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CONFIDENTIAL.
4 MAR 1945

IMMEDIATE INTERPRETATION REPORT NO. K.3871

LOCALITY: BAMBERG TOWN and M/Y
(G.S.G.S. 4416-T5 2749)

PERIOD COVERED: 1415A hours on 17 FEB 1945 to 1025A hours on 2 MAR 1945.

ATTACKS:

	<u>Date</u>	<u>S.A.</u>	<u>Reported Weather</u>
U. S. 8TH AIR FORCE	22 FEB 1945	3248	10/10 cloud.

PROVISIONAL STATEMENT ON DAMAGE.

No fresh damage is visible to M/Y or rail facilities. There are four new concentrations of craters in the Northern, Southern, and Eastern outskirts of the town where a few scattered instances of minor business/residential damage are visible.

(Prints. 3023/6 4024/7)

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

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY: 27 Squadron.

SORTIE: US7/124A.

MEAN TIME AND DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 1025A hours on 2 MAR 1945.

SCALE: 1/11,500.

COVER AND QUALITY: Full, good.

LAST REPORT: K.3768 issued on 19 FEB 1945.

COMPARATIVE SORTIE USED: US7/92A (3049/59-4049/59).

PRINT DISTRIBUTED: None.

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CONFIDENTIAL
23 FEB 1945

INTERPRETATION REPORT S.A. 3248

ATTACK ON BAMBERG MARSHALLING YARD on 22 FEB 1945

95th Raid.

(i) INFORMATION RECEIVED ON THE ATTACK:

- (a) No. of aircraft : 37, with full fighter escort.
- (b) Command : U.S. 8th AIR FORCE.
- (c) Time : 1231 - 1328 A hours.
- (d) Bombs : 444 x 500 lb. G.P.

(ii) DETAILS OF THE ATTACK:

Bombs away are seen but no bursts are visible on completely cloud obscured photographs.

(iii) ANNOTATED PRINTS: None prepared.

(iv) BOMB PLOT: None prepared.

(v) PHOTOGRAHMS RECEIVED

S/W 95/1469, 1471	22 FEB 45	1231A hrs.	1/35,600 (F.L.7")	20,800'	'C'
S/W 385/1069	"	1300A hrs.	1/39,400 "	22,800'	'C'
S/W 493/662	"	1328A hrs.	1/30,900 "	18,000'	'C'

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TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY

13A GROUP:

- 390A SQUADRON (green dots): 12 x 140 x 500 GP's. - (SCHWENNINGEN, G)
- 390B SQUADRON (purple dots): 12 x 128 x 500 GP's. - (")
- 390C SQUADRON (purple dots): 11 x 128 x 500 GP's. - (VILLINGEN, GER.

13B GROUP:

- 95A SQUADRON (10/10ths): 13 x 152 x 500 GP's. - (BAMBERG, GER.-P
- 95B SQUADRON (10/10ths): 16 x 188 x 500 GP's. - (" " -P
- 95C SQUADRON (green dots): 8 x 92 x 500 GP's. - (SINGEN, GER.

13C GROUP:

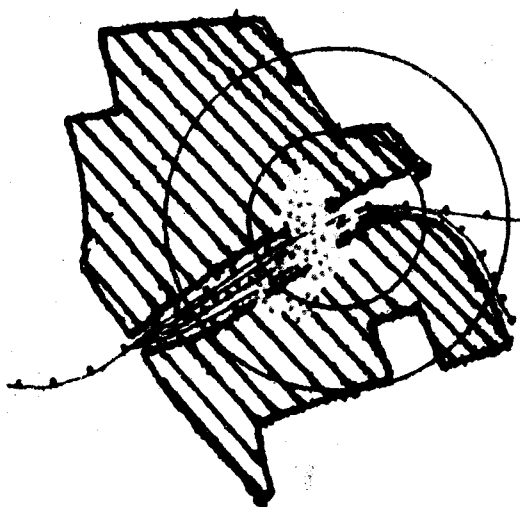
- 100A SQUADRON (red dots): 12 x 140 x 500 GP's. - (PPOHREN, GER.
- 100B SQUADRON (9/10ths): 13 x 152 x 500 GP's. - (WOLTERDINGEN, G
- 100C SQUADRON (not shown): 13 x 152 x 500 GP's. - (GOSHEIM, GER.

NOTE: 100C SQUADRON MADE A RUN ON GOSHEIM, GERMANY - THE BOMBS FELL 2000 TO THE RIGHT IN OPEN FIELDS.

CIRCLES - 1000' and 2000' from AP.

NORTH

SINGEN, GERMANY



RF - 1:26,128

95C

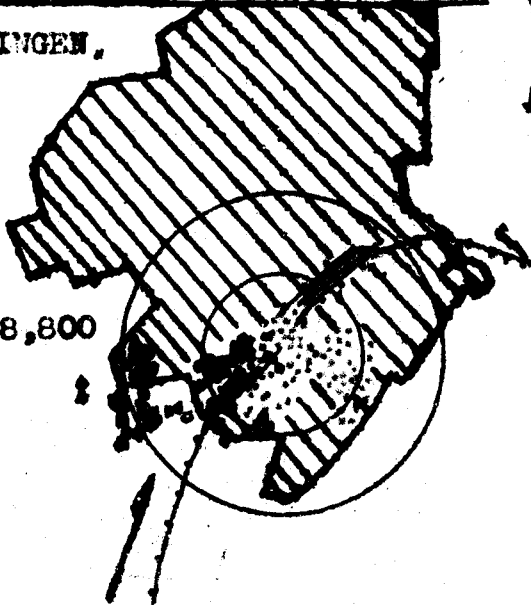
VILLINGEN, GERMANY



RF - 1:29,8

390C

SCHWENNINGEN, GERMANY

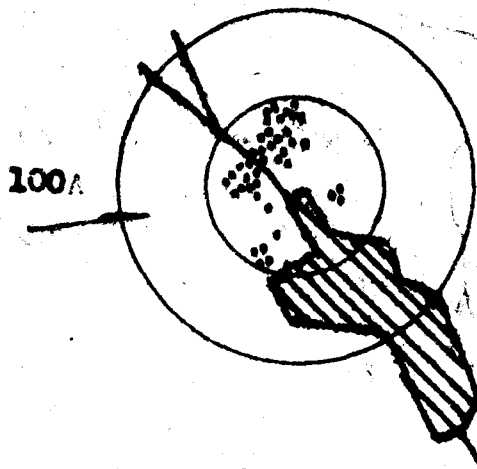


RF - 1:28,800

390B

390A

PPOHREN, GERMANY



100A

RF - 1:25,548

"A"

FORM 3

STATION 119

DATE 22 Feb. 45.

	LET	SHIP	PILOT	TARGET	TIME OFF		LANDING		REMARKS
					EST	ACT	EST	ACT	
414	N	8040	Heller	✓	✓	0710		1606	
335	Z	2455	Hetchin	✓	✓	0706		1606	
"	A	8255	Palmer	✓	✓	0707		1605	
"	Y	8942	Shaw	✓	✓	0726		1529	
"	B	7204	Duncan	✓	✓	0718		1608	
"	E	6838	Calicma	✓	✓	0719		1607	
"	H	7376	Jegonia	✓	✓	0720		1610	
"	K	8269	Robert	✓	✓	0753		1516	
"	V	2450	Hansen	✓	✓	0732		1610	
334	B	8175 8776	Griffin GRIFFIN	✓	✓	0727		1611	
"	K	8317	Mozley	✓	✓	0728		1608	
"	X	8990	Wearhage	✓	✓	0729		1530	
						⊖			

B

FORM 3

STATION

119

DATE

22 Feb 45

LET	SHIP	PILOT	TARGET	TIME OFF		LANDING		REMARKS
				EST	ACT	EST	ACT	
47	Q 7992	Abunden.	✓ Seal	✓	0716		1558	
"	Y 9177	Bunce	✓	✓	0709		1559	
"	F 6946	P'oyen	✓	✓	0711		1557	
"	M 8741	Restine	✓	✓	0713		1600	
"	C 8140	O'Yeele	✓	✓	0714		1601	
"	L 7257	Beh.	✓	✓	0740		1522	
"	B 8774	Layl	✓ High	✓	0715		1550	
339	O 1867	Hil.	✓	✓	0717		1603	
412	P 8441	Blam	✓	✓	0816		1514	
"	T 7982	Crystal	✓	✓	0725			17-70
324	U 8525	Roy.	✓	✓	0721		1603	
"	D 8640	Place	✓	✓	0722		1604	
"	R 8438	Helgeson	✓	✓	0723		1601	

"C"

FORM 3

STATION

119

DATE

22 Feb. 45

	LET	SHIP	PILOT	TARGET	TIME OFF		LANDING		REMARKS
					EST.	ACT.	EST.	ACT.	
335	L	8667	Stotschky	✓	✓	0712	1518		
336	T	9037	Rose	✓	✓	0730	1513		
"	V	8676	Mallopang	✓	✓	0733	1518		
"	Q	8617	Burns	✓	✓	0731	1520		
"	X	8604	Dunphy	✓	✓	0739	1519		
"	R	7844	Shaw			-	-	Did not take off	
337	L	9175	Koehler	✓	✓	0731	1559		
"	J	7201	SCHREFFIUS	✓	+	0735	1602		
"	P	9152	Rudniks	✓	✓	0736	1521		
338	E	8106	Lenox	✓	✓	0737	1521		
"	M	1989	THSS	✓	✓	0738	1612		
"	U	8469	SUTTON	✓	✓	0741	1612		
339	V	8657	Nelson, R.W.	✓	✓	0742	1519		

8 March 1945

REPORT ON ATTACKS AGAINST ENEMY RAIL COMMUNICATIONS - 22 February 1945PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to furnish a summary of the bombing accuracy achieved on the attacks against enemy rail communications conducted by heavy units of the Eighth Air Force on 22 February 1945. These attacks were made at relatively low altitudes with small forces and hence are of particular interest from the point of view of bombing accuracy.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE OPERATION

With a view to cutting and disrupting enemy rail communications as much as possible, the Eighth Air Force, on 22 February 1945, dispatched 124 squadrons (9-13 aircraft each) of heavy bombers to attack a number of small railway marshalling yards in Germany. There were 25 targets assigned as primaries, with 3 to 6 squadrons ordered on each. In addition, 5 secondaries were assigned. Last resort targets were ordered as "any marshalling yard, railroad bridge, main rail line, rail or road viaduct, positively identified as being in Germany and east of the current bomb line."

Because the assigned targets were either undefended by heavy anti-aircraft guns, or were defended by comparatively few such guns, most of the bombing was done at altitudes from 6,000 to 12,000 feet.

The targets in the areas assigned to First and Second Air Divisions were clear, permitting visual bombing. However, the Third Air Division's assigned targets were cloud covered, with the result that the only visual bombing accomplished by Third Division was on certain last resort targets.

In all, 32 rail communication targets were attacked, consisting of 15 primaries, 2 secondaries, and 15 last resorts.

SUMMARY OF BOMBING ACCURACY

Of the 124 squadrons dispatched, 96 attacked visually. Of this number, 65 squadrons attacked an assigned primary or secondary target and the remainder, 31, attacked last resort targets.

It has been possible to analyze from strike attack photographs the results achieved by 76 of the 96 squadrons which attacked visually. On the basis of

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (S)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By EF, NARS Date 3/18/74~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

this sample the accuracy achieved on this operation was substantially higher than the average achieved in reasonably good visibility during the preceding five months. This contrast is shown by the following table where results are expressed in terms of average per cent of bombs estimated to have fallen within standard distances (1) for the operation under review and (2) for all visual operations under conditions of good visibility for the preceding five months.

	Average % of Bombs Which Fell Within			Average Altitude	Average Size Force*
	500' of AP	1000' of AP	2000' of AP		
Operation of 22 Feb. 1945	26	57	82	9,300	3 1/5
All Operations of good visibility 1 Sept. 1944 to 31 Jan. 1945	12	31	57	22,600	7 1/4

The two factors of lower altitude and smaller attacking force undoubtedly explain in large measure the marked difference in results. Just how much each contributed, however, it is impossible to say. In any event, the larger percentage of bombs within close distances to the aiming point are a direct consequence of (1) a smaller proportion of gross errors, (2) smaller aiming errors, and (3) substantially smaller patterns, all factors which contribute directly to increased percentage of bombs near the aiming point and each of which is affected by altitude and size of force. The following table gives the comparison between the present operation and our average operation during the preceding five months in terms of these latter variables.

	Ave. Circular Error of Pattern Centers	Average Pattern Dimensions		Per Cent Gross Errors
		Length	Width	
Operation of 22 Feb. 1945	790'	1050'	1250'	8%
All Operations of good visibility 1 Sept. 1944 to 31 Jan. 1945	1090'	2000'	1750'	28%

Prepared by: Operational Analysis Section

L. E. Katzenbach
Lt. Col. Philip C. Scott
OAS Consultants

Approved for release by:
Leslie H. Arps
LESLIE H. ARPS
Lt. Col. A. G.
Director
Operational Analysis Section

* The average number of squadrons attacking a single target.

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

22 February 1945

SUBJECT: S-2 Report for the mission to Bamberg, Germany on above date.

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

1. The Mission - the 95th Group flew as 13B Combat Group to attack a M/Y at Bamberg. Neither the primary at Bamberg nor the secondary, an airfield at Anslach, were attacked because of weather. 95A and 95B attacked a last resort, the rail facilities of Bamberg on H2X. 95C bombed a last resort target, the M/Y at Singen (4746N-0850E) visually.

95A - Eleven A/C plus one PFF took off and formed the lead squadron. Nine A/C plus the PFF bombed a last resort target at Bamberg. One A/C 8269 bombed last resort target with 95B. One A/C 8990 bombed with the 96th group.

95B - Twelve A/C plus the PFF took off and formed the high squadron. Ten A/C plus the PFF bombed the last resort at Bamberg. One A/C 7257 bombed with the 388th group hitting Ulm. One A/C 8441 bombed with the 96th group. One spare A/C 7882 turned back at 1012 hours 4910N-0500 because of mechanical failure and was forced to land at A70 on the Continent. This A/C jettisoned its bombs safe 5 miles NW of Laon Couvron.

95C - Eleven A/C plus the PFF took off and formed the low squadron. 7A/C plus the PFF bombed last resort target at Singen. Two A/C 9175 and 7201 bombed with 95B squadron. One A/C 8469 bombed with 95A squadron.

2. Reference is made to the Operational Narrative teletype of the Intelligence Section for further information.

For the Intelligence Officer:

FRANCIS X. PIERCE,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Ass't S-2 Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
AAF STATION 101
APO 634

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 298

PERIOD: 0001 hours 22 February 1945 to 2400 hours 22 February 1945.

A. STATISTICS

	<u>Total Sorties</u>	<u>Effective Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Claims</u>	<u>E/A</u>	<u>Losses</u>			<u>NYR</u>
						<u>AA</u>	<u>OT</u>	<u>Totals</u>	
Heavy Bomber Atks.	1428	1372	3895.1	0-0-1 A	1	2	5	8	0
Fighter Escort(a)	711	677	0	(b)4-2-18A 22-0-22G	0	4	6	10	5
Fighter Sweeps	103	99	0	(c)2-0-0 A	0	0	0	0	1
Fighter Bombing	0	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Photo Recon.	31	31	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Weather Recon.	42	38	0	2-0-3 G	0	0	0	0	0
Air/Sea Rescue	24	24	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Operations	26	24	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	00
Totals	2368	2265	3895.1	6-2-19A 24-0-25G	1	6	11	18	6

- (a) Includes the 352nd and 361st Groups based on the Continent.
- (b) Includes 2-0-13 Me-262s.
- (c) Me-262s

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

1428 a/c (976 B-17s, 452 B-24s) in three forces from the three Air Divisions in conjunction with other Air Forces of the Allied Powers of the West carried out a series of attacks on German rail transportation facilities in an operation planned to disrupt existing facilities. 1372 a/c dropped 3895.1 tons GP on assigned targets and numerous T/O's. The two forces attacking targets in northern Germany bombed visually, the force attacking targets in central Germany due to heavy cloud coverage with tops at 18,000 plus dense persistent contrails prevented bombing at assigned altitudes also requiring the use of PFF technique. Flak: generally nil to meager, inaccurate. E/a Opposition: 1 Me-262 attacked a straggler near Stendal; 1 Me-262 made two unsuccessful passes on a straggler near Mannheim. Claims: 0-0-1 Air (Me-262). Losses: 4 B-24s, 4 B-17s (1 to e/a, 2 to AA, 5 to causes unknown. NYR: nil.

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First Force

Fourteen group formations (522 B-17s - 3rd Air Division) sortied against rail and communication centers in central Germany. 500 a/c dropped 1478.5 tons GP on one assigned target and numerous T/Os at 1213-1350 hours from 8600-23,000 feet. Bombed on H2X and visual. Leaflets dropped on Amsbach, Ulm and Bamberg. Weather: 10/10 clouds over assigned targets, tops at 18,000 feet, plus dense persistent contrails prevented bombing from assigned altitudes. Flak: nil to meager, inaccurate. Battle damage: 29 minor, E/a Opposition: 1 Me-262 made two unsuccessful passes on a straggler near Mannheim. Claims: 0-0-1. Losses: 3 B-17s to causes unknown, NYR: nil.

Fighter Support: Three groups (168 P-51s) sortied. Up 0845-0900 hours; down 1505-1550 hours. 163 effective sorties. E/a Opposition: nil. 3 Me-262s observed SW of Stuttgart. Claims: 0-0-1 Ground. All groups strafed. Losses: 3 P-51s (to AA).

Details of bomber attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Effective Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Results</u>
Gera M/Y	67	Did not attack		
Eger M/Y	75	" " "		
Hof M/Y	77	" " "		
Saalfeld M/Y	76	" " "		
Arnstadt	38	" " "		
Kitzingen M/Y	38	1	3.0	Unobserved
Zwickau M/Y	76	2	6.0	Unobserved
Bamberg M/Y	75	64	187.0	Unobserved
<u>Other Targets</u>				
Ansbach		143	420.0	Unobserved
Aalen M/Y		24	71.5	Poor
Neustadt M/Y		26	78.0	Unobserved
Donaueschingen		24	70.5	Poor
Reutlingen		25	74.5	Unobserved
Ulm (city)		77	232.5	Unobserved
Freiburg		21	63.0	Unobserved
Singen M/Y		8	23.0	Good
Schwenningen M/Y		22	64.0	Fair
Villingen M/Y		11	32.0	Good
Hafingen		10	28.5	Unobserved
T/O - 4812N-0853E		9	26.0	Unobserved
T/O's		33	99.0	Unobserved
Totals	522	500	1478.5	

Second Force

Twelve group formations (454 B-17s - 1st Air Division) sortied against eight rail and communication centers in northern Germany. 437 a/c dropped 1310.4 tons GP on assigned targets and four T/Os at 1215-1248 hours

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from 9,300-13,000 feet. All bombing visual. Leaflets dropped on Ulzen, Stendal, Salzwedel and Ludwigslust. Weather: CAVU to 2/10 clouds over assigned targets. Flak: nil. Battle damage: nil E/a Opposition: straggler attacked by 1 Me-262 near Stendal. One Me-262 sighted near Ludwigslust - no combat. Claims: nil. Losses: 1 B-17 to e/a. NYR: nil.

Fighter Support: Five groups (280 P-51s) including the 352nd Group based on the Continent, sortied. Up 0925-1023 hours; down 1453-1515 hours. 268 effective sorties. E/a Opposition: encounters with 12 plus Me-262s in Stendal-Brandenburg area; 25 plus FW-190s and a few Me-109s SW of Bremen; 6 Me-262s in Stettin area; 4 Me-262s vicinity Stendal; 1 Me-262 SE of Salzwedel. Claims: 4-2-18 air (includes 2-0-13 Me-262s); 3-0-5 ground. Three groups strafed. Losses: 2 P-51s (to unknown causes). NYR: 5 P-51s.

Details of bomber attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Effective Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Results</u>
Wittenberge	73	72	216.0	Good
Stendal	74	73	214.2	Fair - Good
Salzwedel	78	59	197.5	Good
Ulzen	78	73	214.3	Good
Wittstock	36	11	33.0	Fair
Luneburg	39	39	115.5	Good
Ludwigslust	39	48	136.2	Fair - Good
Gardelegen	37	Did not attack		
<u>Other Targets</u>				
Grabow		13	39.0	Fair - Good
Kobbelitz		24	70.5	Poor
Dannenberg		12	35.7	Fair
Klotze		13	38.5	Poor - Fair
Totals	454	437	1310.4	

Third Force

Forty six squadron formations (452 B-24s - 2nd Air Division) sortied against rail and communication centers in north-central Germany. 435 a/c dropped 1106.2 tons GP on assigned targets and several T/Os at 1156-1339 hours from 6000-18,000 feet. All bombing visual. Leaflets dropped on Hildesheim, Halberstadt, Eschwege and Northeim. Weather: visibility unlimited with some ground haze in target areas. Flak: meager, inaccurate. Battle damage: 64 minor, 4 major. E/a Opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 4 B-24s (2 to AA, 2 to causes unknown). NYR: nil.

Fighter Support: Five groups (266 a/c - 233 P-51s, 33 P-47s) including the 361st Group based on the Continent, sortied. Up 0942-1122 hours; down 1515-1600 hours. 246 effective sorties. E/a opposition: encounters with 15 Me-262s SW of Berlin and 2 Me-262s S of Helmstedt; one jet sighted north of Gutersloh. Claims: 19-0-16 Ground (includes 1 He-111 with V1 pick-a-back destroyed). All groups strafed. Losses: 5 a/c (1 P-47 to AA, 4 P-51s to unknown causes).

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Details of bomber attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Effective Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Results</u>
Halberstadt M/Y	64	51	113.5	Good
Sangerhausen	30	11	23.5	Unobserved
Nordhausen M/Y	63	30	74.0	Fair
Vienenburg	31	23	51.5	Good
Peine M/Y	65	52	142.2	Very Good
Hildesheim M/Y	57	55	148.2	Very Good
Kreinsen M/Y	60	48	131.3	Good
Northeim M/Y	51	48	124.5	Very Good
Eichenburg M/Y	31	Did not attack		
<u>Other Targets</u>				
Wallhausen M/Y		19	47.5	Good
Oker M/Y		8	16.0	Fair
Factory 6 mi. N-NW Nordhausen		11	31.0	Unobserved
Eschwege M/Y		30	70.0	Good
Gottingen M/Y		29	83.0	Very Good
Lindern Hwy. & RR Br.		1	3.0	Unobserved
Celle M/Y		8	23.5	Good
RR Bridge (5226-0718)		1	1.5	Unobserved
Ottbergen M/Y		10	28.0	Good
Totals	452	435	1106.2	

2. Fighter Escort

Thirteen groups (681 P-51s and 33 P-47s) including both groups based on the Continent sortied in support of the three bomber forces. Up 0845-1122 hours; down 1453-1600 hours. 677 effective sorties. E/a Opposition: Encounters with 25 plus FW-190s and a few Me-109s SW of Bremen; 6 Me-262s in Stettin area; 12 plus Me-262s in Stendal-Brandenburg area; 1 Me-262 SE of Salzwedel; 4 Me-262s vicinity Stendal; 15 Me-262s SW of Berlin; 2 Me-262s S of Helmstedt. Also scattered sightings of jet and conventional a/c. Claims: 4-2-18 air (includes 2-0-13 Me-262s); 22-0-22 Ground (includes 1 Me-111 with VI pick-a-back destroyed). Eleven groups strafed. Losses: 10 a/c (1 P-47 to AA, 3 P-51s to AA, 6 P-51s to unknown causes). NYR: 5 P-51s.

Ground claims as follows:

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Locomotives	69	35
Oil Tank Cars	11	11
Goods Wagons	47	285
Flak Cars	1	0
Passenger Cars	0	1
Trucks	18	25
Staff Cars	3	1
Autos	6	2

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Details of bomber attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Effective Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Results</u>
Halberstadt M/Y	61	51	113.5	Good
Sangerhausen	30	11	23.5	Unobserved
Nordhausen M/Y	63	30	74.0	Fair
Vienenburg	31	23	51.5	Good
Peine M/Y	65	52	142.2	Very Good
Hildesheim M/Y	57	55	148.2	Very Good
Kreinsen M/Y	60	48	131.3	Good
Northeim M/Y	51	48	124.5	Very Good
Eichenburg M/Y	31	Did not attack		
<u>Other Targets</u>				
Wallhausen M/Y		19	41.5	Good
Oker M/Y		8	16.0	Fair
Factory 6 mi. N-NW Nordhausen		11	31.0	Unobserved
Eschwege M/Y		30	70.0	Good
Gottingen M/Y		29	83.0	Very Good
Lindern Hwy. & RR Br.		1	3.0	Unobserved
Celle M/Y		8	23.5	Good
RR Bridge (5226-0718)		1	1.5	Unobserved
Ottbergen M/Y		10	28.0	Good
Totals	452	435	1106.2	

2. Fighter Escort

Thirteen groups (681 P-51s and 33 P-47s) including both groups based on the Continent sortied in support of the three bomber forces. Up 0845-1122 hours; down 1453-1600 hours. 677 effective sorties. E/a Opposition; Encounters with 25 plus FW-190s and a few Me-109s SW of Bremen; 6 Me-262s in Stettin area; 12 plus Me-262s in Stendal-Brandenburg area; 1 Me-262 SE of Salzwedel; 4 Me-262s vicinity Stendal; 15 Me-262s SW of Berlin; 2 Me-262s S of Helmsedt. Also scattered sightings of jet and conventional a/c. Claims: 4-2-18 air (includes 2-0-13 Me-262s); 22-0-22 Ground (includes 1 Me-111 with V1 pick-a-back destroyed). Eleven groups strafed. Losses: 10 a/c (1 P-47 to AA, 3 P-51s to AA, 6 P-51s to unknown causes). NYR: 5 P-51s.

Ground claims as follows:

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Locomotives	69	35
Oil Tank Cars	11	11
Goods Wagons	47	285
Flak Cars	1	0
Passenger Cars	0	1
Trucks	18	25
Staff Cars	3	1
Autos	6	2

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Ground claims (continued)	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Armored Cars	2	2
Weapons Carriers	1	0
Switch Towers	3	8
Transformer Station	0	4
High Tension Towers	0	5
Radar Towers	0	5
Observation Tower	0	1
Power Lines	4	0
RR Buildings	0	5
Tractors	0	3
Radio Building	1	0
Barges	0	4
Ammunition Buildings	0	6
Pump House	0	1
Oil Derricks	0	2
Oil Storage Tanks	2	0
Misc. Buildings	1	7
Trailers	2	0
Sm. Cabin Boat	0	1
Carts	0	1
Horses	4	3
German Civilians	3	2
German Soldiers	25	0

3. Fighter Sweeps

Two groups (103 P-51s) sortied to provide free lance support to bomber forces. Up 0932-0954 hours; down 1500-1525 hours. 99 effective sorties. E/a Opposition; encountered 4 to 6 Me-262s N of Berlin. Claims: 2-0-0, Me-262s Air. Both groups strafed. Losses: nil. NYR: 1 P-51.

Ground claims as follows;

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Locomotives	21	10
Goods Cars	0	74
Oil Cars	0	1
Electric engine	1	0
Trucks	0	4
Flak positions	0	2
Switch towers	0	5
Marker beacon	0	1
Barges	0	2
Trailer	0	1

S E C R E T

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4. Fighter Bombing

Nil

5. Photo Reconnaissance

31 a/c (3 Mosquitoes, 10 P-51s, 5 Spitfires, 13 P-51s) sortied as follows:

3 a/c completed night photo mission in the Kamen area.

11 a/c for D/A photos in all parts of Germany.

4 a/c on mapping missions over Frankfurt area. One a/c was intercepted by jet a/c believed to be an Me-262 near Eindhoven area, pilot dove into clouds to evade.

13 a/c provided escort for PRU a/c.

All a/c returned safely.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

42 a/c (4 B-17s, 6 Mosquitoes, 32 P-51s) sortied as follows:

2 B-17s completed routine weather flight over sea NW of Lands End.

2 B-17s completed routine flights to and from the Azores.

6 Mosquitoes completed special weather reconnaissance over Holland; Germany, Belgium, Ireland, North Sea, Atlantic, and the U.K.

32 P-51s as scouts for bomber forces. 4 a/c returned early. Claims: 2-0-3 ground.

All a/c returned safely.

7. Air/Sea Rescue

24 a/c (18 P-47s, 4 P-51s, 2 PB1s) on patrol and search missions.

All a/c returned safely.

8. Special Operations

26 a/c sortied as follows:

7 B-24s on RCM, jamming between 0546-0830 hours. All a/c returned safely.

12 P-51s on radio relay mission. No losses.

7 B-24s on special supply operation. 2 a/c returned early. No losses.

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C. INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Air Opposition

The G.A.F. failed to exploit what was undoubtedly his greatest opportunity for heavy bomber interception, appreciation of the widespread attacks from medium altitudes apparently being made too late for s/e from the Berlin area to be used to advantage. No conventional s/e e/a opposed the bombers, although one squadron of P-51s were bounced by 25 s/e on withdrawal. Some 20 - 25 Me-262s attempted interception in the general area west of Berlin, but alert escort prevented effective attacks on the bomber formations. The only bomber reported lost to e/a was a straggler hit by an Me-262 shortly after bombing in the area west-northwest of Berlin. Another straggler was attacked, unsuccessfully, in the area east-southeast of Mannheim by a single Me-262.

Escorting and sweeping fighters had numerous engagements with the t/e jet e/a active in the Berlin area, and four of the Me-262s are claimed destroyed. One group reported engaging 15 Me-262s from 1150 to 1210 southwest of Berlin, e/a bouncing our fighters aggressively in flights of four and using tactics of climbing after attack and when turned into. Other P-51s engaged these e/a too as late as 1230 in the general Stendal-Brandenburg-Salzwedel area, with e/a continuing attempts to bounce P-51s with flights of four and in pairs. An additional four to six Me-262s were engaged in the Gardelegen-Helmstedt area by other P-51s up to around 1330 hours. Further south, in the Stuttgart area, 3 jet e/a were sighted by escort but dove away when turned into by P-51s.

On withdrawal a squadron of P-51s strafing on the deck southwest of Bremen was bounced from 4,000 feet to deck by 25 plus aggressive FW-190s and Me-109s. These P-51s engaged from 1400 to 1415 for claims of 2-2-5.

2. Flak

- Villingen - meager, inaccurate.
- Bamberg - meager, inaccurate.
- Schwenningen - meager, inaccurate.
- Ijmuiden - meager, inaccurate.

3. Observations

- Much activity in M/Y at Celle.
- 30 - 40 e/a were seen to be parked in a wooded area near Ludwigslust.
- 12 s/e e/a on A/F at 5100-0907E.
- 27 a/e e/a on Gottingen A/F.
- 25 t/e e/a on Nordhausen A/F.
- Several t/e e/a on Eschwege A/F.
- 4 e/a on A/F south of Quedlingburg (5116-1108E)
- 3 e/a on A/F at 5055-0908E.
- 14 e/a on A/F near Hildesheim (5211-0958E)
- Factories with considerable activity observed at 5124-0848E, 5124-0810E

5044-0922E.

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4. Damage to Enemy Installations

Ulzen - Good Results

Six concentrations in target area. At least 325 bursts on rail lines and installations in M/Y. Five large and three small explosions visible. Direct hits on the engine roundhouse which is severely damaged and the warehouse 70% destroyed. RR cars could be seen derailed throughout the south portion of the yard at least four intense fires were burning and the damage severe.

Stendal - Fair to Good Results

Five concentrations of GPs in and adjacent to target area. Smoke from early bursts makes pinpointing of most strikes impossible. At least 120 bursts on rail lines and installations in the yard, two direct hits on large engine roundhouse and probable damage to a second. A large storage area on south edge of M/Y heavily hit, this area was filled to capacity with stores, severe damage can be expected. At least one large and three small explosions could be seen. Photography late in the attack shows large fires in target area.

Salzwedel - Good Results

Four concentrations of GPs in target area. At least 300 bursts on rail lines. Main railway station blanketed by bombs. Two direct hits on station platform. At least four direct hits in the storage sidings area, at least five buildings hit, three were burning. One intense explosion occurred, a gasometer adjacent to northern edge of yards was seen to be damaged and is probably the source of explosion. Photography late in the attack showed the M/Y severely damaged. RR cars derailed and other on fire.

Ludwigslust - Fair to Good Results

Two concentrations of GPs in central and eastern portions of M/Y. At least 70 hits on rail lines. Main station one probable hit. Large storage building three hits and on fire. Although yard was not heavily loaded, RR cars seen derailed; damage to yard should be severe. Approximately 100 bombs 1500 yards SE of center of M/Y on a junction and choke point. At least 25 hits on rail lines. Two road over rail bridges received probable direct hits.

Wittenberge - Good Results

Six concentrations GPs in and adjacent to target area. At least 90 direct hits on rail lines and embankment. Photography late in attack showed this choke point severely damaged in addition at least 20 hits on main highway parallel to rail line and on the approaches of this road to the crossing.

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Wittstock - Fair Results

Approximately 125 GPs in a storage area 1500 feet SW of the rail center. One large and two small warehouse type buildings received direct hit and two small explosions seen. Some damage to stored in the area.

Juneburg - Good Results

Three concentrations of GPs in and adjacent to target area. 200 bursts on rail lines and installations in engine roundhouse. Two large warehouses received direct hits. Two rail over road bridges near center of yards hit and a road bridge over Elba river at least one hit. One intense explosion in area of oil tankers in the yard.

Klotze - Poor to Fair Results

125 GPs adjacent to rail center; 14 hits on rail lines. Main weight of bombs in sparsely built up area.

Kobbeltz - Poor Results

200 GPs in and adjacent to north end of rail center. Five hits on rail lines, main weight in sparsely built up residential area.

Grabow - Fair to Good Results

Approximately 125 GPs on small village of Grabow 7 miles SW of Wittstock.

Dahnenberg - Fair Results

Approximately 90 GPs in town area of Dahnenberg 17 miles N-NW of Salzwedel. Moderate damage can be expected.

Donaueshingen - Poor Results

Pattern is seen in the SW quarter of built-up area of town and just NE of M/Y.

Aalen - Poor Results

Bombs seen in open field at edge of town.

Schwenningen - Fair Results

Pattern centers on M/Y with possibly one-half to one-third bombs on the yards.

Villingen - Good Results

Pattern is centered over M/Y blanketing one end and extending into the village.

Jingen M/Y - Good Results

Pattern seen blanketing end of M/Y and extending to built-up part of town.

Halberstadt - Good Results

Choke point solidly hit. Tight concentrations of GPs and other hits on adjacent heavy industrial buildings. Good hits were also scored on rolling stock.

Nordhausen - Fair Results

Hits were scored on the rail lines cutting some of the through tracks and scoring other hits on adjacent industrial type buildings.

Oker - Fair Results

Hits scored on a very large industrial building and other parts of a scattered pattern were seen to burst on the rail line cutting a number of the through tracks and scoring hits or near misses on rail choke points.

Wallhausen - Good Results

Through lines are out and good hits scored on rolling stock in the yard.

Wienenburg - Good Results

Tight pattern of GPs seen to burst on the through lines and the rolling stock and adjacent facilities.

Eichwege - Good Results

An exceptionally heavy explosion seen in the center of a concentration of rolling stock. Patterns of GPs seen to cut the tracks and score good hits on the rolling stock and a large industrial building. A large cloud of smoke covers part of the target, but damage is believed to be severe.

Northeim - Very Good Results

Numerous patterns of GPs seen to burst solidly on the M/Y at several points along its length on rolling stock handling facilities and junctions at the end of the M/Y. Lines seen to be cut in numerous places and it is believed that this yard is heavily damaged.

Göttingen - Very Good Results

Patterns seen to burst squarely in the M/Y and on rolling stock and adjacent industrial buildings.

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Paine - Very Good Results

Through lines cut and the choke points hit by very good patterns of GPs and other patterns of GPs seen to burst squarely on adjacent industrial buildings. Damage believed to be severe.

Celle - Good Results

A pattern bursting in the center of the M/Y and on rolling stock and trackage and adjacent buildings,

Hildersheim - Very Good Results

A heavy explosion in the rolling stock seen from hits on a probable ammunition train and other hits seen on the choke point road over rail bridge and the through line running to the south toward Dresden,

Kreinsen - Good Results

Numerous patterns of bombs bursting on the roundhouse, choke point, rail junctions and rolling stock.

Ottbergen - Good Results

Most of the through line probably cut and hits on rolling stock in the center of the yard.

5. Ground Situation

21st Army Group

- One division following counter-attack retook all lost ground and extended lines to E 9947-9745. Two other divisions hold area E9442-9141 after fighting in south part of Goch. High ground was captured southwest of Bucholt E 9543. Ninth U.S. Army area remains in flooded condition.

12th Army Group

- Heavy fighting around Euscheid P 9772 where artillery fire has halted advances west of town. A counter attack drove our elements out of P 9669 for a distance of one km. to the rear. One armored division destroyed 53 pill-boxes and approached southwest to line P 9169-9070-8871-8672. Another armored division thrust through the Siegfried line as far as P-8866, some local gains were made to P 8855-8954. One infantry division cleared area west of the Siegfried line along line P 9149-9345 and entered town at P 9349-9550 and reached point 9352 after crossing river

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Peine - Very Good Results

Through lines cut and the choke points hit by very good patterns of GPs and other patterns of GPs seen to burst squarely on adjacent industrial buildings. Damage believed to be severe.

Celle - Good Results

A pattern bursting in the center of the M/Y and on rolling stock and trackage and adjacent buildings.

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A heavy explosion in the rolling stock seen from hits on a probable ammunition train and other hits seen on the choke point road over rail bridge and the through line running to the south toward Dresden.

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- at L 0050, other elements are hold up at L 0250-0048. Good progress is reported in the "triangle". Elements of an armored division are at L 1113-1312-1117-1121-1221 and other elements cleared Saarburg.
- 6th Army Group - Fighting continues in Forbach and along line Q 4664-4567.
- Miscellaneous - "Rhine Bridge: A P/W of 15 P/Ws, 3 PG Div. states that his March Bn crossed the Rhine via the RR Bridge in Remagen F-6420 on 12 January. Due to bomb damage the bridge was closed to RR traffic, but was still open for pedestrians."
(First U.S. Army IPW Report, 12 Feb. 1945)
- "Dusseldorf: A P.W from 5 Btry, 189 Arty Regt, 89th Div. stated: 'The Rhine bridges in Dusseldorf were still untouched in spite of our consistent bombings. They are prepared for demolition and guarded by a few old Landesschuetzen who, in P/Ws opinion, would try to save their scalp first instead of destroying the bridges.'
(First U.S. Army IPW Report, 10 Feb. 1945)

6. G.A.F. Activity over England

Flying Bombs - To 2400 Hours - 19 February 1945

Nil

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B. OPERATIONS OF OTHER AIR FORCES

1. Tactical Air Forces

	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Claims</u>	<u>Losses</u>
Ninth Air Force	1741	17-0-12 A 3-0-0 G	15
R.A.F. Fighter Command	387	1-0-1 A	0
1st U.S. T.A.F.	957	9-6-5A; 0-0-1 G	10
2nd T.A.F.	1727	7-0-3A; 0-0-2 G	33
Totals	4812	34-6-21 A 3-0-3 G	58

Ninth Air Force

Sorties :

- 465 Medium Bombers
- 1053 Fighters
- 223 Reconnaissance

1741 a/o

Missions :

- 9th Bomb Division: Attacked 44 RR Bridges, rail sidings, rail junctions, 11 M/Ys and 8 other rail targets with generally good results. 850 tons dropped. 21 of the assigned targets strafed by bombers with generally good results.
- 9th T.A.C.: Dropped 136 tons on rail targets, carried out armed reconnaissance in the Giessen-Freiburg area.
- 19th T.A.C.: Dropped 79 tons on numerous rail targets and strafed rail traffic in the Bingen area.
- 29th T.A.C.: Dropped 161 tons on rail targets, carried out armed reconnaissance in the Dusseldorf Cologne areas.

Claims :

- 17-0-12 Air Engaged 10 Me-109s in Wesel area,
- 3-0-0 Ground 30 Me-109s in Dulmen area, 10 Me-109s near Holtman and 1 Me-262 near Aachen.

Losses :

- 3 Bombers
- 12 Fighters.

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Ground Claims

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
M/T	115	68
Armored Vehicles & Tanks	11	14
Locomotives	89	29
RR Cars	637	170
Bridges	0	3
Rail Cuts	185	0

RAF Fighter Command

Night - 21/22 February

Sorties : 27 Intruder Patrols
 : 22 Interception Patrols
 49 a/c

Missions : Attacked rocket sites in Western Germany

Claims : 1 O-1 a/c

Losses : Nil

Day - 22 February

Sorties : 120 Fighter Bombers
 : 210 Escort to Bombers
 : 2 Interception Patrols
 : 1 Weather Reconnaissance
 : 2 Anti-U-Boat Patrols
 338 a/c

Missions : Attacked rocket sites near The Hague and at Ockenburg.

Claims : Nil

Losses : Nil

First U.S. TAF

Night - 21/22 February

Sorties : 4 Intruder Patrols

Claims & Losses : Nil

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First TAF (Continued)

Day - 22 February

Sorties : 171 Bombers
782 Fighters & Fighter Bombers
953 a/c

Missions : Attacked rail targets in NW and Western Germany

Claims : 9-6-5 air
0-0-1 ground

Losses : 8 Bombers
2 Fighters

Ground Claims :

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Locomotives	18	20
RR Cars	281	258
M/T	35	6
Bridges	5	5
Rail Cuts	170	

Second TAF

Night - 21/22 February

Sorties : 14 Interception Patrols
18 Shipping Reconnaissance
32 a/c

Claims : 1-0-0 air

Losses : Nil

Day - 22 February

Sorties : 215 Bombers
517 Armed Reconnaissance
73 Offensive Patrols
170 Reconnaissance
183 Interception Patrols
537 Air Cooperation
1695 a/c

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Second TAF (Continued)

Day - 22 February

Missions : M/Ys, RR stations, all rail traffic in NW Germany

Claims : 6-0-3 A
0-0-2 G

Losses : 21 Mosquitoes
12 Fighters

Ground Claims :

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
M/T	76	176
Locomotives	33	133
RR Cars	75	802
Barges	12	82
Rail Cuts	110	0

2. Fifteenth Air Force

No information available.

3. R.A.F. Bomber Command

Night - 22/23 February

	<u>Targets</u>	<u>Losses</u>
73 Mosquitoes	Berlin	0
4 Mosquitoes	Erfurt	0
6 Mosquitoes	Bremen (shipyard)	0
3 Mosquitoes	Siren Tour	0
39 Mosquitoes	Bomber Support	0
16 Halifaxes		0
4 Liberators		0
4 Forts		0
4 Stirlings		0
2 Mosquitoes	Signal Investigation Patrols	0
2 Halifaxes		0
16 Stirlings	Special Operations	0
3 Hudsons		0
176 a/c - Totals		0

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Air Force Operations (Continued)

<u>Day - 22 February</u>	<u>Targets</u>	<u>Losses</u>
37 Lancasters	Gelsenkirchen/Schulzen Benzol Plant	1
82 Lancasters	Osterfeld	0
2 Mosquitoes	Photo Reconnaissance	0
16 Lancasters	Bielefeld Viaduct	0
17 Lancasters	Altenbeken	0
<u>1 Mosquitoes</u>	Weather Reconnaissance	<u>0</u>
207 a/c - Total		1

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

CHARLES Y. BANFILL,
Brig. General, U.S.A.
Dir. of Intelligence

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