

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

APO 559.
14 September 1944.

SUBJECT: Report of Operations Officer, Mission of 13 September, 1944. Sindelfingen.

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

95 A Group Formation

1. GENERAL NARRATIVE: The 95 A Group, flying as low group of the 13 B combat wing took off at 0625 - 0642 hours. By 0710 hours the group had assembled over the base at 5,000'. The formation then proceeded to Bu # 28 where it joined wing formation with 100 A lead group and 100 B high group at 0730 hours. The wing arrived at Bu # 22 at 0746, and the remainder of the course over England was flown as briefed, and the English coast was departed at 11,000' over Beachy Head at 0841 hours.

The formation continued the climb over the English channel, and the enemy coast was crossed on course at 0950 hours, at 14,000'. The course to the I.P. was flown as briefed. The Group took interval at the I.P. at 1038, at 24,000', and bombs were dropped at 1046 hours. The wing re-assembled at the rally point at 1051, and the briefed course was flown to the enemy coast, crossing it at 1234 hours at 15,000'. Final let down was made over the English channel, and the group was over the base at 1311 hours. The landing was made at 1313 - 1323 hours.

2. AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING: Thirteen aircraft left the base in the formation shown in attached diagram "A". All thirteen aircraft were dispatched, were over the primary target, and are credited with sorties.

3. LOST AIRCRAFT: None.

95 B Group Formation

1. GENERAL NARRATIVE: The 95 B Group, flying as low group of 4 G Wing took off at 0611 - 0640 hours and formed over the base at 6,000'. Group assembly was complete by 0705 hours, and the formation joined the 385 A lead group and 385 high group southeast of Bu # 14 at 0740 hours. The remainder of the course over England was flown as briefed, and the English coast was crossed at 11,700' over Beachy Head at 0835 hours. The climb was continued on course, and the French coast was crossed at 0835 hours at 13,500'. The course to the I.P. was flown as briefed.

Group interval was taken at the I.P. at 24,000' at 1035 hours, and bombs were away at 1041 hours. Briefed course was followed on the return route, and the Belgium coast was crossed south of Ostend at 1228 hours. The group was over the base at 1310 hours, and landed at 1326 - 1334 hours.

2. AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING: Thirteen aircraft left the base in the formation shown in attached diagram "B". All thirteen aircraft were dispatched, were over the primary target, and are credited with sorties.

3. LOST AIRCRAFT: None.

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

A.T.F.

C.W.

FORMATION DIAGRAM

95TH BOMB. GROUP (H)

DATE 13-8-44

TIME

SHILLER
81/99

METZINGER
82/88

KROOS
82/81

BINGBLOOM
72/04

FRISS
82/83

RISTINE
81/40

PIPKIN
14/62

Lajeski
20/66

Taylor
19/39

HARRY
71/94

Day
71/54

THOMAS
69/93

OLSON
73/76

ABORTIVE _____

EXTRA _____

EXTRA _____

MISSING _____

CHANGES _____

A.T.F.

95 B.

C.W.

FORMATION DIAGRAM

95TH BOMB. GROUP (H)

DATE 13-8-41

TIME

Boudon
82/55

Collings
83/33

HANSON
78/01

Helm
19/20

BRAUND
80/67

Miller
18/67

HART
78/44

Payne
26/78

Wells
24/47

Scott
72/64

RADKE
24/55

Griffin
25/60

Bramlett
70/47

ABORTIVE _____

EXTRA _____

EXTRA A _____

MISSING _____

CHANGES _____

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HEADQUARTERS 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 559

STATISTICAL CONTROL REPORT OF AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING

13TH COMBAT BOMBARDMENT WING

DATE ENTERED 13 SEPT 1944

PART I - TABULAR SUMMARY:

DATE OF MISSION 13 SEPT 1944

STRATEGICAL MISSION

| COMBAT GROUP | SCHEDULED | AIRCRAFT | NOT DONE DUE TO WEATHER OR AIRCRAFT | ATTACKING | NOT ATTACKING | SORTIES |
|--------------|-----------|----------|---|-----------|------------------|---------|
| A | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 13 |
| B | 13 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 2 | 13 |

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) |
|-----------|-----------|----------|--|--------------------|
| B | 42-07264 | F | Failed to release bombs. Moisture in bomb bad door switches. | Yes |
| B | 42-102560 | B | Failed to release bombs over target. No malfunction found. | Yes |

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

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

E-F-26

15 September 1944

SUBJECT: Lead Bombardier's Narrative, Ninety Fifth "B" Group, Mission of
15 September 1944, Sindelfingen, Germany.

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

1. The Bombing Approach and Run - At the I.P. a turn to the left was made of approximately 90° and opened bomb bay doors at 1035 hours. We proceeded down bomb run, but had difficulty in locating target due to ground haze. A.F.C.E. was not working properly and between that and trying to locate target did not have time to make a good run. Picked target area up a few seconds before bombs away and began to synchronize. After bombs away, noticed bubbles were off quite a bit which I think was due mainly to the shortness of the run. Bombs were away at 1041 hours.

2. Disposition of Bombs - 13 A/C were dispatched from the 95th "B" Group. 13 A/C were over the primary target, dropping 132 x 500# G.P. AN-M64 bombs. A/C #2560 jettisoned 12 x 500# bombs at 4906N 0836E. These bombs failed to release over target, so pryed six out and remaining six dropped by intervolumeter. A/C #7264 returned 12 x 500# G.P. bombs due to mechanical failure. Fusing was 1/10 nose and 1/100 tail.

3. Types of Release - All 132 x 500# G.P. bombs dropped were salvaged and armed.

4. Tabular Summary - A/C

| Main Bombfall | Over Target | Bombing | No. | Size | Type | Nose | Tail |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------|-----|------|------|------|-------|
| Sindelfingen, Germany. | 13 | 13 | 132 | 500# | M-64 | 1/10 | 1/100 |
| Total on Target. | | | 132 | 500# | M-64 | 1/10 | 1/100 |
| Other Expenditures. | | | 12 | 500# | M-64 | 1/10 | 1/100 |
| Bombs Returned. | | | 12 | 500# | M-64 | 1/10 | 1/100 |
| Total (loaded on A/C taking off). | | | 156 | 500# | M-64 | 1/10 | 1/100 |

R. K. STRACHAN
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Lead Bombardier.

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HEADQUARTERS
NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
APO 559

13 September 1944

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

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

1. a. Thirteen A/C of the 95th Group took off beginning at 0625 hours to form the low Group, 95A of the 138 Combat Wing to attack Sindelfingen, Germany. No A/C returned early.

b. Thirteen A/C of the 95th Group took off between 0611 and 0620 to form the low group, 95B, of the 4C Combat Wing to attack Sindelfingen, Germany. No A/C returned early.

2. No enemy fighters were seen.

3. Flak was encountered at Worms, which was meager, accurate, tracking, and at Metz which was meager, inaccurate and tracking.

4. a. 95A Group bombed its target with good to excellent results.

b. 95B Group missed its target through a bombardiers error.

5. There were no unusual occurrences. All A/C returned to the base by 1334 hours.

JOSEPH C. WESTERKAMP,
1st.Lt., Air Corps,
Assistant S-2 Officer.

CONFIDENTIAL
14 JUL 1944

John
Ray

INTERPRETATION REPORT S.A. 2713

ATTACK ON SINDELFINGEN ON 13 FEB 1944

(i) INFORMATION RECEIVED ON THE ATTACK

- (a) No. of aircraft : 109, with full fighter escort.
- (b) Command : 348, 8th AIR FORCE.
- (c) Time : 1041-45 hours.
- (d) Bombs : 355 x 500 lb. G.P.
352 x 500 lb. Inc.

(ii) DETAILS OF THE ATTACK

(a) The first, of five concentrations totalling more than 500 bursts is seen blanketing the Northwestern three quarters of the target area extending from just North of the barracks area North North-west to the railway sidings on the North side of the target. A second concentration is visible in open fields and lightly built-up area extending Northwest with hits on the buildings in the Southeastern end of the target area. Another concentration is just South of the target and blankets the barracks area and the Northern edge of the STUTTGART/BOBLINGEN AIRFIELD. A fourth concentration is seen in the target area but only bursts on the Southern and Western edges of this concentration are visible due to smoke from the first attack. Two scattered groups of H.E. bursts are seen on the Eastern edge of the STUTTGART/BOBLINGEN AIRFIELD and one concentration is in open field just East of the airfield.

Six areas of incendiary bursts are seen during the latter part of the attack. One large concentration blanketed the Southern part of the target with other areas scattered over the airfield, open fields East of the target and on buildings in the Eastern and Western areas of the city of SINDELFINGEN.

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

1. Two large rectangular buildings : 2 probable direct and 2 near hits on each, in the Northwest part of the target.
2. Large rectangular building in the North West : 1 possible direct and 4 near hits.
3. Large rectangular building in the Northwest corner of the target area : 1 direct and 1 near hit.
4. One very long rectangular building in the Southeast part of the target area : 1, possibly 2, direct and 2 near hits.
5. Two long narrow rectangular buildings on the East side of the target area : 1, possibly 2, direct hits on each.
6. Group of medium buildings in the Southeast corner of the target area : 1 direct and 1 near hit on each, 1 near hit on each of two other buildings.
7. 2 medium rectangular buildings on extreme Eastern side of the target area : 1 possible direct hit on each of two buildings.
8. Two large rectangular buildings in the Northwest part of the target area : 2 direct and at least 3 near hits on each.

9. Medium "L" shaped building: 2 near hits;
On extreme East side of the target area.
10. Six small buildings at the Southeast corner of the target area: 1 possible direct hit, possibly 3, buildings. 1 near hit on each of 3 others.
11. Probable barracks area South of the main building: At least 7 hits among these buildings.
12. Two medium rectangular buildings just S. of the very long, rectangular building on East side of the target area: 1 direct hit which probably resulted in the explosion which followed.

(o) OTHER BURSTS.

1. One concentration of approximately 35 bursts on the North side and two groups totalling about 25 bursts are seen on the East side of the STUTTGART/BOBLINGEN AIRFIELD with 1 near hit on Airport Control building. Of the 23 aircraft visible at the time of the attack, 7 are probably damaged by hits within 125 feet.
2. Approximately 100 bursts are seen in an open field one mile Southeast of the target area with at least 5 hits on the rail line between STUTTGART and BOBLINGEN and several hits among residential buildings of BOBLINGEN.
3. Incendiary bursts are seen among residential buildings on the East and West sides of SINDELFINGEN.
4. A small group of incendiary bursts are seen on the Workshops and two groups are seen on the landing ground of the STUTTGART/BOBLINGEN AIRFIELD.
5. Three other groups of incendiary bursts are seen on residential buildings North, and open fields East and Southeast of the target area.
6. A single burst is visible in a residential area approximately 1 mile South of the target.

(iii) ACTIVITY

STUTTGART/BOBLINGEN AIRFIELD

1. 23 aircraft are visible as follows:

| Type | North | East | South |
|--------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| He 111 | 4, 2 prob. damaged | 2, 1 prob. | 9 (1 with |
| Medium | 6, 2 prob. damaged | 7, 2 prob. damaged. | |

2. Reconnaissance photographs taken 2 1/2 hrs. after the attack show one additional missing aircraft. This represents a decrease of 7 aircraft since the last full cover of 11 SEP 1944 (US7/3233) when 31 aircraft were present.
3. The extreme East end of the landing ground has 25 craters, 7 of which are on taxi-tracks or service aprons, but the airfield remains serviceable.

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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
AAF STATION
APO 634

INTCPS SUMMARY NO. 136

PERIOD: 0001 hours 13 September 1944 to 2400 hours 13 September 1944.

A. STATISTICS

| | <u>Missions</u> | <u>Disp.</u> | <u>Sorties</u> | <u>Atkg.</u> | <u>Tonnage</u> | <u>Claims</u> | <u>E/A</u> | <u>AA</u> | <u>N/E</u> | <u>OT</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Heavy Bomber Atks. | 10 | 1015+ | 854 | 784 | 2035.7 | 1-0-0 A | 0 | 16 | 1 | 11 | 28 |
| Fighter Escort | 11 | 477 | 424 | 0 | 0 | 33-0-4 A 20-0-7 G | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| Fighter Sweeps | 1 | 48 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 5-0-1 G | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Fighter Bombing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0-0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Photo Recon. | 18 | 25 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0-0-1 A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Weather Recon. | 17 | 17 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0-0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Air/Sea Rescue | 20 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0-0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Operations | <u>64</u> | <u>106</u> | <u>99</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>27.5</u> | <u>0-0-0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Totals | 141 | 1708 | 1479 | 795 | 2063.2 | 34-0-5 A 25-0-8 G | 0 | 19 | 3 | 17 | 39 |

+ Included 14 spares; 11 used.

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

Twenty-one combat wings (673 B-17s, 342 B-24s - 1015 a/c) dispatched against aero-engine, motor vehicle, ball-bearing, ordnance, and oil targets in southwestern and central Germany. Ten assigned targets. Support by 11 fighter groups. One B-24 wing abandoned mission due to weather. Stuttgart targets not attacked due to smoke screen. 784 a/c dropped 2035.7 tons GP and IB on seven primaries, two secondaries, and additional T/Os. Only opposition by eight e/a to one group of force attacking Merseburg. Bomber claims: 1-0-0. Losses: 28 a/c (21 B-17s, seven B-24s).

First Force

Ten combat wings (376 B-17s) dispatched against two aero-engine, one ball-bearing plant in Stuttgart area, one synthetic oil plant at Ludwigshafen. 323 a/c dropped 717.0 tons GP and 194.8 tons IB - total 911.8 tons - on two primaries, one secondary (Darmstadt M/Y) and six T/Os from 24,000-26,200 feet at 1040-1156 hours. Leaflets dropped in Darmstadt area. All bombing visual, but effective smoke screen at Stuttgart prevented four wings from bombing primaries. Weather: OAVU over France, dense contrails from 0500 East, and 2/10

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to 3/10 cloud over Germany. Flak: meager, fairly accurate at Metz and Worms, meager to moderate inaccurate at Mainz, moderate to intense very accurate at Ludwigshafen. Battle Damage: 115 minor, 19 major. E/A Opposition: Nil. Claims: Nil. Losses: seven B-17s (five to flak, one to unknown causes, one crash-landed).

Fighter Support: Two groups (98 P-47s) dispatched. 92 sorties. Up 0834 hours, down 1251-1310 hours. E/A Opposition: Nil. Strafed satellite A/F west of Nellingen. Claims: 6-0-2 ground. Losses: Nil.

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> | |
| Stuttgart/Bad Camstatt (Bearings) | 38 | Not attacked | | | |
| Stuttgart/Zuffenhausen (Aero Engines) | 110 | Not attacked | | | |
| Sindelfingen (Aero Engines) | 113 | 109 | 208.7 | 88.0 | Good |
| Ludwigshafen/Opau (Syn. Oil) | 115 | 74 | 211.5 | | Good |
| <u>Other Targets</u> | | | | | |
| Darmstadt M/Y (Secondary) | | 95 | 197.8 | 72.0 | Good to Very Good |
| Weisbaden M/Y | | 8 | 24.0 | | Poor |
| Mainz | | 19 | 24.0 | 31.8 | Poor |
| N/E Mainz | | 3 | 9.0 | | Poor |
| M/Y 8 miles south of Weisbaden | | 12 | 36.0 | | Poor |
| 2 T/Os | | 3 | 6.0 | 3.0 | Unobserved |
| Totals | 376 | 323 | 717.0 | 194.8 | |

Second Force

Five combat wings (342 B-24s) dispatched against ordnance depot, motor plant and oil depot in Ulm area, A/F north of Ulm. 176 a/c dropped 368.8 tons GP, 72.5 tons IB - total 441.3 tons - on three primaries, one T/O from 19,000 - 25,500 feet at 1005-1143 hours. Leaflets dropped on Schwabisch/Hall. Bombing visual, but weather enroute caused all but three a/c of wing assigned to Neu Ulm Ordnance Depot to abandon operation. Weather: layers of cirro-stratus up to 25,000, with dense persistent contrails caused one wing to abandon mission; weather clear at targets attacked. Flak: no flak reported in target areas; moderate to intense generally accurate at points enroute. Battle Damage: 116 minor, 11 major. E/A Opposition: no attacks; three or four t/e reported between Ulm and Swabisch/Hall only sighting. Claims: Nil. Losses: seven B-24s (four to flak, one to accident, two to unknown causes).

Fighter Support: Three groups (31 P-38s, 74 P-51s - 105 a/c) dispatched. 99 sorties. Up 0836-0900 hours, down 1345-1407 hours. E/A Opposition: Nil. Strafed A/F at Gelchsheim, L/G north of Goppingen A/F and two trains, destroying one loco and damaging six freight cars and eight passenger cars. Claims: 14-0-5 ground, Losses: two P-51s to AA.

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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>LB</u> | |
| Schwabisch/Hall A/F | 93 | 65 | 139.5 | 30.0 | Very Good |
| Ulm M/T Works | 70 | 65 | 118.5 | 42.5 | Very Good |
| Weissenhorn Fuel Depot | 44 | 45 | 108.3 | | Poor |
| Ulm Ordnance Depot | 135 | Not Attacked | | | |
| <u>Other Targets</u> | | | | | |
| Reishelsheim | — | 1 | 2.5 | — | Unobserved |
| Totals | 342 | 176 | 368.8 | 72.5 | |

Third Force

Six combat wings (297 B-17s) dispatched against synthetic oil plants at Marseburg and Lutzkendorf. 285 a/o dropped 682.6 tons GP on both primaries, one secondary (Eisenach) and four T/Os, from 25,500-29,000 feet at 1108-1155 hours. Bombing visual. Weather: 0/10 to 3/10 in target areas, with some haze. Flak: moderate to intense accurate at primaries. Battle Damage: 89 minor, 46 major. E/A Opposition: only attacks on low group of one wing after it attacked Leuna, by eight s/e e/a. Claims: 1-0-0. Losses: 14 B-17s (seven to flak, six to unknown causes, one crash-landed).

Fighter Support: Six groups (36 P-47s, 238 P-51s = 274 a/o) dispatched. 233 sorties. Up 0822-0853 hours, down 1345-1435 hours. E/A Opposition: engaged four Me-109s southeast of Kassel, 23 Me-109s between Eisenach and Gotha, 30-60 Me-109s ten miles east of Bad Frankenhausen, eight Me-109s, 15 miles east of Kassel. Claims: 33-0-4 air. Losses: seven P-51s (two to engine failure, five to causes unknown).

Details of attack as follows:

| <u>Assigned Targets</u> | <u>Dispatched</u> | <u>Attacked</u> | <u>Tons</u> | <u>Results</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Lutzkendorf | 111 | 77 | 188.2 | Good |
| Marseburg | 186 | 141 | 334.5 | Good |
| <u>Other Targets</u> | | | | |
| Eisenach | | 12 | 28.4 | Fair |
| Glessen | | 17 | 40.0 | Fair |
| Gera | | 12 | 27.5 | Poor |
| Altenburg | | 7 | 17.5 | Unobserve |
| U/I T/Os | — | 19 | 46.5 | Unobserve |
| Totals | 297 | 285 | 682.6 | |

SECRET

2. Fighter Escort

Eleven groups (134 P-47s, 31 P-38s, 312 P-51s - 477 a/c) dispatched to support bombers attacking targets in central and southwestern Germany. 424 sorties. Up 0822-0900 hours, down 1251-1435 hours. E/A Opposition: combats with large formation of s/e e/a in Kassel, Eisenach-Gotha, Bad Frankenhausen areas. Strafed A/Fs at Celchsheim, ~~satellite~~ west of Nellingen and L/G north of Goppingen A/F. Strafed miscellaneous ground targets destroying one loco and damaging six freight cars and eight passenger cars. Claims: 33-0-4, air; 20-0-7 ground. Losses: nine P-51s (two to flak, two to engine failure, five to causes unknown).

3. Fighter Sweeps

One group (48 P-51s) dispatched to strafe a/c dispersal area south of Munich. 40 sorties. Up 1143 hours, down 1700 hours. E/A Opposition: Nil. 36 s/e u/i a/c observed over Wurm Lake south of Munich, made no attacks. Strafe assigned target and Holzshinchen A/F, also Wolfratshausen M/Y destroying one loco and damaging two locos, ten box cars and five gun positions. Claims: 5-0-1 ground. Losses: two P-51s (one to flak, one to causes unknown).

4. Fighter Bombing

Nil

5. Photo Reconnaissance

25 a/c dispatched (seven Spitfires, ten P-5s, eight P-51s). Four a/c mapping roads and rivers Visser, Cologne, and Murtzberg area. 13 on D/A Wisnai, Politz, Ludwigshafen, Stuttgart, Wilhelmshaven, Bremen, Luneburg, and Hemmingstedt. Activity study made at Berlin, Brandenburg and Rachtin. Routing coverage of A/Fs in north Germany. Two a/c on targets of opportunity landed in Italy. One a/c intercepted in Cologne area by u/i s/e. Eight P-51s escorted one PRU mission. Two Me-262s encountered over Demmin. Claims: 0-0-1. Losses: Nil.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

17 a/c dispatched (two B-24s, seven Mosquitoes, eight P-51s). Two B-24s on routine weather reconnaissance over Atlantic. Three Mosquitoes on special weather missions over northern, central and southern France. P-51s and four Mosquitoes on scouting missions for bomb divisions. All a/c returned safely.

7. Air/Sea Rescue

20 P-47s dispatched on Air/Sea Rescue patrols. One fighter pilot rescued. All a/c returned safely.

8. Special Operations

Night 12/13 September

49 a/c dispatched as follows:

Six a/c on leaf patrols, jamming between 2040-45 hours.
Seven B-17s dropped leaflets over France, Holland and Germany.
36 a/c dispatched on other special operations. 29 completed mission.
Losses: Nil.

Day - 10 September

57 a/c dispatched as follows:

13 a/c (four P-51s, six P-47s, three B-17s) on radio relay missions.
Losses: Nil.

11 B-24s, escorted by 15 P-51s, dispatched on special bombing operation against Hemmingstedt. Five a/c dropped 12.5 tons GP on primary. Six a/c dropped 2.5 tons GP, 12.5 tons special GP bombs on secondary, Kropp. Results poor. Losses: Nil.

One B-17, accompanied by one Mosquito, and escorted by 16 P-51s dispatched on special bombing operation. Losses: Nil.

MISSION TO RUSSIA 11 SEPTEMBER

75 B-17s dropped 86.2 tons GP and 60.2 tons IB - total 146.4 tons - on Chemnitz with poor to fair results. Claims: Nil. Of 64 P-51s escorting bombers, one is missing.

AMENDMENT TO INTOPS 135 - 12 SEPTEMBER

Fighter Escort - Add 9-0-3 air and 0-0-2 ground to claims: Losses: reduced by one P-51. Bomber Attacks - Second Force: losses reduced by two B-17s.

C. INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Air Opposition

Large scale attacks on high priority targets for the third successive day evoked a reaction of some 125-150 e/a, of which only eight Me-109s were able to reach the bombers. Opposition was mainly in the Milhausen-Sangerhausen Eisenach area, where fighters escorting the third bomber force, which attacked Merseburg and Lutzendorf report combats with some 100 Me-109s, the largest formation, consisting of some 50-60 e/a, being dispersed by a P-51 group which was sweeping ahead of the bombers at about 1215. This encounter occurred 10 miles east of Bad Frankenhausen. The same fighter group previously had engaged 15-20 Me-109s on the rear of bomber formations 20 miles south of Nordhausen at 1145. In addition eight Me-109s were intercepted 15 miles east of Kassel. A second group engaged 23 Me-109s attempting to attack bombers between Eisenach and Gotha. Combats took place from 1210-1230 hours. A third group was bounced at 1130 hours southeast of Kassel by four Me-109s. Two were destroyed and the other two evaded. Total fighter claims were 33-0-4 for these combats.

The only attacks on bombers were against the low group of one B-17 wing, after it had bombed Merseburg. First encounter was with two Me-109s in the Meiningen area at 1205. These e/a simulated P-51 escort for about ten minutes, and then attacked from six o'clock with rockets. At 1215 hours the same group sighted six Me-109s near Weimar. These remained with the group for about thirty minutes, until the Eisenach area was reached. Two of the e/a attacked at 1230 and one was shot down. The other continued his attack, and

crews report that this was not broken off until e/a was within 25 feet of the bombers.

Other forces and their escort report no opposition, and only one or two scattered sightings. It appears that the enemy may have expected the third force to attack Berlin, and it is possible that further a/c were held in reserve in that area. An air raid warning was in effect in the capital from 1119-1215.

2. Flak

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Ludwigshafen | - intense, accurate. |
| Merseburg | - intense, accurate. |
| Lutzkendorf | - intense, accurate. |
| Freiburg | - moderate, accurate. |
| Kaiserlautern | - moderate, accurate. |
| Darmstadt | - moderate, accurate. |
| Epinal | - meager, inaccurate. |
| Mainz | - meager, inaccurate. |

3. Observations

Airfields

30 - 40 e/a on Sindelfingen A/F.
15 s/e e/a on A/F at Crailsheim.
30 plus Me-109s seen on A/F south of Frankfurt.
8 e/a on Freiburg A/F.
5 t/e e/a on Giessen A/F.
30 plus JU-52s on cultivated fields south of Bonn.
One long and wide runway in good condition near Bealingen.
16 s/e on Nelligen A/F.

Other

50 plus barges proceeding south in Rhine River at Koblenz.
30-40 barges stationary on Rhine River at Wiesbaden.
Very large factory near 4825N-0935E.
150-200 RR cars in M/Y at Worms.
Large factory in operation at 5101N-0917E.

4. Damage to Enemy Installations

Merseburg/Leuna - Good Results

Effective smoke screen was in operation in vicinity of target making it impossible to pin-point and assess all strikes. High concentrations of GP bursting in the northern, eastern and southern portions of target area. The heaviest weight of bombs fell into the southern section. Direct hits could be seen on or near the following installations: compressor house, oil refinery, oil storage (at least five bursts with two large oil fires). Five of the nine concentrations fell into southern portion of target area. Installations in this area will no doubt be damaged by direct hits and blast from near misses. Target B - Water works. Two concentrations of GP bombs could be

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seen bursting in and adjacent to interworks area. It is impossible to pin-point all strikes due to smoke and haze, but several bursts could be seen in the immediate vicinity of pump house and most westerly treatment house.

Litzkendorf - Good Results

Smoke screen covering target area makes it impossible to pin-point bomb strikes. It is possible however to see five partial concentrations of bombs through this smoke screen. The main weight of bombs appears to have fallen in, and adjacent to southern portion of target area. Heavy smoke rising through the smoke screen late in the attack indicates that fires had been started in the area.

Eisenach - Fair Results

One concentration of GP bombs bursting in and adjacent to extreme western portion of target. At least seven bursts seen in area in which is located the cast-iron foundry, copper mill and stores building. One possible direct hit seen on rectangular building in central part of area.

Glessen M/Y - Fair Results

Approximately 200 bombs seen bursting in and adjacent to southern end of M/Y, the junction at the southern end of yard, two fly overs, and RR cars parked on the line at these points were hit by at least 25 bombs.

Gera - Poor Results

Approximately 100 bombs could be seen bursting in a slightly built-up residential area on NE edge of town of Gera. Damage will be slight.

Ulm M/T Works - Very Good Results

Patterns of GP bombs burst squarely on the main buildings and fires started. Bursts also seen in the M/Y to the north which was lightly loaded, near miss scored by locomotive depot. One pattern which fell short seen to burst on factory type building 2,500 feet south southwest of the target.

Weissenhorn Fuel Depot - Poor Results

Bursts in the assigned target area and general results are only fair; however, a good pattern of GP bursts seen to cut the camouflaged RR siding NE of and associated with the target. Because the rail line is cut, the usefulness of this depot must be at least temporarily restricted.

Schwabisch/Hall A/F - Very Good Results

Patterns of GPs and IBs seen to burst squarely across the main hangar area, landing ground and runway. Fires seen to be burning fiercely in three of the main hangars and a village dispersal area to the south of the target. At least 35 a/c widely dispersed in fields north of the A/F. These a/c appear to be mainly of the JU-88 bomber and fighter types.

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Rendsburg/Anropp Ammo Depot - Poor Results

This target was not hit, all bursts being outside of 2,000 feet. (See Special Operations).

Hemmingstedt Oil Refinery - Poor Results

The target was partially obscured by clouds only a few bursts can be seen inside the 1,000 foot circle. (See Special Operations).

Ludwigshafen - Good Results

The attack was well concentrated in the south of the plant. Strikes in the intermediate and dye stuff area, experimental oil plants, heavy chemical plant, a plastics plant and gas works and works shops and storage arc. Last group photographs show smoke in what appears to be the area occupied by the synthetic oil plant and from the heavy chemical works.

Darmstadt M/Y - Good to Very Good

1,000 GP bombs blanketed the loco repair shops, goods yards and central part of M/Y. One C.W. missed almost completely, but the other combat wing raked the yard for a distance of about 2,000 yards with a long pattern centered over the main depot. Four to six hits on the main goods depot, 20 bursts on the main line and on three long strings of RR cars, two or more hits on the main viaduct approach and a probable hit on the center of the viaduct, three to four hits on the loco repair shop, one or more hits on the tender repair shop and two or more on the loco machine shop and one near miss on the roundhouse turntable.

Sindelfingen Aero Engines - Good Results

The target area blanketed by 500 GP and IB bombs. Five patterns of GP and two of IB were all or partly on the target area. In addition, the dispersal area and one of the hangars on the nearby Stuttgart Boblingen A/F were blanketed and at least eight of the 23 planes on the field appeared to be in areas blanketed by bombs. Some bombs fell in the M/Y beside the plant and two patterns were partly in the town area.

Mainz - Poor Results

The pattern of 500 GP is seen 1600 yards NW of the target on the point of an island in the River. The IB pattern is south of the plant about 500 yards.

Weisbaden M/Y - Poor Results

Only photos show bombs strung in northern direction from Mainz for several miles with nothing of importance hit.

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

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