

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

APO 559.  
29 September 1944.

**SUBJECT:** Report of Operations Officer - Mission of 27 September 1944, Mainz.

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

95 "A" Group

1. **GENERAL NARRATIVE:** The 95 A Group formation took off at 0606 - 0616 hours, and assembled over the base at 19,000'. By 0744 the formation was intact and departed for Buncher 28, climbing to 20,000' en route. With instructions to fly as high group on 100 A lead in 13 A Combat Wing, the formation approached Buncher 28 from the southeast at 0757 hours. Visual contact was made at Buncher 28, and the wing proceeded to Clacton via Bunchers 16 and 22. On the route over England the 13 A Wing leader was late and flew in trail of the 95 A high group, but the wing was in proper formation upon departure over Clacton at 0818 hours.

The climb to bombing altitude was started at Clacton and the formation crossed the Belgium coast at 22,500' at 0856 hours. The route in was flown north of briefed course and the wing turned right to pick up the course at 4954N - 0656E at 0927 hours, at an altitude of 26,600'. The chosen IP, about midway down the briefed bomb run was crossed at 0936, and bombs were away at 0939 from 26,700'. Bombing was PFF and the group bombed in wing formation on the smoke flares of the lead group. Evasive action was taken up after bomb release and the rally point was crossed as briefed at 0947.

The route out was flown as briefed and the Belgium coast was crossed on course at 1114 hours at 10,400'. Letdown to minimum altitude was accomplished by circling the formation through a cloud break near mid-channel, and the group crossed the English coast at Orfordness at 1155 hours. The base was reached at 1204 hours and the formation landed at 1208 - 1258 hours.

2. **AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING:** Thirteen aircraft, including one PFF leader, left base in the formation shown in the attached diagram "1A". One A/C, # 42-97194, turned back inside the Belgian coast and is not credited with a sortie. The remaining A/C made sorties and all bombed the primary target.

2. **AIRCRAFT LOST:** None.

## 95 "B" Group

1. **GENERAL NARRATIVE:** The 95B Group formation took off at 0620 - 0630 hours and assembled over the field at 17,000'. After assembly was complete the formation departed the base at 0745 hours, climbing to 18,000' en route to Buncher 11. The formation arrived over Buncher 11 at 0804, three minutes late for its rendezvous as low group of 13B Wing. The briefed route was cut short and the 95B formation joined 390A leader of 13B Wing at 0826 hours at 5130N - 013 E.

The enemy coast was crossed on course at 0839 hours at 20,000' and the course to the IP was flown about 10 miles north of briefed course. The IP was crossed at 0934 at 25,000' and a PFF run was made on the target. 95B formation dropped bombs at 0942 hours on the smoke flares of the lead group with groups maintaining wing formation. The rally point was crossed at 0948 hours at 24,000', and the return route was flown as briefed. The Belgian coast was crossed 3 miles north of course at 1118 hours, at an altitude of 8,500' and descent to minimum altitude was started. The English coast was crossed at Felixstowe at 1155 hours, and the formation arrived over the field at 1206 hours. Landing was at 1217 - 1229 hours.

2. **AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING:** Thirteen A/C were dispatched in the formation as shown in the attached diagram "1B". All thirteen A/C made sorties and all bombed the primary target.

3. **AIRCRAFT LOST:** A/C #42-31675 was hit by flak over Bad Krevznach on the route out, and dropped behind formation. Crash landed and burned in Belgium - crew reported safe.

### SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT LOST

	"A" Group	"B" Group
To Flak	-	1
Other	-	-
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

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

A.T.F.

C.W.

FORMATION DIAGRAM

95TH BOMB. GROUP (H)

DATE 27-9-1944

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

BASTION  
8144

McVAY  
2455

GLOVICK  
7194

HANSON  
7807

McCOLLEY  
2678

2997 ABWENDER  
7201

GRIFFIN  
2560

HEATH  
8283

RADKE  
1600

RUDKINS  
7215

WITH 4934

BROWN  
1867

TOWER  
7844

FERGUSON  
2447

ABORTIVE ○

MISSING \_\_\_\_\_

CHANGES \_\_\_\_\_

EXTRA \_\_\_\_\_

EXTRA A \_\_\_\_\_

95 B

A.T.F.

C.W.

FORMATION DIAGRAM

95TH BOMB. GROUP (H)

DATE 27-9-1944

TIME

BOUDAN  
8255

HAMILTON, W.  
8333

KLEIN  
1920

WICKER  
7050

FLETCHER  
2066

LENOX  
1410

WADDELL  
6993

HENDRICKSON  
7376

PIPKIN  
8305

COFFMAN  
7858

BURNS  
1675

LECUYER  
8543

WILSON  
8281

ABORTIVE

MISSING

CHANGES

EXTRA

EXTRA

**S E C R E T**

HEADQUARTERS 15TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP  
APO 559

STATISTICAL CONTROL REPORT OF AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACHING

15TH COMBAT BOMBARDMENT WING

DATE REFERRED 27 SEPT 1944

PART I - TABULAR SUMMARY:

DATE OF MISSION 27 SEPT 1944

STRATEGICAL MISSION

COMBAT GROUP	SCHEDULED	AIRCRAFT	AIRBORNE LESS RETURNING SPARES	ATTACKING	NOT ATTACKING	SORTIES
A	12	12	12	11	1	11
B	13	13	13	13	0	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)
A	42-97194	F	# 1 engine failure.	No

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

**S E C R E T**

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

APO 559.  
27 September 1944.

SUBJECT: Abortion of A/C #7194.

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

1. At 0839 on September 27, we were flying in a formation at 20,000' and about five minutes in France (5108N - 0255E. We noticed at that time that #1 engine was throwing oil very badly. When oil pressure reached below 60, I concluded it was necessary to feather to avoid windmilling prop and had to abort. After calling the group lead ship, we returned to the base.

ROBERT CLAVICK,  
Maj Lt., Air Corps.

95B BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
OFFICE OF THE OPERATIONS OFFICER  
AAF 119 APO 559

27 September 1944

SUBJECT : Airplane Abortions.

TO : Group Operations.

1. Airplane 5V194 aborted from the mission of this date because of an excessive oil leak in number one engine. Ground check showed the engine had failed internally.

ROBERT E. BAYNE,  
Capt., Air Corp,  
Engineering Officer.







CONFIDENTIAL

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

E-F-26

27 September 1944

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

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

1. Narrative.

- a. Bombing aids used were E-6-B and C-2 computers.
- b. A right turn of 45° was made at the I.P.
- c. Opened bomb bays at I.P. at 0957 hours.
- d. Made right turn of 45° at I.P. to the target. Bombed in wing formation on P.F.F. ship. Target was covered by clouds.
- e. Bombing results were not observed.
- f. There are no suggested tactical changes to be made.

2. Bombardier's form 12-E modified is attached.

3. Disposition of Bombs - A/C

Main Bombfall	Over Target	Bombing	No.	Bombs Size	Type	Fuzing Nose Tail
Mainz, Germany.	<del>23</del> 13	<del>23</del> 13	120	500#	M-17's	Open at 5000'
Total on Target.			120	500#	M-17's	Open at 5000'
Other Expenditures.			None.			
Bombs Returned.			None.			
Total (bombs loaded on A/C taking off).			120	500#	M-17's	Open at 5000'

4. Types of Release - All 120 x 500# M-17's dropped on primary target were trained at 100' interval and armed.

JOHN E. DUGAN  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Lead Bombardier.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

September 27, 1944

**SUBJECT: B-2 Report 95A and 95B.**

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

1. Twelve A/C plus one PFF A/C of the 95th Group took off beginning at 0606 hours to form the high group (95A) of the 13A Combat Wing and attack Mains, Germany. A/C 7194 returned from 5108-0255 at 0839 hours - #1 engine on fire.

Thirteen A/C of the 95th Group took off beginning at 0620 hours to form the low Group (95B) of the 13B Combat Wing and attack Mains, Germany. No A/C returned early.

2. No M/A were encountered.

3. 95A Group encountered moderate, tracking, inaccurate flak at the target, 95B group encountered moderate, fairly accurate, tracking flak at the target and meager, accurate, barrage type flak at Bad Kreuznach.

4. Strike photos show 95A Group's bombs hitting in fields SE of Genssheim, Germany (Just West of Mains). Strikes of 95B Group unobserved due to 10/10 undercast.

5. Bombing was done using PFF equipment. 95A dropped on their PFF A/C and 95B dropped on lead Group's PFF. A/C 7201 of 95A Group flew with 493rd Group and dropped with them on Ludwigshafen, Germany. A/C 1675 of 95B Group hit by flak over Bad Kreuznach and dropped behind formation. This A/C made an emergency landing in Belgium. Crew returning to base. All other A/C returned to base and landed by 1315.

**For the Intelligence Officer:**

**STANLEY R. WHEATON,  
Capt., Air Corps,  
Ass't. S-2 Officer.**

PROVISIONAL STATEMENT ON DAMAGE:

Deep shadows on the prints preclude a definite statement. Damage appears to be sidely distributed over the target, being severe in the Southern section. Details are as follows.

1. LOCOMOTIVE AND REPAIR FACILITIES:

There is a possible hit on the Engine Roundhouse. Possible carriage and repair shops appear to show no damage.

2. TERMINAL FACILITIES:

The Passenger Station buildings are 2/3 gutted. Roof over the platform apparently damaged. Probable transshipment sheds and goods sheds are either gutted or severely damaged in at least three places.

3. MARSHALLING YARDS:

Apart from 3 craters along the S.E. boundary Sidings seem to have escaped damage, although heavy shelling permit a detailed statement.

4. OTHER DAMAGE:

The road bridge crossing the Marshalling Yard Southern end appears to have received a near hit, and is a further probable crater in the roadway near its end. Fairly extensive damage to probable residential and business property is evident in the surrounding district, particularly on the S. and E. sides.

(Print 301)

---

This report is subject to correction and amplification on a detailed assessment.

---

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY: 7GP.

SORTIE: U.S.7GR/3413.

MEAN TIME AND DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 1700 A hrs. on 26 SEP. 1944.

SCALE: 1/13,500 approx. (F.L.24").

COVER AND QUALITY: Full. Fair.

LAST REPORT: K.3137 issued on 11 SEP 1944.

COMPARATIVE SORTIE USED: US7/3234.

PRINT DISTRIBUTED: 3015 (to follow when available).

CONFIDENTIAL.

A.C.I.U.

JVW/CJ

DISTRIBUTION

275 copies

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
AAF STATION 101  
APO 634

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 150

PERIOD: 0001 hours 27 September to 2400 hours 27 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>Totals</u>
							<u>E/A</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>N/E</u>	<u>OT</u>	
Heavy Bomber Atks.	8	1192 +	1130	1093	3072.1	5-3-0A 0-0-0G	28	4	6	8	46
Fighter Escort	15	678	640	0	0	31-0-6A 5-0-1G	0	0	0	10	10
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.	1	1	1	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Weather Recon.	28	28	28	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Air/Sea Rescue	12	12	12	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Operations	20	197	197	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	84	2108	2007	1093	3072.1	36-3-6A 5-0-1G	28	4	6	18	56

+ 27 spares, 14 used.

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

26 combat wings (877 B-17s, 315 B-24s - 1192 a/c) dispatched to attack industrial and transportation targets in western Germany. 1093 a/c dropped 2661.9 tons G.P. and 410.2 tons I.B. on four primaries and one secondary at 0920 - 0947 hours from 22,000 - 28,000 feet. Weather: 8/10 - 10/10 en route over Continent; 10/10 undercast over all targets. Flak: meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate in target areas. E/a opposition: strong attacks on one group of third force. Claims: 5-3-0. Losses: 46 a/c (10 B-17s, 36 B-24s).

First Force

12 combat wings (462 B-17s) dispatched against two oil refineries near Dusseldorf, one gas plant, one synthetic oil and one motor plant in Cologne area. Weather caused all wings to attack PFF secondary target at Cologne. 421 a/c dropped 1160.7 tons G.P. and 115.7 tons I.B. - 1276.4 tons - on Cologne and one T/O at 0922 - 0936 hours from 23,000 - 28,000 feet. Leaflets dropped on Cologne. Weather: 8/10 to 10/10 over Continent and at target. Flak: meager to moderate,

S E C R E T

SMC

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
AAF STATION 101  
APO 634

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 150

PERIOD: 0001 hours 27 September to 2400 hours 27 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>Totals</u>
							<u>E/A</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>N/E</u>	<u>OT</u>	
Heavy Bomber Atks.	8	1192	1130	1093	3072.1	5-3-0A 0-0-0G	28	4	6	8	46
Fighter Escort	15	678	640	0	0	31-0-6A 5-0-1G	0	0	0	10	10
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.	1	1	1	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Weather Recon.	28	28	28	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Air/Sea Rescue	12	12	12	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Operations	20	197	197	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	84	2108	2007	1093	3072.1	36-3-6A 5-0-1G	28	4	6	18	56

+ 27 spares, 14 used.

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

26 combat wings (877 B-17s, 315 B-24s - 1192 a/o) dispatched to attack industrial and transportation targets in western Germany. 1093 a/o dropped 2661.9 tons G.P. and 410.2 tons I.B. on four primaries and one secondary at 0920 - 0947 hours from 22,000 - 28,000 feet. Weather: 8/10 - 10/10 en route over Continent; 10/10 undercast over all targets. Flak: meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate in target areas. E/a opposition: strong attacks on one group of third force. Claims: 5-3-0. Losses: 46 a/o (10 B-17s, 36 B-24s).

First Force

12 combat wings (462 B-17s) dispatched against two oil refineries near Dusseldorf, one gas plant, one synthetic oil and one motor plant in Cologne area. Weather caused all wings to attack PFF secondary target at Cologne. 421 a/o dropped 1160.7 tons G.P. and 115.7 tons I.B. - 1276.4 tons - on Cologne and one T/O at 0922 - 0936 hours from 23,000 - 28,000 feet. Leaflets dropped on Cologne. Weather: 8/10 to 10/10 over Continent and at target. Flak: meager to moderate,

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

generally accurate at Cologne. Battle damage: 114 minor, 51 major. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 3 B-17s (2 to unknown causes, 1 crashed in France, crew safe).

Fighter Support: five groups (45 P-47s, 191 P-51s - 236 a/c) dispatched. Up 0745 - 0814 hours, down 1138 - 1250 hours. 221 sorties. E/a opposition: 150 e/a reported attacking bombers in Kassel area. One group engaged 75 of these. Claims: 5-0-0. Losses: 6 P-51s NXR (believe landed in Holland and Belgium).

Details of bomber attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u> <u>B-17s</u>	<u>Attacking</u> <u>B-17s</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>G.P.</u>	<u>L.B.</u>	
Monheim	76	Not Attacked			
Reisholz	78	Not Attacked			
Wesseling	115	Not Attacked			
Cologne	193	411 +	1131.0	115.7	Unobserved
<u>Other Targets</u>					
Blatzheim, 5051N-0639E	---	10	29.7	---	Unobserved
Totals	462	421	1160.7	115.7	

+ = includes a/c dispatched against targets not attacked.

Second Force

11 combat wings (415 B-17s) dispatched against synthetic oil plant and M/Y at Ludwigshafen, motor plant and M/Y in Mainz area. Weather necessitated PFF bombing of Ludwigshafen and Mainz. 389 a/c dropped 845.2 tons G.P. and 150.5 tons L.B. - 995.7 tons - at 0920 - 0942 hours from 25,000 - 27,000 feet. Leaflets dropped on Ludwigshafen and Mainz. Weather: 10/10 undercast over all targets. Flak: Ludwigshafen - moderate to intense, accurate; Mainz - moderate, inaccurate. Battle damage: 120 minor, 22 major. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses 7 B-17s (4 to flak, 3 to unknown causes, of which 1 crashed in sea with crew rescued).

Fighter Support: five groups (95 P-47s, 129 P-51s - 224 a/c) dispatched. Up 0736 - 0800 hours, down 1206 - 1215 hours. 212 sorties. One group strafed in Hanau vicinity. E/a opposition: one Me-109 destroyed near Hanau. Claims: 1-0-0. Losses: nil.

Details of bomber attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u> <u>B-17s</u>	<u>Attacking</u> <u>B-17s</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>G.P.</u>	<u>L.B.</u>	
Ludwigshafen	228	214	585.7		Unobserved
Gustavsborg	111	Not Attacked			
Mainz	76	171+	250.5	147.5	Unobserved

S E C R E T

<u>Other Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacking</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
	<u>B-17s</u>	<u>B-17s</u>	<u>G.P.</u>	<u>I.B.</u>	
U/I T/Os		4	9.0	3.0	Unobserved
<b>Totals</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>845.2</b>	<b>150.5</b>	

+ Includes a/o dispatched against Gustavsburg.

Third Force

Three combat wings (315 B-24s) dispatched against armored force vehicle and tank plants at Kassel/Henschel. 283 a/o dropped 656 tons G.P., 144 tons I.B. - total 800 tons on both primaries and Gottingen T/O 0932-0947 hours from 22,000 - 25,000 feet. All PFF bombing. Leaflets dropped on Kassel. Weather: 10/10 under-cast over continent and at target. Flak: meager to moderate, fairly accurate with ground rockets also reported over Kassel. E/a opposition: 100-150 FW-190s and Me-109s in waves of 15 strongly attacked one group between Gottingen and Eisenach; 20-30 u/i s/e e/a sighted by other groups between Giessen and Hersfeld but no attacks; approximately ten a/o (believed jet-propelled) observed near Limburg (5030-0840E). Battle damage: two major, 39 minor. Claims: 5-3-0. Losses: 36 B-24s (28 to e/a, 4 to unknown reasons, 4 Category "E").

Fighter Support: Five groups (35 P-47s, 25 P-38s, 158 P-51s - 218 a/o) dispatched. Up 0725-0748 hours, down 1200-1310 hours. 207 sorties. Two groups strafed u/i A/Fs and transportation SW of Kassel and Eswege A/F. E/a opposition: ten FW-190s encountered near Kassel; 100 plus s/e e/a intercepted near Eisenach; 50 FW-190s engaged east of Kassel. Claims: 25-0-6 air, 5-0-1 ground. Losses: 4 P-51s (two believed landed in France).

Details of bomber attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacking</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
	<u>B-24s</u>	<u>B-24s</u>	<u>G.P.</u>	<u>I.B.</u>	
Kassel/Henschel	315	248	563.5	144.0	Unobserved
<u>Other Targets</u>					
Gottingen		35	92.5		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>656.0</b>	<b>144.0</b>	

2. Fighter Escort

Fifteen groups (175 P-47s, 25 P-38s, 478 P-51s - 678 a/o) dispatched to escort heavy bombers attacking targets in western Germany. Up 0725-0814 hours, down 1200-1310 hours. 640 sorties. Three groups strafed A/Fs and transportation in Hanau and Kassel areas. E/a opposition: combat with 75 of 150 s/e e/a which attacked bombers in Kassel area; intercepted 100 plus s/e e/a near Eisenach; engaged 60 FW-190s east of Kassel, destroyed one Me-109 near Hanau, in two combats. Claims: 31-0-6 air, 5-0-1 ground. Losses: 10 P-51s (8 believed to have landed in France, Belgium and Holland).

SECRET

Strafing claims: destroyed six locos and two freight cars, damaged two locos.

3. Fighter Sweeps

Nil.

4. Fighter Bombing

Nil.

5. Photo Reconnaissance

One Mosquito took night photographs of Arnhem and Apeldoorn. A/c returned safely.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

28 a/c dispatched as follows:

18 P-51s scouted for bomber forces. One aborted due to mechanical failure. No losses.

10 a/c dispatched (6 B-24s, 4 Mosquitoes). Three B-24s completed special over-water weather reconnaissance. Three B-24s completed heavy weather reconnaissance to northwest England. Three Mosquitoes completed special weather flights over Holland and Belgium. One Mosquito on routine weather flight to Holland-Antwerp, Rotterdam. Enemy opposition: one Mosquito followed by jet from 5235N-0820E to Zuider Zee, but did not attack - probably Me-163. No losses.

7. Air/Sea Rescue

12 a/c (8 P-47s, 4 P-38s) dispatched. One bail-out. Pilot not rescued. All a/c returned safely.

8. Special Operations

197 a/c dispatched on Special Operations as follows:

4 B-24s on ROM jamming between 2215 - 0100 hours, 26/27 September. All a/c returned safely.

9 a/c (3 B-24s, 6 B-17s) dropping leaflets over France, Holland and Germany. All a/c returned safely.

21 a/c (1 B-17, 16 P-51s and 4 P-47s) dispatched as radio relays. All a/c returned safely.

163 B-24s dispatched on "truckin" missions, carried 281,108 gallons of gasoline to France. 49 a/c remained overnight. No losses.

SECRET



C. INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Air Opposition

Today's heavy bomber attacks on targets in western Germany met mined enemy opposition concentrated on one group of B-24s in the third force. Approximately 100-150 FW-190s and Me-109s attacked between Gottingen and Eisenach at 1003-1009 hours. E/a attacked in waves of 15-20 a/c flying abreast from six o'clock high, breaking away in all directions, then coming up from below while the next wave came in from high. 28 B-24s were lost to these attacks. Supporting fighters and fighters of the first force (patrolling NE of Coblenz) hurried to the rescue, engaging the e/a in several combats as follows:

a. At 1005 hours one P-51 group (assigned to the first force) engaged 75 plus Me-109s and FW-190s in the Kassel area at 26,000 feet. E/a flew in line abreast formation echelons of 20 a/c each. The P-51s claimed 5-0-0.

b. At 0940 hours a P-51 group supporting the third force near Eisenach heard reports of attacks and turned to cover. One squadron intercepted e/a after they had made a pass through bombers in a shallow dive from rear. 100 plus s/e e/a were engaged from 20,000-24,000 feet with claims of 5-0-0.

c. At 0945 hours another third force P-51 group engaged 50 FW-190s east of Kassel just as e/a passed through bombers. Combat ensued from 24,000 to deck with claims of 17-0-6.

d. A P-51 group supporting the same force intercepted ten FW-190s after they had attacked the bombers from four o'clock high. Claims of 3-0-0 resulted from the ensuing encounters.

First force bombers reported no e/a opposition, sighting only one Ju-88 and one Me-109 in target area. Two groups of supporting fighters answered call for help from the third force. One of these groups arrived just as the attacking e/a disappeared; the other engaged in the combat reported in (a) above.

Second force bombers reported no attacks. Two Me-109s were sighted at 0950 hours at 4955-0740E, heading 330 degrees at 18,000 feet and 20-30 u/i e/a were observed between 5050-0743E and 4950-0748E at 1000 hours climbing to formation's altitude. Supporting fighters destroyed a lone Me-109 near Hanau at 500 feet. Total claims 31-0-6.

2. Flak

Cologne - meager to moderate, generally accurate.

Ludwigshafen - moderate to intense, accurate.

Mainz - moderate, inaccurate, tracking and barrage fire.

Kassel - meager to moderate, fairly accurate. Ground rockets also reported

Coblenz - meager, inaccurate fire.

Aachen - meager, inaccurate fire.

Bonn - meager, inaccurate fire.

Rhine River - (5026N-5032N)- some accurate flak.

Fighters

The Hague - intense, inaccurate  
Osnabruck - meager, inaccurate  
Zandvoort - moderate, inaccurate  
Frankfurt - intense, inaccurate  
Mannheim - moderate, accurate  
Weisbaden - moderate, inaccurate  
Munich - moderate, inaccurate  
Gladbach - moderate, inaccurate  
Duren - meager, inaccurate  
Eschweiler - meager, inaccurate  
Woensdrecht - moderate, accurate

3. Observations

Balloon barrage seen Kendenich.

Grass field with 18 t/e a/c at 5209N-0737E.

25 barrage balloons over Giessen at 8,000 - 10,000 feet.

Photographed A/F previously reported as "Niedermendig" now reported "u/i", in Niedermendig area, where 8,000 foot runway is under construction; has concrete perimeter.

Hildesheim A/F contains many u/i e/a.

Two grass A/Fs with numerous u/i a/c SW and NE of Stadthagen.

4. Damage to Enemy Installations

Cologne - Inbert Factory - Unobserved Results

9/10 - 10/10 cloud over target area makes plotting of majority of bombs impossible. Few concentrations seen. 100 bombs fell three miles northeast of Cologne center, near Cologne-Niehl-Hasen. Damage in this area confined to residential districts. Some bombs fell on rail lines. 70 - 100 bombs hit in vicinity of Merheim three miles due north of town center. Approximately 100 bombs plotted on small industrial area near Antoniusheim.

Ludwigshafen - Unobserved Results

10/10 cloud.

Mainz - M/Y - Unobserved Results

Small cloud openings make possible rough plotting of most of camera sorties. In sortie 95A/1047, bits of ground detail can be identified. Same detail on other sortie. Attack made from northwest and most groups turned southwest after dropping, making insufficient map coverage so as to prevent plotting of run-in points. End of sorties, however, can usually be located. In a few cases bomb strikes which can be located through small cloud breaks appear to be in open or sparsely built-up areas, but possible detail of dropping areas cannot be ascertained.

Kassel - Unobserved Results

10/10 cloud.