

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

APO 559.
25 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Report of Operations Officer, Mission of 24 August 1944.

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

95th "A" Group

1. General Narrative: The Ninety Fifth "A" Group took off at 0800 - 0809 hours to form the lead of the 13th "C" Combat Wing. Group assembly was made over the field at 0845 at 6,000'. The Group departed base at 0900 hours at 8,000' arriving Ipswich at 0922 hours. Due to VHF failure in the lead aircraft of 95 "A" Group the rendezvous with 95 "B" was not effected as planned. Control point # 1 was made good at 0938 hours at 8,000' where 95 "B" Group joined wing formation.

Following briefed course, control point # 2 was made good at 1120 hours at 20,000'. Control point # 3 was made at 1216 hours at an altitude of 23,700'. The briefed course was followed fairley well to the I.P. (5141N 1425E) at 25,100' at 1245 hours. Bombs were dropped on the primary target from 25,100' at 1252 hours. The briefed route was followed with a few variations to avoid flak and prop wash. At 1329 hours descent was started to 20,000' arriving at control point # 4 at 1422 hours. Still descending the enemy coast was crossed at (5310N 0450E) at 1458 hours at 14,000'. The English coast was crossed at 1547 hours at an altitude of 2,000'.

2. Aircraft Not Attacking: Twelve aircraft including one PFF aircraft of 95 "A" Group left base in formation as shown in attached diagram "A" and bombed the target in formation as shown in attached diagram "B", eleven were credited with sorties. Aircraft # 7232 turned back before becoming dispatched and did not receive a sortie.

3. Aircraft Lost: None.

95th "B" Group

1. General Narrative: The Ninety Fifth "B" Group took off from base at 0746 - 0756 to fly as high group in the 13th "C" Combat Wing. Group assembly was made over the base at 8000' at 0840. Climb was started to 9000' and an attempt was made to contact 95 "A". Due to failure of radio equipment of Group lead in 95 "A", contact was not made. Unable to positively identify 95 "A" by watching for flares, it was decided to rendezvous with him at C.P. #1. Arriving at C.P. #1 at 0941 at

9000', 95 "B" was slightly in trail of 95 "A". Some difficulty was encountered when 95 "A" climbed too fast on course and 95 "B" could only maintain a position in trail. By cutting inside of 95 "A" at 5410 N 0800E, 95 "B" was able to get into and maintain correct wing formation.

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

Bombs were away at 26,000' at 1253 hours.

Landings were made at 1618 - 1628 hours.

2. Aircraft Not Attacking: Thirteen aircraft of 95 "B" Group including one P.F.F. left base as shown in diagram A. Formation over the target is shown in attached diagram B. All aircraft are credited with sorties.

3. Aircraft Lost: A/C #6013 lost No. 2 and No. 4 engines approximately five minutes after the target. When last heard from was under control and trailing the formation.

HARRY G. MUMFORD,
LT. COL., Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

INTERPRETATION REPORT NO. K. 3062

LOCALITY: RUFFLAND (Synthetic Oil Plant)

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW:

This report covers all damage to the target between 1300 B hours on 7 JUL 1944 and 1540 B hours on 24 AUG 1944, including that resulting from the attack by aircraft of U.S. 8TH AIR FORCE with fighter escort on 24 AUG 1944.

GENERAL STATEMENT:

Damage is seen in a belt running from North to South through the plant. Most of the important units have been hit: the last remaining large gasholder has been destroyed and the Water Gas Plants Contact Oven House, Gas Purification Plant and Catalyst Plant have received moderate damage. One large and two small storage tanks have been destroyed and a rectangular blast-walled building (? Pump house) has been wrecked. Considerable damage has been done to rail track leading into and within the plant and the main line S.E. of the target has also been cut in several places.

ACTIVITY AND EFFECT OF DAMAGE ON PRODUCTION:

Notes supplied by 'D' Section (No. D478R).
(Being an extract from A.C.I.U. report No 478R dated 25 AUG 1944)

The plant shows no signs of productive activity. Traces of steam seen coming from one of the Koppers-generators are probably residual.

A considerable part of the plant could probably be brought back into operation when minor repairs have been carried out. Repairs to the high pressure contact oven house will require a short period but the unrepaired damage to the gas generator indicates that production is unlikely to exceed 50% of normal for some time.

DETAILS OF DAMAGE:

(Numbers refer to annotations on accompanying illustration 1(a)(iii) 29/5. Numbers in parentheses refer to those on C.I.U. Plan No. D/358)

| No. | Name | Condition as of 7 JUL 44 | Condition on 25 AUG 44 |
|-----|---|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | WINTERSCHALL-SCHMAL-FELD Gas Plant | - Undamaged. | Roof destroyed. |
| | Blower House (58) | | |
| | Head of Conveyor (56) | - Undamaged | Three holes in roof. |
| 2. | Koppers Generators: | | |
| | Convertor Bldg. (62) | - Small section of roof destroyed. | Three additional holes in roof. |
| | Office? (71) | - Undamaged. | Section of roof destroyed. |
| | Briquette Unloading Point (72) | - 1/5 of roof destroyed. | A further third destroyed. |
| | Unidentified Buildings S.E. of (72) | - Centre portion destroyed. | One corner demolished. |
| 3. | Gasholder (77) SW of Koppers Generators | - Undamaged. | Almost completely destroy. |
| | Unidentified buildings W. of Gasholder (77) | - One corner damaged on each. | Further roof damage. |
| 4. | Low Pressure Contact Oven House (47) | - 1/3 of roof destroyed. | A further small section of roof damaged. |

/5. Open Contact Oven House (28)

5. Open Contact Oven House (28) - Large section of ovens repaired. New damage of varying extent to approx. 1/3 of ovens. Central ridge of roof with four holes, amounting to approx. 1/4 of area of ridge.
10. Blower House, adjoining (38) - 2/3 of roof gone. Roof repaired.
Workshop (48) N. of Gas Purification Plant - Wing of shop destroyed. Two small holes in main building.
11. Gas Purification Plant-Hydrogen Sulphide Removal Towers (36) - Damage to structure between the towers. Partly repaired, lids of 2 towers missing.
12. Catalyst Plant Building (4) - Undamaged. Hole in roof.
Building (5) - Undamaged. Two holes in roof.
Building (6) - Undamaged. Hole in roof.
Unidentified rectangular building SW of building (2) - Undamaged. Blast damage to one end.
14. Oil Refinery (Distillation Plant) (23-24) - 1 unit of Tube Stills severely damaged. 2 control buildings damaged and one bank of run-down tanks damaged. 1 workshop 1/2 destroyed. Blast wall destroyed near a small bldg. Unit of Tube Stills repaired.
16. Oil Storage (15) - Large rectangular tank with serious roof damage. Pump house has end damaged. Unidentified bldg. has corner knocked off, loading shed 2/3 destroyed and 1/2 blast wall around a large tank destroyed. Pump house almost destroyed. Remainder of roof of loading shed stripped. One large and two small tanks destroyed, one of latter still burning.
- Railway Repair Shop (43), NW of Active Carbon Plant - Heavy damage with 1/3 of roof gone. Damage repaired, two new holes in roof.
- Warehouse area (54) E. of Catalyst Plant. - One storage-type bldg. destroyed, one 70% destroyed, unidentified bldg with hole in roof, storage shed with end destroyed. One storage-type bldg. 1/2 destroyed. Four storage-type bldgs. gutted, small shed burning.
19. Power Station (75) - Main building undamaged. Western wing severely damaged. Section of roof damaged. 2/3 constructed.

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29 AUG 1944

INTERPRETATION REPORT NO. K. 3062 Page 2 Cont'd

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY: 14 Squadron.

SCRTIE: US 7GR/3065.

MEAN TIME AND DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 1540 B hours on 25 AUG 1944.

SCALE: 1/10,200 (F.L.36ⁿ).

COVER AND QUALITY: The target is fully covered on prints of good quality.

LAST REPORT: Interpretation Report No. K. 2604 (9 JUL 1944)
Immediate Interpretation Report N. K. 3062 (25 AUG 1944).

COMPARATIVE SCRTIE USED: 1066/1301, print 3101.

TARGET MATERIAL USED: C.I.U. PLAN NO. D/358.

ILLUSTRATION DISTRIBUTED.

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DEK/HB

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A.T.F.

C.W.

A

FORMATION DIAGRAM

95TH BOMB. GROUP (H)

DATE 24-8-44

TIME _____

STREETON
79/61

Metzinger
73/76

Rad KP
19/39

Hofsaes
72/32

Boudon
24/55

Shepherd
80/54

Ringboom
14/62


Gilles
78/58


Payne

BUSSES
19/92 ✓

KROOS
73/34

Wyatt
18/76

ABORTIVE 

MISSING 

CHANGES 

EXTRA

EXTRA A/C

Wyatt was in Hofsaes position but later turned back + Kroos filled position

A.T.F.

B

C.W.

FORMATION DIAGRAM

95TH BOMB. GROUP (H)

DATE 24 8-44

TIME _____

Sherwood
80/09

Collings
24/27

McVay
72/64

DOCKARD
18/87

BESSER
73/83

Ellsworth
24/50

HANSON
71/94

CRAIG
60/85

Walker
69/93

Schmidt
60/13

WICKER
70/47

Helm
72/15

Fletcher
72/57

ABORTIVE _____

EXTRA _____

EXTRA A/C _____

MISSING O

CHANGES _____

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS 13TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 559

STATISTICAL CONTROL REPORT OF AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING

13TH COMBAT BOMBARDMENT WING

DATE RENDERED 24 AUGUST 1944

PART I - TABULAR SUMMARY:

DATE OF MISSION 24 AUGUST 1944

STRATEGICAL MISSION

| COMBAT GROUP | SCHEDULED | AIRBORNE | AIRBORNE LESS RETURNING WING SPARES | ATTACKING | NOT ATTACKING | SORTIES |
|--------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------|
| "A" | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 1 | 10 |
| "B" | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 12 |

PART II - REASONS WHY AIRCRAFT DID NOT ATTACK OR FAILED TO TAKE OFF:

Combat Gp A.C.S.N. Category Reason for Failure & Corrective Action (Yes-No) Sortie

"A" 42-07232 1 1 Prop governor fitting broke. No

HARRY C. HENNING,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Commanding Officer

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

APO 559, U.S. Army
24 August 1944

SUBJECT: S-2 Report 95A and 95B, Mission of 24 August 1944.

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

1. Eleven A/C plus one PFF of the 95th Group took off beginning at 0800 hours to form the Lead Group (95A) of the 13th Combat Wing and attack the oil plant at Ruhland, Germany. A/C #7232 returned from 5215N-0130E at 0930 hours with #4 prop governor fitting broke. A/C #4876 couldn't keep up with formation, turned around at 5255N-1041E at 1150 hours and bombed target of opportunity, Nordholz A/D at 5346N-0839E.

Twelve A/C plus one PFF of the 95th Group took off beginning at 0745 hours to form the high Group (95B) of the 13th Combat Wing to attack the oil plant at Ruhland, Germany. No A/C returned early.

2. No E/A were encountered.

3. Moderate, fairly accurate flak, tracking and barrage, was encountered at Ruhland.

4. Strike photos show part of 95A Group's pattern visible outside smoke short of the target. 95B Group's bombs are in the smoke which completely blankets the target.

5. All bombing was done visually. Fighter escort was good. One A/C is missing. This A/C is #26013 which feathered #2 engine at target. Last seen at (5150N-0930E) with #2 & 4 engines feathered. No chutes, smoke or fire were seen.

JOSEPH W. TRIBBLE
1st. Lt., Air Corps
Ass't. S-2 Officer

2001

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
AAF STATION 101
APO 634

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 116

PERIOD: 0001 hours 24 August 1944 to 2400 hours 24 August 1944.

A. STATISTICS

| | Missions | Disp. | Sorties | Atkg. | Tonnage | Claims | Losses | | | OT | Totals |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | | | | | | E/A | AA | N/E | | |
| Heavy Bomber Atks. | 11 | 1319 + | 1252 | 1213 | 2981.8 | 10-3-4 A | 4 | 16 | 2 | 5 | 27 |
| Fighter Escort | 20 | 739 | 626 | 0 | 0 | 10-0-1 A 14-0-0 G | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 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. | 13 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0-0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Weather Recon. | 19 | 19 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0-0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Air/Sea Rescue | 22 | 22 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0-0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Operations | <u>13</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0-0-0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> |
| Totals | 98 | 2130 | 1948 | 1213 | 2981.8 | 20-3-5 A 14-0-0 G | 4 | 18 | 2 | 7 | 31 |

* 18 spares, 10 used.

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

28 combat wings (834 B-17s, 485 B-24s - 1319 a/c) dispatched against oil installations, armament factory, assembly plants and aero-engine works in Germany. 11 assigned targets. Support by 19 fighter groups and one squadron. All primaries attacked in generally CAVU weather. 1213 a/c dropped 2981.8 tons G.P. and I.B. on assigned targets and several T/Os. E/a opposition: 50 to 60 e/a attacked two combat wings in First Force. Claims: 10-3-4. Losses: 27 a/c (18 B-17s, 9 B-24s).

First Force

Four combat wings (433 B-24s) dispatched to attack oil installations, aircraft assembly and aero-engine plants. 389 a/c dropped 1036.4 tons G.P. and I.B. on all primaries and five T/Os at 1115 - 1134 hours from 21,000 - 25,000 feet. Leaflets dropped on Misburg, Brunswick/Querum, Brunswick/Waggum and Hanover/Langenhagen. Weather: CAVU at all targets with some light haze. Flak: intense, accurate at Hanover, Misburg and Brunswick/Querum; moderate to intense, inaccurate at Brunswick/Waggum. Battle damage: 172 minor, 11 major. E/a opposition: one Me-109 attacked single B-24 west of Hamburg. Claims: 0-0-1. Losses: 6 B-24s (5 to AA, 1 crash-landed in U.K.).

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Fighter Support: seven groups (148 P-47s, 48 P-38s, 90 P-51s - 286 a/c) dispatched. 248 sorties. Up 0819 - 0952, down 1345 - 1425 hours. E/a opposition; two Me-109s encountered in Oldenburg area. Two groups strafed. Claims: 2-0-0 air, 8-0-0 ground. Losses: one P-51 to AA.

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> | |
| Brunswick/Querum (Aero-engine) | 108 | 99 | 144.0 | 136.5 | Good |
| Brunswick/Waggum (JU-88 Repair & Assem.) | 142 | 125 | 210.7 | 103.0 | Very Good |
| Hanover/Langenhagen A/F (FW Assembly) | 85 | 72 | 108.2 | 102.0 | Very Good |
| Misburg (Refinery) | 98 | 88 | 218.0 | 0.0 | Good - Very Good |
| <u>Other Targets</u> | | | | | |
| 5 T/Os | --- | <u>5</u> | <u>9.5</u> | <u>4.5</u> | Unobserved |
| Totals | 433 | 389 | 690.4 | 346.0 | |

Second Force

Twelve combat wings (451 B-17s) dispatched to attack one oil installation, one armament factory and one equipment depot. 422 a/c dropped 1008.8 tons G.P. and I.B. on all primaries and several T/Os at 1212 - 1332 hours from 19,000 - 27,000 feet. Leaflets dropped on Merseburg. Weather: CAVU. Flak: intense, accurate at Merseburg; nil to meager, inaccurate at Kolleda A/F; and meager to moderate; inaccurate at Weimar. Battle damage: 126 minor, 63 major. E/a opposition: 35 - 50 Me-109s and FW-190s attacked one group between Ulzen and Magdeburg enroute to target. Another group was attacked once by 15 Me-109s northeast of Magdeburg and again by four Me-109s and three Me-163s northeast of Merseburg. Additional attacks by two single Me-163s southeast of Leipzig. Claims: 10-3-3. Losses: 16 B-17s (7 to AA, 4 to e/a, 5 to other).

Fighter Support: five groups (152 P-51s) dispatched. 121 sorties. Up 0900 - 0930, down 1335 - 1502 hours. E/a opposition: 15 - 20 Me-109s encountered in Lauenburg area; combat with 15 plus Me-109s ten miles east of Wittenberg; 6 plus Me-109s were bounced northeast of Wittenberg but evaded. Claims: 4-0-1 air. Losses: nil.

Details of bomber attacks as follows:

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

| <u>Assigned Targets</u> | <u>Dispatched</u> | <u>Attacking</u> | <u>Tonnage</u> | | <u>Results</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| | | | <u>G.P.</u> | <u>I.B.</u> | |
| Kolleda A/F | 74 | 30 | 25.0 | 50.0 | Fair |
| Weimar (armament) | 151 | 129 | 233.3 | 69.8 | Very Good |
| Merseburg (oil) | 226 | 185 | 436.8 | 0 | Fair to Good |
| Nordhausen A/F | | 11 | 0 | 27.5 | Fair |
| Vorden A/F | | 11 | 27.5 | 0 | Poor to Fair |
| Leipzig Area | | 10 | 25.0 | 0 | Unobserved |
| Stade A/F | | 2 | 5.0 | 0 | Unobserved |
| 7 T/Os | | 7 | 11.9 | 5.0 | Unobserved |
| Goslar A/F | | 37 | 57.0 | 35.0 | Good |
| Totals | 451 | 422 | 821.5 | 187.3 | |

Third Force

Ten combat wings (383 B-17s) dispatched to attack three synthetic oil installations. 354 a/c dropped 798.6 tons G.P. on all assigned primaries and 15 T/Os at 1242 - 1325 hours from 24,000 - 27,000 feet. Leaflets dropped on Brux, Freital and Ruhland. Weather: CAVU with ground haze in all target areas. Flak: intense, accurate at Brux; meager, inaccurate at Freital and moderate, accurate at Ruhland. Battle damage: 134 minor, 13 major. E/a opposition: 4 FW-190s made single pass at straggler in the Hameln area. Claims: 0-0-0. Losses: 2 B-17s to AA.

Fighter Support: Seven groups (48 P-47s, 236 P-51s - 284 a/c) dispatched. 240 sorties. Up 0925 - 1215, down 1445 - 1647 hours. E/a opposition: combat with 6 Me-109s 25 miles south of Brunswick; destroyed 2 Me-109s attacking bomber near Hanover. Two groups strafed. Claims: 4-0-0 air, 6-0-0 ground. Losses: 2 P-51s (one to AA and one to other reasons).

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> | |
| Brux (oil) | 153 | 139 | 310.9 | 0 | Good |
| Ruhland (oil) | 152 | 135 | 293.4 | 0 | Good - Very Good |
| Freital (oil) | 78 | 65 | 161.5 | 0 | Good |
| <u>Other Targets</u> | | | | | |
| 15 T/Os | | 15 | 32.8 | 0 | Unobserved |
| Totals | 383 | 354 | 798.6 | 0 | |

Fourth Force

Two combat wings (52 B-24s) dispatched to attack the Kiel-Waltherwerke, jet-engine compound. 48 a/c dropped 138 tons G.P. and I.B. on assigned primary and three T/Os at 1132 - 1135 hours from 22,000 - 23,500 feet. Weather: CAVU with ground haze in target area. Flak: moderate to intense, accurate in target area.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Battle damage: 18 minor, 14 major. E/a opposition: two e/a attacked straggling B-24 enroute over North Sea. Claims: 0-0-0. Losses: 3 B-24s (two to AA, one crash-landed).

Fighter Support: one squadron (17 P-51s) dispatched. 17 sorties. Up 0916, down 1400 hours. Escort uneventful. Claims: nil. Losses: nil.

Details of bomber attacks as follows:

| <u>Assigned Target</u> | <u>Dispatched</u> | <u>Attacking</u> | <u>Tonnage</u> | | <u>Results</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| | | | <u>G.P.</u> | <u>I.B.</u> | |
| Kiel (Walther Werke) | 52 | 43 | 57 | 67 | Fair |
| <u>Other Targets</u> | | | | | |
| Hemmingstedt A/F | | 3 | 9 | 0 | Unobserved |
| 2 T/Os | — | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>2</u> | Unobserved |
| Totals | 52 | 48 | 69 | 69 | |

2. Fighter Escort

Nineteen groups and one squadron (196 P-47s, 48 P-38s, 495 P-51s - 739 a/a) dispatched to escort heavy bombers attacking targets in Germany. 626 sorties. Up 0819 - 0925, down 1335 - 1647 hours. Four groups strafed A/Fs near Brandenburg and Nordhausen, A M/Y near Brunswick, and the Neuenhause-Nordhorn area. E/a opposition: encounters with approximately 50 e/a. Claims: 10-0-1 air, 14-0-0 ground. Losses: 3 P-51s (2 to AA, one to unknown reasons).

Strafing claims include:

Destroyed

3 locos
2 trucks
2 boats

Damaged

1 loco
6 RR cars
1 auto
1 flak post
1 trawler

3. Fighter Sweeps

Nil

4. Fighter Bombing

Nil

S E C R E T

5. Photo Reconnaissance

Ten a/c dispatched on photo reconnaissance missions as follows: six F-5s on routine coverage of industrial targets and A/F in France and Germany; one Spitfire IX on flak interpretation and three Spitfire IXs on routine photo missions over Germany. All a/c returned safely.

Three B-26s on night photographic mission over France. All a/c returned safely.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

Nineteen a/c dispatched on weather reconnaissance missions as follows: five Mosquitoes on routine weather missions over Belgium, France and Germany; four Mosquitoes and eight P-51s as weather scouts for heavy bombers; and two B-17s on routine scouting. One Mosquito and one P-51 did not sortie. All a/c returned safely.

7. Air/Sea Rescue

22 a/c dispatched on air/sea rescue missions. One incident - nine men rescued. All a/c returned safely.

8. Special Operations

18 a/c dispatched on special operations as follows:

- 6 B-17s dropped leaflets over France and Belgium, night 23/24 August 1944.
- 1 B-17 dropped leaflets over France, day 24 August 1944.
- 1 B-17, escorted by 4 P-51s, 2 P-47s and 4 P-51s, on radio relays.

Losses: 1 P-51.

C. INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Air Opposition

Large forces of heavy bombers, attacking important oil, aircraft and industrial targets in Germany, were for the most part unopposed by the GAF notwithstanding favorable weather conditions. Only two groups experienced concentrated attacks from about 50-60 e/a and on the whole e/a opposition was extremely ineffective. Supporting fighters reported encounters with approximately 50 e/a.

One B-17 group of the second force, dispatched against Weimar armament factory, encountered 35 to 50 Me-109s and FW-190s, which made determined and aggressive attacks. These attacks occurred in the area from Ulzen to Magdeburg en route to target, beginning at 1105 and 1116 hours and lasting approximately 25 minutes.

S E C R E T

At the beginning of attack e/a came in from rear of wing making successive individual passes. Thereafter individual attacks were made at will from all clock positions. Crews reported that attacks were pressed "suicidally" to within 50 - 100 feet, the e/a slowing down, and remaining close to bombers while firing. Bombers claimed 8-3-1 for loss of four B-17s.

Another B-17 group, dispatched against Merseburg, was attacked twice, once by 15 Me-109s northeast of Magdeburg at 1153 hours and again by four Me-109s and Me-163s at 1205 hours between the IP and target northeast of Merseburg. Claims were 2-0-2 for loss of one B-17.

Supporting fighters apparently were not in the area at the time of the attack by the 35 - 50 e/a. One P-51 group responding to the bombers call was intercepted by 15 - 20 Me-190s near Lauenberg. E/a dove for the deck with P-51s in pursuit. Claims were 2-0-2 for no loss.

Two other fighter groups supporting the second force reported encounters. One P-51 group engaged 15 plus Me-109s ten miles east of Wittenburg, from 1155 to 1205 hours with claims of 2-0-1 for no loss. Another group bounced six plus Me-109s northeast of Wittenberg but were unable to engage.

There were only three isolated attacks against other bombers. One Me-109 attacked and damaged a single B-24 west of Hamburg; two e/a attacked a straggling B-24 over North Sea; and four FW-190s made a single pass at a straggling B-17 near Hameln.

Other fighter groups engaged two Me-109s near Oldenburg, two Me-109s near Hanover and six Me-190s 25 miles south of Brunswick with claims of 6-0-0.

2. Flak

Hanover - intense, accurate.
Misburg - intense, accurate.
Brunswick/Waggum - moderate to intense, inaccurate.
Brunswick/Querum - intense, accurate.
Brux - intense, accurate.
Freital - meager, inaccurate.
Ruhland - moderate, accurate.
Kiel - moderate to intense, accurate.
Merseburg - intense, accurate.
Weimar - meager to moderate, inaccurate.
Kollada A/F - nil to meager, inaccurate.
Spieka - meager, inaccurate.
Nordholz - meager, inaccurate.
Cuxhaven - meager, inaccurate.
Cardelagen - meager, inaccurate.
Wesermunde - meager, inaccurate.
Heligoland - meager, inaccurate.
Leipzig area - meager, accurate.

S E C R E T

3. Observations

Airfields

5345N-0834E, 20 u/i a/c.

Stade - seven JU-88s on field, 1040 hours, motors running.

5228N-0804E - A/F previously destroyed, being rebuilt.

5227N-0757E and 5223N-0756E - new runways constructed and repaired.

Fassburg - 50 t/e and larger a/c.

5234N-1031E - runways under repair.

5344N-0840E - dummy A/F.

5202N-1115E - 12 a/c on field.

5309N-0949E - new A/F.

5329N-0929E - large assembly plant on A/F in good shape.

5304N-0632E - not on map, three runways in excellent condition, no hang-

ars.

A/F southwest of Nordholz A/F with 11 e/a.

20 s/e a/c on A/F at Burg with extremely long crossed runways.

10 a/c on Luneburg A/F.

5140N-1250E - fighter strip with 25 - 30 e/a dispersed, on field near b

e/a in dispersal area.

5120N-1345E - (probably Grossenhain A/F) north of Dresden, numerous t/e

40 - 50 e/a on Burg A/F and runway appeared to have been lengthened.

5308N-1004E - 24 large a/c in wooded area.

Nordhausen A/F - 9 to 12 silver s/e e/a.

5308N-0921E - (probably Rotenburg) - 12 to 14 e/a, with one a/c taking

off.

New A/F under construction on Neuwerk Island, 5356N-0830E.

Other

Large dispersal area or ammunition dump at Soltoll, small buildings with individual roads to each one.

Camouflaged installations north of A/F on southwest edge of Brandenburg
16 oil storage tanks at 5330N-0950E.

Cleared diamond shaped area at 5210N-1414E appeared to have 20 pieces of artillery or tanks on it.

Large factory with new buildings around it at 5327N-0912E.

5338N-0932E, Stade area, 12 camouflaged oil tanks painted green on grass area.

12 oil storage tanks south of A/F Nordholz, seemed to be buried in sand at Oltenben.

5328N-0940E - several large buildings camouflaged in small woods with highway and railway running to center of woods.

At Hasbeck, large factory NW of quarry with sidings running from main R.
Possible camouflaged factory in wooded area at 5235N-0725E.

Large group of warehouses divided into 8 small groups at 5300N-1005E.

As formations approached, smoke screen was put into operation.
An installation of about 12 buildings just east of a canal at 5343N-0700E.

Large factory composed of 3 large buildings and 3 barracks at 5306N-100

Long strips, resembling runways, running east-west into woods at 5335N-

0700E.

4. Damage to Enemy Installations

Weimar (Armaments) - Very Good Results

Nine concentrations over the entire target area. Direct hits made on 10 large workshops, three of which have been completely destroyed. Three at least 50% destroyed and still burning. Remaining four heavily hit, fires burning in two. Remaining two workshops in the area blanketed by I.B. Damage to this area severe. Boiler house received direct hit and on fire late in the attack. In the garage and stores area, direct hits were made on at least 14 buildings. Fires seen burning in most of these buildings and damage is severe. Railroad sidings received at least 10 direct hits. Two concentrations of bombs were seen bursting on the entrance of the underground stores. At least five direct hits on the ramp leading to the entrance. Two office buildings in Gestapo Hq. area received direct hits and scattered incendiaries are visible in the area. Two barracks of the SS barracks area received direct hits.

Merseburg (Synthetic Oil) - Fair to Good Results

Heavy smoke screen combined with smoke from bursts in the target area makes pin-pointing of strikes impossible. At least eight concentrations of explosive bombs in the target area. Damage expected in the northern portion of the plant area and on the western side adjacent to the M/Y. Damage in the M/Y severe. Several fires seen burning in the plant area late in the attack. Four concentrations of bombs immediately adjacent to the target area. Fifth concentration 2¹/₂ miles NE of the target area. Most of these bombs are in open fields.

Goslar A/F - Good Results

Approximately 125 HE bombs burst on the northern portion of the landing field adjacent to hangar area. Three direct hits on a large flight hangar. Photography late in attack shows hangar burning. Three administrative stores burning. Scattered incendiary bursts seen in open fields adjacent to western edge of target area. Target does not have complete photographic coverage and some additional damage may have been achieved in the area. Eight a/c on the field at the time of the attack, one of which is on fire.

Kolleda A/F - Fair Results

Approximately 100 bombs burst on western edge of target area. Five storage buildings in aircraft equipment depot received direct hits, two of these buildings being on fire. Heavy concentration of incendiary bombs blankets the entire western half of the landing field, and a smaller concentration is visible in open fields adjacent to the western edge of the landing ground. There were 10 t/e a/c visible on the field at the time of the attack.

Vorden A/F - Poor to Fair Results

100 G.P. bombs in SE portion of landing field. Two small u/i buildings each received a direct hit. Six direct hits on NE-SW runway. Main weight on landing field. 11 a/c visible on the field at time of attack.

Nordhausen A/F - Fair Results

11 a/c attacked target dropping incendiary bombs. Photography incomplete and shows only the start of a pattern in the hangar area. Bursts appear well placed and pattern should achieve some damage in the area.

Misburg (Refinery) - Good to Very Good Results

All three MPIs covered by bursts. Though part of pattern seems to have fallen north over target, numerous bursts are seen in target area. Explosion seen and fires started.

Hanover/Langenhagen A/F - (FW-154 Assembly) - Very Good Results

Entire main dispersal area at northern edge of field and main servicing facilities well hit. Incendiaries started fires.

Brunswick/Querum (aero-engine) - Good Results

Patterns of several squadrons burst through north end of target, but main weight of attack fell squarely in target area. Fires burning fiercely in several main buildings. Later units attacking a nearby target photographed same fires.

Brunswick/Waggum A/F - Very Good Results

Main servicing facilities at NW edge of field well covered by G.P. and I.I patterns. Additional damage caused by frags. Eastern dispersal area escaped damage, but southern dispersal was covered by loose pattern of frag. bombs. Fires started and some bomb patterns lost in smoke - probably on the target.

Kiel (Jet-engine Plant) - Fair Results

This plant was bombed by four groups. A few stray bombs from edges of first two patterns are on target area giving two probable hits and two near-misses on u/i buildings. One incendiary pattern blankets targets and extends across the canal beyond plant. Other incendiary pattern is not seen but it plots down on edge of canal, 1000 yards over target.

Brux (Synthetic Oil Plant) - Good Results

Target attacked by twelve groups. Two do not have photo coverage but five show that bombs struck in target area. Another hit one corner of target area and did no serious damage. Most of strikes are concentrated in the NE corner of plant area with damage to LTC plant, boiler house, distillation plants and hydrogenation stills. Some damage also done to coal handling facilities along rail spur in NE corner of plant. One explosion occurred in oil storage area in the central part of plant. Also two or three hits or near-misses in SE corner of gas generating plant

Ruhland (Synthetic Oil Plant) - Good to Very Good Results

Plant bombed by four combat wings. Patterns fell in target area blanketin almost all of the plant. One pattern seen 2700 yards south of target and one pattern centered 700 yards south while another pattern centered 1000 yards north of target area. One direct hit on oil storage started a fire.

Nordholz A/F (T/O) - Poor Results

Bombs from one a/c landed in open fields well outside SE corner of A/F. N damage.

Freital (Oil Refinery) - Good Results

Target bombed by six groups. The first group covered MPI but smoke seriously interfered with bombing of later groups. Damage cannot be assessed accurately but two other patterns appear to have fallen across edge of target area.

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