

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

APO 559,  
14 September 1944.

**SUBJECT:** Operations Officers Narrative - Mission 12 September 1944.

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

1. GENERAL NARRATIVE: The 95th "A" Group, flying as lead group of the 13 "A" Combat Wing took-off at 0645 - 0655 hours. By 0725 the group had assembled over the base at 9,000'. The 95th "B" Group, flying as high group, and the 100th "A" group, flying as low group, joined the lead group before leaving the area of the base. Thus the 13 "A" Wing was completed upon leaving the base.

The course over England was flown as briefed, and upon departing the English coast the 13 "A" wing was flying in close support of the 92nd wing. Enroute to the target the enemy coast was crossed at 1018 hours at 21,000 feet.

The route from the enemy coast to the target was flown as briefed. The I.P. was reached at 1057 and the groups peeled off without difficulty. Bombs were away at 1107 hours.

The rally was effected as planned and briefed course was followed on the return route. The French coast was crossed on the return route at 1314 and the groups were over the base at 1347. The landing was made at 1350 - 1410 hours.

2. AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING Twelve (12) Aircraft, including one PFF, left the base in the formation shown in attached diagram "1A". A/C 2455 and A/C 1760 left the formation early due to mechanical trouble. Neither of these aircraft are credited with sorties. The formation over the target is shown in attached diagram "2A".

3. LOST AIRCRAFT: None.

95"B"GROUP

1. GENERAL NARRATIVE: The 95 "B" Group took-off at 0630-0642 hours. Since this mission was flown in company with the 95 "A" Group, reference is made to the above report for the remainder of this general narrative, There were no deviations from briefed

procedure,

2. AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING: Thirteen aircraft, including one PFF, left the base in the formation shown in attached diagram "1B". All A/C bombed the primary and are credited with sorties. The formation over the target is shown in attached diagram "2B".

3. LOST AIRCRAFT: None.

THOMAS H. HOLBROOK,  
Lt Col., Air Corps,  
Operations Officer.

A.T.F.

C.W.

A

FORMATION DIAGRAM

95TH BOMB. GROUP (H)

DATE 12-9-44

TIME

MILLER  
79/61

METZINGER  
82/88

Day  
72/15

ERGLSON  
24/55

Boudon  
82/55

BEK  
82/81

SQUIRES  
72/57

PAYNE  
83/17

PAZOLN  
19/20

PARKER  
24/47

WICKER  
17/60

RAPKE  
70/47

ABORTIVE 0

MISSING

CHANGES

EXTRA

EXTRA A

A.T.F.

C.W.

B

FORMATION DIAGRAM

95TH BOMB. GROUP (H)

DATE 12-9-44

TIME

BASTION  
75/61

FIPSS  
82/83

TAYLOR  
19/39

ELLSWORTH  
69/93

Braung  
80/67

HARRY  
71/94

MELVIN  
78/44

WALKER  
78/01

SALVIA  
20/66

HOLSAES  
72/32

HART  
73/83

Hendrickson  
81/40

Ring bloom  
78/82

ABORTIVE

MISSING

CHANGES

EXTRA

EXTRA A

HEADQUARTERS 15TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP  
APO 559

STATISTICAL CONTROL REPORT OF AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING

15TH COMBAT BOMBARDMENT WING

DATE REPORTED 12 SEPT 44

PART I - TABULAR SUMMARY:

DATE OF MISSION 12 SEPT 44

STRATEGICAL MISSION

COMBAT GROUP	SCHEDULED	AIRBORNE	AIRBORNE LESS RETURN TO BASE	ATTACKING	NOT ATTACKING	SORTIES
A	11	11	11	9	2	9
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	Sortie (Yes-No)
A	42-31760	B	Pilot smelled smoke, nothing wrong.	No
A	42-102455	F	# 4 oil pressure low.	No

THOMAS H. HOLBROCK,  
Lt. Col., Air Corps,  
Operations Officer.





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

APO 559.  
12 September 1944.

SUBJECT: Abortion of A/C #1760.

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

1. Shortly after takeoff, while at an altitude of approximately 4500', the plane was filled with a strong burning odor. I surmised that it was electrical wiring forward of the cockpit. At 5500' I contacted the tower. After reaching the assembly altitude, the smoke smell had been greatly reduced. After bombs had been jettisoned and as we lost altitude, the odor returned to a slight degree.

WARREN HELM,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

THREE HUNDRED THIRTY FOURTH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
OFFICE OF THE SQUADRON ENGINEERING OFFICER  
A.P.O. 559

12 September 1944

SUBJECT: Abortion of B-17G No. 42-102455.

TO: Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group (H), AAF Station 119.

1. This aircraft aborted from the mission of 12 September 1944, returning to this base at 0915.
2. The pilot reported that the oil pressure dropped to 40 PSI and that the cylinder head temperature increased to 220°C. The oil temperature remained normal. The propeller was immediately feathered.
3. On ground inspection, air was found in the oil pressure transmitter line. The increase in temperature has no bearing on the malfunction.
4. This aircraft is now in commission.

DONALD H. DOWLIN,  
Capt, Air Corps,  
Engineering Officer.



THREE HUNDRED THIRTY FOURTH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
OFFICE OF THE SQUADRON ENGINEERING OFFICER  
A.P.O. 559

17 September 1944

SUBJECT: Abortion of B-17G No. 42-31760.

TO: Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group (H), AAF Station 119.

1. This aircraft aborted from the mission of 12 September 1944, returning to this base at 0830.
2. The pilot reported that soon after take off, smoke was noticed. However, on questioning its location was unknown.
3. The airplane was test hopped, however, no smoke was observed.

DONALD H. DOWLIN,  
Capt, Air Corps,  
Engineering Officer.

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

H-E-26

13 September 1944.

**SUBJECT:** Lead Navigator's Narrative, Ninety Fifth "A" Group, Mission of 12 September 1944, Magdeburg, Germany.

**TO :** Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group (H), A.A.F.

1. The Ninety Fifth "A" Group flew as lead of the 13th "A" Combat Wing with 95th "B" Group flying as high group. We were airborne at 0645 hours and formed the groups and wing over the base. Departed the base at 9000' at 0735 hours. Southwold was made at 0817 hours, BU# 11 at 0822 hours, and SP# 6 at 0828 hours.

2. We left the English coast at Great Yarmouth at 10,000' at 0837 hours. The Enemy Coast was crossed at 5348N 0842E at 1009 hours at 21,000'. We flew the briefed course to the Initial Point. The Initial Point was crossed at 1057 hours at 25,000'.

3. Bombs were away at 1107 hours on a magnetic heading of 269° at 25,000' for the 95th "A" Group. Bombs were away for the 95th "B" Group at 1107 hours on a magnetic heading of 284° at 26,000'. The Rally Point was made good at 1112 hours.

4. Briefed course was flown back to the coast. The French coast was crossed at Ostend at 1314 hours at 17000'. The English coast was crossed at Orfordness at 1239 hours at 2500'. We were over the base at 1347 hours at 1000'.

ZEDDIE R. TRAGARDEN  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Lead Navigator.

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

E-F-26

13 September 1944.

SUBJECT: Lead Bombardier's Narrative, Ninety Fifth "A" Group, Mission of 12 September 1944, Magdeburg, Germany.

TO : Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group (H), A.A.F.

1. Bombing Approach and Run - At the I.P. we made a right turn of about 85°. I picked up the target area but could not pick target until last of run because of very effective smoke screen. Made the run on A.F.C.E. with no interference from flak or fighters.

2. Disposition of Bombs - 11 A/C were dispatched from the 95th "A" Group. 9 A/C were over the primary target dropping 85 x 500# G.P. AN-M64 bombs. A/C #8281 returned 5 x 500# G.P. bombs due to mechanical failure in racks. A/C #2455 and A/C #1760 aborted due to mechanical failure. Fuzing was 1/10 nose and 1/40 tail.

3. Types of Release - All 85 bombs dropped on primary target were salvaged and armed.

4. Tabular Summary - A/C

Main Bombfall	Over Target	Bombing	No.	Bombs			Fuzing	
				Size	Type	Nose	Tail	
Magdeburg, Germany.	9	9	85	500#	M-64	1/10	1/40	
Total on Target.			85	500#	M-64	1/10	1/40	
Other Expenditures.			None.					
Bombs Returned.			25	500#	M-64	1/10	1/40	
Total (loaded on A/C taking off).			110	500#	M-64	1/10	1/40	

A. R. SCROGGINS  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Lead Bombardier.

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**HEADQUARTERS  
NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER**

**12 September 1944**

**SUBJECT: S-2 Report, 95A, 95B Groups.**

**TO : Commanding Officer, 95th Bomb. Gr., APO 859.**

1. a. Eleven A/C plus 1 PFF A/C of the 95th Group took off beginning at 0645 hours to form the lead Group (95A) of the 13A Combat Wing to attack Magdeburg, Germany. The following A/C returned early:

A/C 2455 returned from Buncher 25 - low oil pressure and high cylinder head temperature in #4. Had to feather engine.

A/C 1760 returned from Buncher 25 - electrical fire.

b. Twelve A/C plus 1 PFF A/C of the 95th Group took off beginning at 0630 hours to form the high Group (95B) of the 13A Combat Wing to attack Magdeburg, Germany. No A/C returned early.

2. Between 20 - 30 S/E E/A sighted. They were engaged by our fighter support, but did not attack either 95A or 95B Groups.

3. The only flak encountered was at Magdeburg. It was inaccurate, both tracking and barrage, moderate to intense. Usual flak observed in route at Wilhelmshaven, Brunswick, and Koblenz.

4. Bombing results are mostly unobserved. One plume of smoke is seen coming from target area that can be assumed to be credited to 95A Group. 95B Group can claim several fires. Some 4,000 yards short of the target.

5. There were no unusual occurrences. All A/C returned to the base by 1430 hours.

**ROBERT W MICHELS,  
Capt., Air Corps,  
Ass't. S-2 Officer.**

*me*  
CONFIDENTIAL  
13 SEP 1944 *plu*

INTERPRETATION REPORT S.A. 2708

ATTACK ON MAGDEBURG on 12 SEP 1944

(i) INFORMATION RECEIVED ON THE ATTACK

(a) No. of aircraft : 217, with full fighter escort.  
(b) Command : U.S. 8th AIR FORCE.  
(c) Time : 1058 - 1113 Hours.  
(d) Bombs : 1517 X 500 lb. G.P.  
1400 X 100 lb. G.P.  
965 X 100 lb. I.B.

(ii) DETAILS OF THE ATTACK

(a) Objectives at MAGDEBURG were the BRAUNKOHL BENZIN A.G. at ROTHENSEE and the ORDNANCE DEPOT at FRIEDRICHSTADT. An effective smoke screen and partial cloud cover obscures the target at ROTHENSEE. Few bursts were observed on the target, but two large fires are seen coming from near the compressor houses. Other industrial targets in the area were heavily hit. The smoke screen at FRIEDRICHSTADT was not as effective, and bursts are seen blanketing the target with hits on many of the buildings, including at least one of the three major elements. Incendiary bursts are seen on built up areas near the target.

(b) Bursts are seen on the target areas as follows:

1. BRAUNKOHL BENZIN A.G.

Possible bursts are seen on the Southeast part of the target area. Two large fires are seen in the vicinity of the Compressor Houses, probably from oil storage tanks, which are in the Southeast corner of the target.

2. ORDNANCE DEPOT

(Numbers refer to target illustration)

Ramped Standard Building (1) : 1 near hit, area later blanketed by bursts.  
Standard Building (2) : possible hits from bursts which blanket the area.  
Miscellaneous Building and Dispersed Stores (3) : several hits on the large buildings. Hits and probable hits are seen on most of the smaller buildings surrounding it.  
Small building Southwest of (1) : one, possibly two hits.  
Small buildings North of (2) : hits on several of these.  
Large buildings Northeast of (2) : probable hits on all three. A possible explosion occurred in this area.  
Railroad on North boundary of target : several hits.  
Port facilities North of railroad : hits on small buildings, possible hits on barges.

(c) Other bursts:

1. GROSSGASSEPEI MITTELDEUTSCHLAND A.G.

Blanketed by several concentrations of bursts. A probable explosion, followed by fires occurred at the plant, which is a producer of benzol.

2. MITTELDEUTSCHES KRAFT WERKE

Blanketed by bursts, with probable hits on installations. This plant is the source of power for the adjacent benzol and benzol factories and for MAGDEBURG.

3. NAPHTHA INDUSTRIE UND TANKLAGEN A.G.

Bursts seen on target area thru smoke.

4. BENZOL VERBAND G.m.b.H.

Bursts seen on target area thru smoke.

5. GEORG VON CIESCHKE'S ERBEN

Bursts are seen on the area of the zinc smelters and workshops.

6. ROTHENSEE MARSHALLING YARD

Bursts are seen thru smoke on the gathering lines at each end of the Marshalling Yard.

7. A large concentration of at least 60 bursts is visible on the built up area West of the MAGDEBURG MAIN STATION and GOODS YARD. One burst is seen on the North end of a probable goods shed.

8. Bursts are seen on factory type buildings West and Southwest of the ORDNANCE DEPOT, and eight scattered bursts are seen on the built up area across the ELBE West of the ORDNANCE DEPOT.

9. Eight bursts are seen in a wooded area 2000 yards South of the DEPOT, and one in a field 4 miles Southeast.

10. All incendiary bursts observed were in two concentrations; one on a built up area 800 yards Southeast of the ORDNANCE DEPOT, and the other in woods, fields, and the river 2500 yards Southeast of the DEPOT.

(111) ACTIVITY

(a) MARSHALLING YARDS

1. MAGDEBURG MAIN STATION

Loading is moderate.

2. MAGDEBURG/BUCKAU

Loading is heavy.

(b) AIRFIELDS

1. MAGDEBURG/SOUTH

a. Four possible aircraft are visible.

b. Ten aircraft were visible on 19 AUG 1944 (106G/2369)

c. The airfield appears serviceable.

2. MAGDEBURG/EAST

a. Six, possibly 9 aircraft are visible.

b. Twenty aircraft were visible on 19 AUG 1944 (106G/2369)

c. The airfield appears serviceable.

(c) SMOKE SCREENS

1. The smoke screen in the MAGDEBURG area is in full operation at the time of the attack.

(v) BOMB PLOTS: A bomb plot has been prepared and will

(vi) PHOTOGRAPHS RECEIVED

SAV 954/1026	12 SEP 1944	1107	1/25,000	(F.L.G. 2)
SAV 952/1025	"	1107	"	"
SAV 1001/872-51	"	1108	"	"
SAV 1001/872	"	1108	"	"
SAV 1001/872-40	"	1108	"	"
SAV 308/872-42	"	1108	"	"
SAV 300/872-37	"	1108	"	"
SAV 300/872	"	1108	"	"
SAV 486/342-52-40	"	1105	1/42,000	(F.L.G. 7)
SAV 486/342	"	1105	"	"
SAV 487/342	"	1103	1/42,000	(F.L.G. 7)
SAV 4901/197-51	"	1058	1/42,000	(F.L.G. 7)
SAV 4902/197	"	1058	1/44,100	(F.L.G. 7)
SAV 4903/197	"	1059	1/42,000	(F.L.G. 7)
SAV 4904/197-51	"	1103	1/42,000	(F.L.G. 7)
SAV 493/231	"	1101	1/25,900	(F.L.G. 2)
Q 176-78-437	"	unknown	Oblique	(F.L.G. 2/5)

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DIST

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
AAF STATION 101  
APO 634

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 135

PERIOD: 0001 hours 12 September 1944 to 2400 hours 12 September 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>OT</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
							<u>E/A</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>N/E</u>	<u>OG</u>		
Heavy Bomber Atks.	8	888+	851	826	2022.8	27-14-12A	23	14	0	8	45	
						0-0-0G						
Fighter Escort	15	662	579	0	0	54-2-8A	1	0	0	13	14	
						26-0-31G						
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.	10	39	39	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	2	2	
Weather Recon.	3	16	15	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	
Air/Sea Rescue	14	14	14	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	
Special Operations	<u>13</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0-0-0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
Totals	63	1715	1584	826	2022.8	81-16-20A	24	14	0	23	61	
						26-0-31G						

+ Includes 11 spares, 5 used.

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

Nineteen combat wings (647 B-17s, 241 B-24s - 888 a/c) dispatched in three forces to attack oil installations, an aero-engine plant and ordnance depot in central and northwestern Germany. Eight assigned targets. Support by fifteen fighter groups. 826 a/c dropped 2022.8 tons G.P. and I.B. on all assigned targets and several T/Os. Bombing visual in most instances. Strong opposition to bombers by approximately 150 e/a in Berlin, Ruhland and Magdeburg areas. Claims: 27-14-12. Losses: 45 a/c (41 B-17s, 4 B-24s).

First Force

Eight combat wings (299 B-17s) dispatched against two synthetic oil plants at Brux and Ruhland. 271 a/c dropped 664.2 tons G.P. on both assigned targets and numerous T/Os at 1211 - 1302 hours from 26,000 - 29,000 feet. Leaflets dropped on Brux, Ruhland. Bombing visual on Ruhland, visual and PFF on Brux. Weather: 5/10 - 8/10 enroute, 4/10 - 6/10 in target area. Flak: moderate to intense, accurate at Brux; moderate, inaccurate at Ruhland. Battle Damage: 47 minor, 47 major. E/a opposition: attacks on six different combat wings by approximately 100 - 125 e/a. Lead combat wing of force dispatched



against Ruhland attacked by 35 - 50 e/a, all FW-190s, northeast of Berlin. Combat wing following, attacked by 35 - 50 Me-109s and FW-190s at the same time. Next combat wing also attacked, apparently by same e/a. Lead combat wing of force dispatched against Brux attacked north and northeast of Berlin by about 25 Me-109s and FW-190s. Fifteen e/a apparently from same formation, attacked combat wing immediately following. Another flight of six Me-109s attacked the trailing wing in the same area. Claims: 14-9-7. Losses: 26 B-17s (16 to E/A 5 to AA, 1 crash-landed, 4 to unknown causes).

Fighter Support: Six groups (48 P-47s, 229 P-51s - 277 a/c) dispatched. Sorties 238. Up 0834 - 1052 hours, down 1415 - 1600 hours. E/a opposition: engaged 14 s/e e/a in Frankfurt area; 25 s/e e/a near Berlin; 20 plus FW-190s in the vicinity of Neuruppen; 10 s/e e/a near Kyritz; 60 plus s/e e/a in Kustrin area; 40 plus FW-190s near Muritz Lake. Strafed A/Fs at Meiningen, Kustrin and Schwartz. Claims: 29-2-4 air, 21-0-16 ground. Losses: 12 P-51s to unknown causes.

Details of attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacked</u>	<u>Tons G.P.</u>	<u>Results</u>
Ruhland (synthetic oil)	150	59	142.5	Unobserved
Brux (synthetic oil)	149	79	189.7	Unobserved
<u>Other Targets</u>				
Plauen		30	82.5	Poor-Fair
Lauta		48	119.5	Unobserved
Etterwinden		12	22.5	Unobserved
Kitzingen		11	27.5	Unobserved
Karlsbad		11	27.5	Poor-Fair
U/I T/Os		21	52.5	Unobserved
Totals	299	271	664.2	

Second Force

Eight combat wings (348 B-17s) dispatched against two synthetic oil plants at Bohlen and Magdeburg and an ordnance depot at Magdeburg. 330 a/c dropped 767.7 tons G.P. and I.B. on all assigned targets and several T/Os at 1101 - 1220 hours from 24,000 - 26,000 feet. Leaflets dropped on Magdeburg and Bohlen. All bombing visual. Weather: CAVU to 3/10 at Bohlen and Magdeburg. Effective smoke screen at both cities made target identification difficult, caused four groups to bomb other targets. Flak: moderate to intense, accurate in target areas. Battle Damage: 129 minor, 32 major. E/a opposition: 20 Me-109s attacked low group of second combat wing in the Magdeburg area. Attacks aggressive. Some e/a also attacked rear combat wings. Attack by one Me-163 in the Bohlen area. Ten jet and rocket propelled e/a sighted in the Magdeburg area but no attack. Claims: 13-5-5. Losses: 15 B-17s (7 to E/A 5 to AA, 1 crash-landed in Belgium and 2 to unknown causes).

Fighter Support: Six groups (80 P-47s, 191 P-51s - 271 a/c) dispatched. Sorties 236. Up 0807 - 0951 hours, down 1322 - 1415 hours. E/a opposition: engaged 34 Me-109s in the vicinity of Halberstadt; 2 Me-109s near Goslar; combats with 8 Me-109s south of Frankfurt; 26 Me-109s in the

S E C R E T

Brandenburg area; 10 Me-109s near Gardelegen. Strafod A/F near Wurzburg.  
Claims: 25-0-4 air, 5-0-15 ground. Losses: 2 P-51s (1 to E/A, 1 to unknown causes).

Details of attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacked</u>	<u>Tons</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>GP</u>	<u>IB</u>	
Magdeburg/Rothensee (synthetic oil)	153	144	329.5		Fair
Magdeburg/Friedrichstadt (ord. depot)	78	73	119.7	48.2	Good
Bohlen (synthetic oil)	117	35	82.7		Fair
<u>Other Targets</u>					
Fulda		46	111.0		Poor
Molbis		11	26.0		Unobserved
U/I T/O near Bohlen		13	32.5		Unobserved
Bohlen area		2	5.0		Unobserved
U/I T/Os		6	13.1		Unobserved
<b>Totals</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>719.5</b>	<b>48.2</b>	

Third Force

Three combat wings (241 B-24s) dispatched against two oil refineries at Misburg and Hemmingstedt and an aero-engine works at Kiel. 225 a/c dropped 590.9 tons G.P. and I.B. on all assigned targets and several T/Os at 1051 - 1135 hours from 18,500 - 23,700 feet. Leaflets dropped on Misburg, Kiel and Wilster. Bombing visual on Hemmingstedt and Kiel, both visual and PFF on Misburg. Weather: 4/10 to 7/10 cloud in target areas with effective smoke screen at Misburg and Kiel. Flak: moderate, accurate at Kiel; moderate to intense, accurate at Misburg; none at Hemmingstedt. Battle Damage: 42 minor, 7 major. E/a opposition: nil, except for an attack on one straggler by 2 FW-190s. Claims: nil. Losses: 4 B-24s to AA.

Fighter Support: Three groups (51 P-47s, 31 P-38s, 32 P-51s - 114 a/c) dispatched. Sorties 105. Up 0839 - 0927 hours, down 1315 - 1416 hours. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: nil.

Details of attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacked</u>	<u>Tons</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>G.P.</u>	<u>I.B.</u>	
Hemmingstedt (oil refinery)	66	66	165.0		Unobserved
Kiel (aero-engine works)	71	58	103.5	46.0	Good
Misburg (oil refinery)	104	34	89.5		Unobserved
<u>Other Targets</u>					
Leharte		38	106.7		Good
Northeim M/Y		12	36.0		Fair

S E C R E T

<u>Other Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacked</u>	<u>Tons</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>G.P.</u>	<u>I.B.</u>	
Hanover		11	29.0		Unobserved
Hemmingstadt		3	6.0	2.5	Unobserved
U/I T/Os		3	4.2	2.5	Unobserved
<b>Totals</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>539.9</b>	<b>51.0</b>	

2. Fighter Escort

Fifteen groups (179 P-47s, 31 P-38s, 452 P-51s - 662 a/c) dispatched to support bombers attacking targets in central and northwestern Germany. 579 sorties. Up 0807 - 1052 hours, down 1315 - 1600 hours. E/a opposition: combat with large formations s/e e/a in Frankfurt, Berlin, Neuruppen, Kustrin, Kyritz, Halberstadt, Brandenburg and Murlitz Lake areas. Strafed A/Fs near Wurzburg, Meiningen, Kustrin and Schwartz. Strafed miscellaneous ground targets destroying three locos and damaging two flak towers.. Claims: 54-2-8 air, 26-0-31 ground. Losses: 14 P-51s ( 1 to E/A, 13 to causes unknown).

3. Fighter Sweeps

Nil.

4. Fighter Bombing

Nil.

5. Photo Reconnaissance

39 a/c dispatched as follows:

10 Spitfires and 23 F-5w photographed targets in Metz, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Schweinfurt, Hanover and Hemmingstadt areas. 3 FW-190s encountered west of Schweinfurt at 30,000 feet. 2 a/c failed to return.

2 P-38s, escorted by 4 P-51s, on P.R.U. in Magdeburg, Chemnitz and Leipzig areas. No losses.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

16 a/c (1 B-17, 1 B-24, 6 Mosquitoes, 8 P-51s) dispatched as follows:

1 B-17 and 1 B-24 on routine weather flights over Atlantic. B-24 aborted. 3 Mosquitoes completed special weather flights to Frisian Islands and NW Germany, Leipzig area and SW France. 3 Mosquitoes, 8 P-51s, scouting mission for three heavy bomber forces. P-51s sighted 75 Me-109s NE of Berlin, jettisoned their tanks and returned. No losses.

7. Air/Sea Rescue

14 P-47s dispatched on air/sea rescue operations. No ditchings reported. All a/c returned safely.

8. Special Operations

Night 11/12 September 1944

49 a/c dispatched as follows:

6 B-17s dispatched on leaflet missions; dropped leaflets over France and Germany. No losses.

5 B-24s dispatched on R.C.M. jamming between 2015 - 0030 hours. All a/c returned safely.

38 a/c dispatched on special operation. All a/c returned safely.

Day - 12 September 1944

47 a/c dispatched as follows:

36 B-24s dispatched on "truckin" operation. Mission completed. no losses.

11 a/c (3 B-17s, 2 P-38s, 2 P-47s, 4 P-51s) dispatched on radio relay operations. All a/c returned safely.

C. INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Air Opposition

For the second consecutive day the G.A.F. put up a strong defensive effort to the day's heavy bomber operations. Attacks were made on two of the three heavy bomber forces by an estimated 125 - 150 e/a.

First force B-17s dispatched to attack synthetic oil plants in Brux and Ruhland encountered most of the opposition. Six combat wings were attacked, all in the Berlin area. Reports indicate about 100 e/a participated, operating in three separate groups.

The lead combat wing of the force bombing Ruhland was attacked by 35 - 50 e/a all FW-190s. The attack occurred twenty miles NE of Berlin at 1125 - 1130 hours and 6 - 8 B-17s were knocked out of the formation. Attacks were made from six to seven o'clock both low and high, from the tail. E/a approached to within 50 - 100 yards on each attack then turned away sharply in a roll. Crews reported e/a followed crippled a/c down and continued fire. Fighter escort arriving soon after the initial attack prevented e/a from making second attack on this wing. 35 - 50 e/a almost all Me-109s and FW-190s, attacked the second wing near Eberswalde at the same time, 1125 - 1130 hours. Large groups of e/a formed to the rear and attacked in pairs or small groups, usually level, closing to within a few hundred yards on the high and low boxes of rear fighters. Heaviest attacks were pressed on the low squadron of the low box in repeated attacks. A few Do-217s were in the e/a formation and lobbed rockets at about 500 - 1000 yards from the rear. Attacks were persistent and very aggressive. The combat wing following was also attacked in the same area, apparently by the e/a attacking the preceding group. The lead group was not hit hard. High and low groups were attacked from the tail.

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Between 1100 and 1130 hours the force dispatched against Brux was attacked north and NE of Berlin by about 25 e/a, principally Me-109s with some FW-190s and a few jet-propelled e/a in the area at the time of attack. Attacks came from twelve to two o'clock high and level, mostly from out of the sun. E/a made several attacks, generally from front then peeling off down through formation. There were no attacks by the jet-propelled e/a. The combat wing immediately following was attacked by 15 Me-109s and FW-190s in the same area at 1135 - 1144 hours. These were apparently the same e/a which attacked the preceding wing. Four jet-propelled e/a were seen in the area - did not attack. Attacks on the group were not sustained and were made by a/c singly. About ten individual attacks were made. The trailing combat wing in this force was attacked by 6 Me-109s making one pass from the nose in the same area.

Second force B-17s dispatched against Magdeburg met one concentrated attack. 40 - 50 Me-109s and FW-190s were sighted in the Magdeburg area of which 20 Me-109s pressed their attacks on the low group of the second combat wing. Attacks commenced at 1109 hours and lasted ten minutes. Seven a/c were lost to these attacks. E/a attacked singly just after "bombs away" and were very aggressive. Attacks were both head-on and from the tail, tail predominating. The two combat wings following were also attacked, singly, in pairs and in waves of four, though these attacks were described as "not too aggressive."

NO e/a opposition was encountered by the B-17s attacking Bohlen except for a single attack by a Me-163. The rocket-propelled a/c attacked from the tail in the target area and were believed to have been firing 20 mm cannon under each wing.

Third force B-24s attacking targets in NW Germany encountered no enemy air opposition except for a single attack by 2 FW-190s on a straggler. E/a made only one pass before escorting fighters arrived to drive them away.

Fighters

Escorting fighters encountered an estimated 250 - 300 e/a. Most of the e/a were encountered by the fighter groups supporting first force B-17s on Brux and Ruhland.

Five groups of the first force reported encounters. One group encountered 20 plus FW-190s in the vicinity of Neuruppen (NW of Berlin) at 1100 hours; 12 plus s/e e/a in vicinity of Kyritz at 1105 - 1115 hours; 60 plus s/e e/a near Kustrin (SE of Berlin) at 1140 hours. A second group engaged 40 FW-190s near Maritz Lake at 1105 hours and chased 15 Me-109s of a large force attacking bombers near Eberswalde. Two other groups reported engaging 25 plus s/e e/a at 1145 hours north of Berlin. A fifth group encountered 12 to 14 s/e e/a at 1230 hours in Frankfurt area. Total claims from these encounters are 29-2-4.

Of fighters supporting second force B-17s on Magdeburg and Bohlen, four groups reported encounters. One group engaged 3 Me-109s near Halberstadt, 2 Me-109s near Goslar and 1 Me-109 at Magdeburg. Another group engaged 8 Me-109s south of Frankfurt at 1245 hours. A third group encountered 20 plus Me-109s in the Brandenburg area and were later bounced by 6 Me-109s in the same area. The fourth group encountered 30 plus Me-109s near Halberstadt at 1115 hours and reported e/a as very aggressive and willing to

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engage. The same group engaged 10 plus Me-109s at Gardelogen. Claims for the four groups were 25-0-4.

Fighters supporting third force B-24s encountered no e/a.

2. Flak

Brux - moderate to intense, accurate.  
Ruhland - moderate, inaccurate.  
Kitsinjen - moderate, accurate.  
Kiel - moderate, accurate.  
Misburg - moderate to intense, fairly accurate.  
Hanover - intense, accurate.  
Magdeburg - moderate to intense, accurate.  
Bohlen - moderate to intense, fairly accurate.

3. Observations

Airfields

A/F Wittenberge had some dummies among 15 plus a/c.  
40 plus a/c of all types on Schwartz A/F undamaged after attack.  
Barrage balloons at Vogelsand A/F.  
Amsterdam/Schiphol A/F runways repaired.  
A/F at Burg, 25 s/e planes on ground.  
10,000 foot runway under construction SW of Koln.  
15 plus t/e and 5 plus s/e at Burg A/F.  
A/F south Dusseldorf (5113N-0646E) appears in excellent shape.  
14 e/a seen parked on a field at Perlberg.  
A/F at Limburg with three large transport type a/c.  
20 - 25 e/a parked on concrete runway on A/F at 5411N-0754E.  
25 s/e e/a on Magdeburg A/F.  
20 - 25 e/a on Stendal A/F.  
18 e/a on Pretzsch A/F.  
10 - 15 e/a on Oschatz A/F.

Other

Heavy rail traffic from Leer to Bremen.  
20 plus balloons at 5,000 feet over dam on Eder River south of Naumburg.  
Much river traffic noted between Wiesbaden and Frankfurt.  
30 barges seen on river Weisbaden.  
Heavy rail/canal traffic NE Magdeburg.  
A/F south Dusseldorf (5113N-0646E) appears in excellent shape.  
Large Red Cross signs in open fields both sides of Rhine south of Koblenz.  
Square in woods at 5212N-1108E, filled with what appeared to be tanks.  
Large supply depot noted at 5316N-1108E.

4. Damage to Enemy Installations

Kiel (aero-engine works) - Good Results

Pattern of GP and IB blanket the target area. Due to cloud interference direct hits cannot be seen. Adjacent built-up area and open area were also hit.

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Hemmingstedt (oil refinery) - Unobserved Results

Pattern of bombs appears to have blanketed target. Undercast at center of target prevents full damage interpretation.

Misburg (oil refinery) - Unobserved Results

Photos show only one squadron attacking this target. Clouds obscure target area. One explosion is seen through break in clouds indicating the target has been hit.

Ruhland (synthetic oil plant) - Unobserved Results

One sortie shows "bombs away" in vicinity of target area. No bursts could be observed.

Brux (synthetic oil plant) - Unobserved Results

No concentrations visible because of clouds. Heavy cloud covers target area during attack making it impossible to pinpoint majority of bombs dropped. However, bombs seen falling in immediate vicinity and it is possible that some damage may be achieved in the target area. Breaks in the clouds permit sight of one concentration of GP in the northwestern outskirts of Brux, approximately two miles southeast of target. Majority of bombs fell on open fi

Bohlen (synthetic oil plant) - Fair Results

One pattern about one half on target area in vicinity of the coking plant. Another group's pattern plots down in the vicinity, or about one mile west of the Molbis Power Plant and three or four bursts appear on the plant area. Later photos show smoke clouds from this area. Other groups vary from five miles east southeast to two miles and four miles northwest of the Bohlen plant.

Magdeburg (ordnance depot) - Good Results

Two patterns of 500 GP seen blanketing the target. Stray hits indicate that a third pattern may be under the smoke. One pattern of 500 GP seen in the built up area of the town, about one and one-half mile west northwest of the target, one at the edge of the town and the other at the southern end of the island in the river.

Magdeburg (synthetic oil plant) - Fair Results

This target was defended by an extensive smoke screen and evaluation of results is difficult. Estimated that two patterns and part of another may have fallen in the target area. Photos taken near the end of attack show one, perhaps two, oil tanks on fire in the target area. Smoke indicates damage to other facilities southeast of the plant in the vicinity of the harbor area. Part of one pattern extends across the M/Y about two and one quarter miles south of the target.

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Lahrte (R/O) - Good Results

Railroad lines on south end of town hit. Railroad line leading south concentrated with hits. Large number of hits throughout the built-up area.

Norheim (T/O) - Fair Results

Built-up area and open area hit.

Lauta (T/O) - Unobserved Results

Clouds cover southern portion of target area, making it impossible to pin-point and plot majority of bombs dropped. However, possible to see one complete concentration and two partial concentrations of bombs bursting in central portion and southern portion of target area. Intense ground haze makes it difficult to pin-point individual strikes. Bursts could be seen in the southern portion of the aluminum plant and also among the aluminum reduction furnaces. Fires seen burning in the latter area late in the attack. Additional concentrations fell into fields and wooded areas, approximately three and one quarter miles northwest of the target area.

Plauen (T/O) - Poor to Fair Results

Three concentrations of G.P. bombs burst in the immediate vicinity of Plauen, situated twenty-two miles southwest of Zwickau as follows: scattered bursts seen among installations of theomag Machine Young with a possible direct hit to one of the major shops; a concentration of G.P. bombs fell in open fields and residential area, approximately one mile south of the center of town; a final concentration seen bursting on rail lines and residential section approximately one mile due north of the center of Plauen.

Carlsbad (T/O) - Poor to Fair Results

Approximately seventy G.P. bombs seen bursting in central portion of Carlsbad, thirty-eight miles southeast of Zwickau. At least four direct hits seen on railway lines in vicinity.

Fulda (T/O) - Fair Results

Two patterns are seen, both centering about seven hundred yards west in the open country. No bombs in target area or in town.

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