispatched in four forces against industrial targets and an airfield in the Munich area, one B-24 force against Ludwigshafen Chemical Works, and one B-24 force against two airfields in the Amiens area. Support by 18 fighter groups. 1181 a/c dropped 3126.1 tons G.P. and I.B. on all assigned primaries and five T/Os. Bombing was by PFF in most instances. E/a opposition: Nil. Claims: Nil. Losses: 16 a/c (10 B-17s, 6 B-24s).

First and Second Forces

16 combat wings (705 B-17s) dispatched in two forces to attack industrial targets and an airfield in the Munich area. 650 B-17s dropped 1028.1 tons G.P. and 678.7 tons I.B. on assigned primaries and four T/Os at 1253 - 1335 hours from 24,000 - 27,600 feet. Bombing by PFF and visual sightings. Leaflets dropped on Munich, Allach and Schleissheim. Weather: 7/10 to 10/10 cloud with occasional breaks over Continent. Flak: moderate to intense, fairly accurate in target area. E/a opposition: Nil. Battle Damage: 266 minor, 71 major. Claims: Nil. Losses: 10 a/c (6 to AA, 4 to unknown reasons).

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Fighter Support - 10 fighter groups (98 P-47s, 411 P-51s - 509 a/c) dispatched. 439 sorties. Up 0944 - 1247 hours, down 1540 - 1720 hours. E/a opposition: nil. One s/e trainer probably destroyed near Kausbeuren. 8 Me-109 seen near Trier but no combat ensued. 1 group strafed grass fields west of Munich claiming 15-0-12 on the ground. Another group strafed Neustadt A/F claiming 3-0-0 JU-188s and one hangar damaged. Claims: 0-1-0 air, 18-0-12 ground. Losses: 4 a/c (3 P-51s, 1 P-47) all to unknown causes.

In addition, three groups (83 P-47s) dispatched to give general bomber support under Controller's direction. 80 sorties. Up 1003 - 1350 hours, down 1305 - 1710 hours. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: nil.

Details of bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacking</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>G.P.</u>	<u>I.B.</u>	
Munich City Air					
Armaments Transportation	626	567	850.3	649.0	Fair -- Good
Allach	36	36	90.0	0	Fair - Good
Schleissheim	43	43	77.5	29.7	Poor
<u>Other Targets</u>					
4 T/Os (4900N-1010E)	—	—	<u>10.3</u>	<u>0.0</u>	
Totals	705	650	1028.1	678.7	

Third Force

5 combat wings (486 B-24s) dispatched to attack Ludwigshafen Chemical Works. 447 a/c dropped 978.5 tons G.P. and 251.8 tons I.B. on primary by PFF at 1250 - 1317 hours from 20,800 - 24,000 feet. Leaflets dropped over target. Weather: 8/10 to 10/10 undercast on route and at target with some haze reported. Flak: moderate to intense, inaccurate to accurate at Ludwigshafen; meagre and inaccurate at Kaiserlautern, Antwerp and Aachen. Nine to twelve rockets in target area. E/a opposition: nil. Battle damage: 178 minor, 8 major. Claims: nil. Losses: 6 a/c (5 to AA, 1 to unknown causes).

Fighter Support - 3 groups (47 P-38s, 97 P-51s - 144 a/c) dispatched. 135 sorties. Up 1038 - 1118 hours, down 1519 - 1600 hours. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 1 P-51 on take-off.

Details of bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacking</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>G.P.</u>	<u>I.B.</u>	
Ludwigshafen	486	447	978.5	251.8	Fair - Good

Fourth Force

Two combat wings (104 B-24s) dispatched to attack Creil and Laon/Athies

S E C R E T

Fourth Force (Continued)

A/Fs. 84 a/c dropped 189 tons G.P. on primaries and one T/O at 1126 - 1311 hours from 22,500 - 24,000 feet. Bombing by PFF. Weather: 5/10 to 10/10 en route with some breaks in target area, cloud tops at 4,000 feet. Flak: meager, accurate over targets. E/a opposition: Nil. Battle Damage: 2 minor, 2 major. Claims: Nil. Losses: Nil.

Fighter Support: Two groups (48 P-47s) dispatched. 38 sorties. Up 1117 - 1121 hours, down 1453 - 1512 hours. E/a opposition: Nil. Claims: Nil. Losses: Nil. One group strafed Gourney area damaging three locomotives and 130 RR cars.

Details of bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacked</u>	<u>Tonnage</u> <u>G.P.</u>	<u>Results</u>
Laon/Athies A/F	51	47	106.5	Unobserved
Creil A/F	53	36	81.0	Fair
<u>Other Targets</u>				
Poix A/F	_____	<u>1</u>	<u>1.5</u>	Unobserved
Totals	104	84	189.0	

2. Fighter Escort

18 groups (229 P-47s, 47 P-38s, 508 P-51s - 784 a/c) dispatched to support four bomber forces attacking industrial targets in Munich, Ludwigshafen and Creil and Laon/Athies A/Fs. 692 sorties. Up 0944 - 1350 hours, down 1305 - 1720 hours. E/a opposition: Nil. One s/e trainer probably destroyed near Kausbeuren. Two groups strafed. Claims: 0-1-0 air, 18-0-12 ground. Losses: 5 a/c (4 P-51s, 1 P-47).

3. Fighter Sweeps

Nil.

4. Fighter Bombing

Nil.

5. Photo Reconnaissance

35 a/c (29 F-5s, 6 Spitfire XI's) were dispatched. One F-5 dispatched on mapping mission in western France. 34 a/c dispatched to map Brest Peninsula. Four a/c failed to obtain photos. 260 bursts of accurate black flak encountered over Lorient. All a/c returned safely.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

18 a/c dispatched. Two B-17s completed routine weather flights. Two Mosquitoes completed special weather flights to northern France. Two Mosquitoes were weather scouts for 2nd and 3rd Bombardment Divisions. Eight Me-109s attacked 2nd Division scout, unsuccessfully. 15 Me-109s made unsuccessful attacks on 3rd Bombardment Division scout.

12 P-51s dispatched as weather scouts for bombers. Seven completed mission. Losses: Nil. All a/c returned safely.

7. Special Operations

31 a/c on special operations. All a/c returned safely.

1 B-17 dispatched to drop leaflets. Recalled due to tactical reasons.

C. INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Air Opposition

There were no enemy air attacks against any of the heavy bomber forces. In the B-24 Force attacking Ludwigshafen, two crews reported sighting twin contrails from an e/a. The a/c overtook and passed the B-24 formation at high speed but made no attack. It was believed to have been an Me-262. One group of B-17s in the force attacking Munich reported sighting five t/e e/a in the target area at 1321 hours but this was not confirmed by escorting fighters.

Escorting fighters also encountered no e/a although several groups reported sightings. One P-47 group sighted two a/e a/c, believed enemy, southeast of Antwerp at 1420 hours. The a/c disappeared into haze when the P-47s turned into them.

Another P-47 group observed two heavy contrails from a/c flying at 32,000 feet southwest of Ludwigshafen. One flight of the P-47s climbed to 29,000 feet where the contrails rose to southeast and stopped abruptly with no a/c visible.

A single a/c from a P-51 group reported sighting eight silver Me-109s in the air near Trier, but there is no indication that these were part of an intercepting force.

The greatest numerical enemy effort of the day was reported by weather reconnaissance a/c. One Mosquito, weather scout for B-24 force on Ludwigshafen, reported 8 Me-109s making an unsuccessful pass at 1215 hours at 25,000 feet from 6 o'clock. Another Mosquito reported 15 Me-109s making a single unsuccessful pass at 1305 hours, attacking from high at one o'clock.

2. Flak

Munich - Intense, accurate.

Frankfurt to Brussels - Meager, accurate.

Regensburg and Munich - Intense, accurate.

Flak (Continued)

Dunkirk - Moderate, accurate.
 Brussels - Moderate, accurate.
 Liege - Moderate and accurate.
 Speyer, Coxyde, S of Brussels and Ludwigshafen - Intense, accurate.
 Antwerp - Meager, inaccurate.
 Ghent, Aachen, Brussels - Meager, inaccurate.
 Kaiserlautern - Meager, accurate.
 Laon/Athies A/F - Meager, accurate.
 Ludwigshafen - Moderate to intense, inaccurate to accurate: 9 to 12 rockets.
 Saarbrucken - Intense, accurate.

3. ObservationsAirfield Activity

Square A/F with N and S runways in center observed 5 miles S of Landsberg.
 3 large buildings on south end of runway.
 10 to 15 s/e and t/e e/a on 2 separate grass fields 1 mile apart - 4805 - 1055E.
 50 to 75 s/e t/e and 3/e a/c at Halzkirchen at 4753N-1140E.
 20 t/e a/c believed to be Ju-88s, Neustadt A/F.
 4 t/e a/c parked on Creil A/F. What appeared to be rocket emplacement in center of A/F.
 A/F covered with indefinite number of silver colored a/c at 4848N-1111E.
 12 - 15 a/c on A/F at 4819N-1157E.
 30 a/c on A/F at 4808N-1142E.
 A/F with a single strip, four hangars and several smaller buildings just east of Ellwangen at 4857N-1011E. Appeared to be non-operational.
 30 e/a on Crailsheim A/F at 4907N-1002E.

Other Activity

Possible military establishment 5 miles S of Bergen Op Zoom NE of Ghent
 one large silver balloon seen at 24,000 feet.
 Considerable stock in M/Y 4912N-0322E, from 23,000 feet.
 Five or six white balloons going up at city of Laon. Nothing seen hanging below them. Appeared to be weather balloons.
 Concentration of over 30 parked vehicles of unknown type at 5010N-0410E, from 22,000 feet.
 New construction works at 4945N-0807E.
 20 barrage balloons over Neustadt.
 40 barrage balloons over canal and RR bridge at 4918N-0927E.
 12 to 15 barrage balloons over Garnersheim.
 M/Ys at Karlsruhe very active.
 Heavy traffic on Rhine River near Ludwigshafen.
 Coastal area near Roosendaal flooded.
 10 large unpainted a/c on Reim/Munich A/F.
 Construction activity resembling rocket site four miles NW of Antwerp.
 Truck convoy of approximately 250 large and small vehicles heading about 120 degrees between 30 - 35 MPH, at 5149N-0421E.
 25 barrage balloons at 5,000 feet over two bridges at Speyer.

4. Damage to Enemy Installations

City of Munich - Incomplete Results

Heavy cloud of 7/10 to 10/10 density cover area Munich and surrounding territory. Possible through breaks in the clouds to see the following concentrations:

Approximately 150 G.P. bombs burst in the residential areas and over fields in the Ramersdorf district, located 2 miles SE of center of Munich. A few scattered G.P. bombs fell in the Neufreimann district located 2 3/4 miles N of center of Munich, adjacent RR workshops. Scattered I.B.'s seen. Bursts in the Thalkirchen district 2 1/2 miles S center of Munich. Intense ground haze makes assessment impossible.

Munich - Air Armaments - Fair to Good Results

Heavy cloud cover coupled with smoke screen makes exact interpretation difficult. Part of one combat wing dropped 500 lb. G.P. on the southern half of plant and the residential area S and SW of target area. Pattern of another wing, carrying 500 lb. G.P. aimable clusters of incendiaries, fell across the northern half of the A/F and the NW corner of the target area. One group dropped on the RR line about 1 1/2 miles west of target area.

Munich - RR Workshops - Poor Results

Combat wings which attacked this target dropped about 4,000 yards N NW of the target. Bombs landed on the SE corner of the Schleissheim A/F. No damage noted.

Allach - Fair to Good Results

Large building in NE corner completely covered by smoke, pattern extended to east. Hits on about one quarter of building area. Main buildings in south of plant area untouched.

Schleissheim - Poor Results

Cloud over target area prevents pin-pointing of all bombs dropped on this target. Only a few of total weight of bombs, 4 concentrations of I.B.'s in open fields and wooded areas as follows: 3 miles W NW, 3 1/2 miles SW, 5 miles W and 6 miles W of the center of the A/F respectively. One concentration of approximately 40 G.P. bombs in the open fields 2 1/2 miles NE of the A/F.

Ludwigshafen - Fair to Good Results

Bombing about 1/2 PFF and 1/2 visual. Concentrations noted lie between 1/2 and 5 1/2 miles south of target area, with hits on industrial areas, residential districts, communications and open fields in the case of the most extreme concentration.

None of the three MPIs to be attacked were seen to receive any bursts. About 90 percent of hits in city area.

S E C R E TDamage to Enemy Installations (Continued)Laon/Athies and Poix A/Fs - Unobserved Results

10/10 cloud cover.

Creil A/F - Fair Results

Bombed by three groups carrying 500 lb. G.P. bombs. One pattern crossed the western end of the NW SE runway in the line of Creil Storage area. Three probable hits on runway and at least 50 bursts fell on the landing field. Pattern fell in the woods east of the field with several bursts in the east dispersal area. Two probable near misses on a/c.

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

S E C R E T