

HEADQUARTERS  
13TH COMBAT BOMB WING (H)  
APO 559

Date 21 March 1945  
13 CBW FO 76  
13 CBW OPS 301  
3 AD FO 616

SUBJECT: Tactical Report (HANDORF AND PLAUEIN, GERMANY)

TO : Colonel Shuck - 95<sup>th</sup>

1. Information Concerning the Targets: a. The primary target (visual only) for 13A was the Water Gas Plant in the Synthetic Oil Plant, situated 2 miles NNE of Ruhland, Germany.

b. The primary target (visual only) for 13B was the Runways on the Handorf A/F, near Munster, Germany.

c. The primary target (visual only) for 13C was the Amunition and Dispersal Areas of the Handorf A/F, near Munster, Germany. Each Squadron was given a separate MPI.

d. The secondary targets for task force 2 were A/Fs assigned to 1st and 2nd Divisions, only if they can be bombed visually.

e. The secondary target (visual only) for 13A was the Machine and Forging Shop in the Vomag Maschinenfabrik A.G., situated 1 1/2 miles SW of Plauen, Germany.

2. Planning and Execution:

Order:	Task Force I:	Bomb Load:	Force:	Assigned Target:
(1)	4 A:			
	(a) 94	12 x 500 GP	36 A/C	Ruhland
(2)	45 A:			
	(a) 388	6 x 1000 GP	36 A/C	Ruhland
(3)	13 A:			
	(a) 100	12 x 500 GP	36 A/C	Ruhland
(4)	93 A:			
	(a) 490	6 x 1000 GP	36 A/C	Ruhland
Task Force II:				
(1)	45 B,C:			Handorf
	(a) 96	38 x 150 GP	36 A/C	
	(b) 452	38 x 100 GP	36 A/C	
(2)	13 B,C:			Handorf
	(a) 390	14 x 500 GP	36 A/C	
	(b) 95	34 x 100 GP	36 A/C	
		2 x M-17		
(3)	4 B,C,D:			
	(a) 486	38 x 150 GP	36 A/C	Marx
	(b) 447	A,B: 38 x 100 GP	36 A/C	Witt-
		C,D: 14 x 500 GP		Mundehaf-
				en

- 1 -  
CONFIDENTIAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L

(c) 487	A: 14 x 500 GP B,C,D: 38 x 100 GP	36 A/C	Witt- mundhaf- en
(4) 93 B,C,D:			
(a) 385	14 x 500 GP	36 A/C	Zwische- nahn
(b) 493	A: 14 x 500 GP B,C: 38 x 100 GP	36 A/C	Zwische- nahn
(c) 34	14 x 500 B-2	36 A/C	Marx

b. Availability:

Airborne:

(1) 95	Reg: 39 A/C Lead: 12 A/C	54 C/C 8 C/C	35 A/C 3 A/C
(2) 100	Reg: 39 A/C Lead: 10 A/C	56 C/C 7 C/C	34 A/C 4 A/C
(3) 390	Reg: 38 A/C Lead: 9 A/C	60 C/C 9 C/C	34 A/C 4 A/C

c. Non-effective Sorties and Returning Spares:

(1) 95:

A/C 8774: 412 Sqdn "B" - Gas fumes - Broken gasket in valve - Pilot Lt. Johann - No sortie.  
A/C 6475: 336 Sqdn "L" - Broken oil line - Pilot Lt. Sutton - No sortie.

(2) 100: None.

(3) 390:

A/C 6134: 568 Sqdn "D" - Hole in manifold - Could not keep up - Pilot Lt. Dinwoodie - No sortie.  
A/C 904: 569 Sqdn "L" - One oxygen system out - Pilot Lt. Beyers - Sortie.

d. Lead A/C Failures and/or Malfunctions:

(1) 95: C: H2X out. Beacons received.

(2) 100: None.

(3) 390: A-deputy: H2X set out.

A,B,C oscillation of radio compass indicator when receiving call signs for Buncher 11.

e. A/C Outstanding:

(1) 100:

A/C 613: 350 Sqdn "T" - Lt. Painter.

f. A/C Landing Away From Base:

(1) 95:

A/C 447: 336 Sqdn "H" - Two engines out - Landed at Ludham - Pilot Lt. Galbraith.

(2) 100:

A/C 503: 350 Sqdn "A" - Landed at A-89 - Pilot Lt. Blendfield.

3. Navigation: Task Force I:

Position	Flight Plan	Altitude	AL:	N:	13A (100) Lt. Col. Lyster Lt. Wild
BU 11	8000°				8000° on time on course
CP 1	8000°				8000° on time 2 mi. right
CP 2	15000°				15000° 2½ min. late 5 mi. right
CP 3	24000°				23000° 5½ min. late on course
IP	24000°				IP for secondary on course 21200°
Target	24000°				21000° (secondary)
RP	23000°				21000° on course on time
CP 4	20000°				21000° 18 min. early 1 mi. left
Continental Coast	8000°				8000° 50 min. early 5 mi. right
English Coast	Minimum				2500° 52 min. early 14 mi. left

a. Assembly: 13A assembled over Buncher 28 at 8000°. 45A was late at CP 1, forcing 13A to the right of this point. Normal interval was taken midway across the North Sea.

b. Route: The briefed route was closely followed to the IP for the primary target. At this point a southerly heading was taken, skirting the Chemnitz flak to the IP for the secondary. Bombing altitude was not made good because of cirrus clouds at 24000°. Because of fighters in the area, 13A bombed in Group formation. The RP was made good after bombs away, and the briefed route was followed to the base.

c. Weather: CAVU conditions with 2/10 cirrus at 20000° were prevalent over the base. Enroute over the North Sea and Continent there were nil to 3/10 strata-cumulus 5-7000°, and 1-3/10 cirrus 20000° increasing to 4-6/10 at 10 degrees E, 23-24000°. East of 11 degrees E there were 7-9/10 cirrus at 24000°. In the secondary target area there were 8-9/10 cirrus 23-24000° and 4-5/10 strata-cumulus at 6000°. The target was clear. Downward visibility was 15-25 miles. On the return route over the Continent there were nil-3/10 cirrus West of 11 degrees E, and 4-5/10 cumulus 5-7000° to nil to 3/10 West of 8 degrees E. CAVU over the base on return. Light non-persistent contrails 21000° to moderate and persistent contrails 23000° East of 10 degrees E. Average winds were 290/60K, 350/23K with 285/80K at the target.

d. Failures: (1) Equipment: None.

Task Force II:

Position	Flight Plan	Altitude	AL:	N:	13B (390) Maj. Englebrecht Lt. Buhrmaster	13C (95) Capt. Wright Lt. Doherty

CONFIDENTIAL

BU 11	21000°	21000° on time on course	22000° on time on course
CP 1	21750°	1 min. late 21300° 2 mi. right	22000° 1 min. late 2 mi. right
CP 2	25000°	24000° 4 min. late on course	24000° 3 min. late on course
IP	24000°	24400° 6 min. late 2 mi. left	24500° 5 min. late 6 mi. left
Target	24000°	24000° (primary)	24000° (primary)
RP	24000°	23600° 8 min. late on course	24000° 7 min. late on course
Continental Coast	20000°	21500° 15½ min. late 3 mi. left	21000° 14 min. late on course
English Coast	Minimum	4300° 1 min. late 8 mi. right	3500° on time on course

a. Assembly: 13B assembled over Buncher 11 and 13C over Buncher 23. Assembly altitude was 21000°. 13C raised their assembly to 22000° because of contrails. Wing assembly was effected at Buncher 11, and the proper interval was taken in the Division Column at GP 1.

b. Route: The route was flown essentially as briefed to the IP. 13B was 2 miles left and 13C was 6 miles left of this point because of difficult pilotage terrain. Bombing altitude was reached 10 minutes prior to the IP. The Wing was reassembled at the RP and the briefed route followed to the bases.

c. Weather: CAVU conditions over the base at take-off with 4/10 cirrus at 20000°. Enroute over the North Sea there were nil-2/10 strata cumulus at 5000°. In the target area there were nil-3/10 cirrus at 25000°. Moderate to light non-persistent contrails above 20000°. Average winds were 295/40K with 290/37K in the target area.

d. Failures: (1) Equipment:

13B radio compasses oscillated while receiving station call signs over Buncher 11.

#### 4. Bombing:

a.	Attacking:	Jettisoning:	Returning:
95	PT 35 A/C 1189 x 100 GP 64 x 500 IB	1 A/C 34 x 100 GP 2 x 500 IB	3 A/C 69 x 100 GP 4 x 500 IB
100	ST 36 A/C 420 x 500 GP	2 A/C 24 x 500 GP	
390	PT 22 A/C 317 x 500 GP TO 14 A/C 171 x 500 GP 10 x T 337	1 A/C 14 x 500 GP	2 A/C 28 x 500 GP

(a)	AL	Lt. Col. Lyster	N	Lt. Wild
	P	Capt. Williams	AN	Lt. Klinikowski
	OTG	Lt. Blockson	B	Lt. Orenderff
			R/N	Lt. Cately

(100B)

	AL	Maj. Staples	N	Lt. Kirby
	P	Capt. DePlanque	B	Lt. Svendsen
	OTG	Lt. McKeen	R/N	Lt. Rhode

(100C)

	AL	Capt. Cope	N	Lt. Graham
	P	Lt. Hutchinson	B	Lt. Zemske
	OTG	Lt. Batterman	R/N	Lt. Courdier

(b) The primary target was not attacked because of undercast conditions. After making an IP at 5030-1318, the bombardier took over. Six minutes from the BRL the bombardier identified the assigned AP and proceeded to synchronize. Immediately after synchronization was begun, the formation encountered prop wash and the bombardier experienced a tumbled gyro. After the gyro was re-leveled it tumbled again. The gyro was again re-leveled, and during the little time left the bombardier proceeded to synchronize with a caged gyro. At bombs away, nevertheless, synchronization was excellent and bubbles level. Bombs were released on a true heading of 275 degrees. C-1 Auto-Pilot was used on the bomb run.

Because of the presence of E/A, bombing was accomplished in Group formation. The lead bombardier in the high Squadron released on his own rate. In the low Squadron, however, the bombardier did not release on his own rate but off the smoke bombs of 100A. The low Squadron encountered considerable prop wash at the BRL.

(c) Bombing Altitude: 20200' True, 21000' Indicated

(d) Time of Release: 1004

(e) Method of Release: Salvo

(f) PI Report: 1. The following damage was inflicted by 100A: 6 hits on a large unidentified factory building in the assigned target area; an explosion occurred here; 6-8 hits in the small area containing Machine Shops, Fitting Shop, and the Power Plant. There were about 10 bombs that fell close to buildings in the target area, and the remainder in fields left of the target.

2. The following damage was inflicted by 100B: 2-3 hits on the Erecting Shop; 5-6 concentrated hits on a Storage Building; 2-4 hits on the assigned MPI, the Machine Shop and Forge; a concentration of about 10 bombs on a Storage Building and Offices; about 15 bombs fell on unidentified factory building short of the target area (west) and across the river (south). One explosion occurred.

3. The following damage was inflicted by 100C: the bombs all fell in fields short (south) of the target.

4. Bomb Patterns: Group: 3825°L x 3100°W  
 100A: 2220°L x 2220°W  
 100B: 2080°L x 1625°W;  
 loose pattern  
 100C: 2850°L x 1015°W

5. Bombing Errors from AP:

100A: Range : 0  
Deflection: 625°R  
Radial : 625°

6. Percent of Bombs Within 1000° & 2000°  
of the AP: 86% & 100%.

7. Bombing Results in relation to damage  
inflicted: GOOD.

8. Bombing Results in relation to sighting: GOOD.

(g) Bombing Malfunctions: 100A: A/C 512: jet-  
tisoned 12 x 500 GP near Eppendorf, Germany (5048-1314) at 0949 because  
A/C was under fighter attack. A/C 613: jettisoned 12 x 500 GP at  
103-1324 because A/C was under fighter attack. 100B: A/C 613 : re-  
turned one smoke bomb because of a rack malfunction.

o. 13B: (1) 390A Squadron: (820)

(a) AL	Maj. Englebrecht	N	Lt. Buhrmaster
P	Capt. Briggs	AN	Capt. McInerney
OTG	Lt. Howell	B	Lt. Martin
		R/N	Lt. Heaton

(b) After the maneuver at the IP, the R/N  
preceeded to set up course as ground haze restricted slant visibility.  
The bombardier, however, did pin point pilotage until three minutes  
from the BRL when he identified the assigned MPI. A normal sighting  
operation was completed with synchronization good and bubbles level  
at bombs away. Bombs were released on a true heading of 142 degrees.  
G-1 Auto-Pilot was used on the bomb run.

(c) Bombing Altitude: 24000° True, 24050° Indicated

(d) Time of Release: 0924½

(e) Method of Release: Salvo

(f) PI Report: 1. The bombs from 390A fell on  
and short of the assigned MPI, which was on the N portion of the N/S  
runway. Smoke over the target prevents a precise interpretation, but  
a heavy concentration of bombs fell on the N portion of the runway and  
L/F.

2. Bomb Pattern: 1440°L x 1440°W.

3. Bombing Errors: Range : 530°S  
Deflection: 325°R  
Radial : 615°

4. Percent of Bombs Within 1000° & 1000°  
of the MPI: 80% & 100%.

5. Bombing Results in relation to damage  
inflicted: VERY GOOD.

6. Bombing Results in relation to  
sighting: VERY GOOD.

(g) Bombing Malfunctions: A/C 007 had an acci-  
dental release at 5223-0700 and jettisoned 14 x 500 GP.

(2) 3900 Squadron: (571)

(a) AL Maj. Gross            N    Lt. Donahue  
     P   Lt. Allen            B    Lt. Smith  
                              R/N Lt. Wilcox

(b) After the maneuver at the IP, the R/N proceeded to set up course. The bombardier, however, did pin-point pilotage until 20 miles from the BRL where he identified the target area. Smoke over the assigned MPI, from preceding Squadrons, necessitated shifting the AP to near the right edge of the smoke pall. Synchronization was good at bombs away. IAS was reduced to 142 MPH because of the close interval with preceding Squadrons. Bombs were released on a true heading of 143 degrees. C-1 Auto-Pilot was used on the bomb run.

(c) Bombing Altitude: 23500° True, 23550° Indicated

(d) Time of Release: 0925

(e) Method of Release: Salvo

(f) PI Report: 1. The bombs from 390C fell around the selected AP, which was about 1000° right of the assigned MPI. There were close misses on several already damaged A/D installations, and direct hits on two small buildings. Approximately 1/2 of the bombs fell in the smoke of 390A's bombs over the N portion of the N/S runway, and the remainder on the L/F, among the NE portion of the installations, and short of the A/D in fields.

2. Bomb Pattern: 2465°L x 1440°W. One A/C out of position dropped its bombs about 1000° right of the pattern.

3. Bombing Errors: Range           : Practically 0  
                          Deflection: 525°L  
                          Radial       : 525°

4. Percent of Bombs Within 1000° & 2000° of the AP: 69% & 98%.

5. Bombing Results in relation to damage inflicted: VERY GOOD.

6. Bombing Results in relation to sighting: VERY GOOD.

(g) Bombing Malfunctions: A/C 954: released 7 x 500 GP with 390C, then joined 390B and released 7 x 500 GP with 390B formation. Reason: rack malfunctions.

(3) 390B Squadron: (750)

(a) AL Capt. Hannold        N    Lt. Obenour  
     P   Lt. Dognibene        B    Lt. Krassen  
                              R/N Lt. Garrison

(b) The primary was not attacked because the glass plate in front of the bombsight fogged up. Upon attacking a TO, which was picked up 10 miles from the BRL, the bombardier encountered the same difficulty. When bombs were released on a true heading of 289 degrees, synchronization was poor. C-1 Auto-Pilot was used on the bomb run.

Whenever bombing malfunctions occur, the Air Leader should be immediately informed and the lead relinquished to the deputy leader.

(c) Bombing Altitude: 23400' True, 23450° Indicated

(d) Time of Release: 0944

(e) Method of Release: Salvo

(f) PI Report: 1. The bombs dropped by 390B fell in woods and fields, blanketing an area resembling a bomb dispersal point, 6600° beyond (SW) the AP. There were 20-25 hits in the bomb dispersal area and 2 or 3 upon a highway.

2. Bomb Pattern: 1330°L x 2015°W. This excludes the bombs of 1 A/C which would extend the length of the pattern 1600°.

3. Bombing Errors: GROSS.

4. Percent of Bombs Within 1000° & 2000° of the AP: 0% & 0%.

5. Bombing Results in relation to damage inflicted: NIL.

6. Bombing Results in relation to sighting: POOR.

(g) Bombing Malfunctions: A/C 904 and A/C 6134 had mission failures and each returned 14 x 500 GP.

ad. 13C: (1) 95A Squadron: (8210)

(a) AL	Capt. Wright	N	Lt. Doherty
P	Capt. Hamilton	AN	Lt. Rohn
OTG	Lt. Mott	B	Lt. Asprocolas
		R/N	Lt. Burrow

(b) After the maneuver at the IP, the bombardier took over and proceeded to kill course on known check points as slight haze prevented identification of the target area until 18 miles from the BRL. 9 miles from the BRL, however, the bombardier picked up the assigned MPI and completed a normal sighting operation. Synchronization was excellent and bubbles level at bombs away. Bombs were released on a true heading of 140 degrees. C-1 Auto-Pilot was used on the bomb run.

(c) Bombing Altitude: 24000° True, 24100° Indicated

(d) Time of Release: 0925

(e) Method of Release: Minimum Train

(f) PI Report: 1. The bombs dropped by 95A fell in a wooded area surrounding the dispersal bays short of the MPI. Three bursts were visible on the inter-section of two dispersal tracks, 2 bursts were visible in the Amunition Area and seven bursts blanket two of the three dispersal bays. There are six A/C visible in this area, one of which was probably hit. There are 3 hits on the RR tracks to the NW and the bombs of 1 A/C that released early are observed 5000° short of the MPI.

2. Bomb Pattern: 1400°L x 1150°W. This excludes the bombs from 2 A/C which would extend the pattern 2050° in length.

3. Bombing Errors: Range : 1480°S  
Deflection: 450°R  
Radial : 1560°

4. Percent of Bombs Within 1000° & 2000° of the MPI: 22% & 74%.



5. Bombing Results in relation to damage inflicted: FAIR.

6. Bombing Results in relation to sighting: FAIR.

(g) Bombing Malfunctions: None.

(2) 95B Squadron: (8330)

(a) AL Capt. Grier N Lt. Sorenson  
P Lt. Jensen B Lt. Zultz  
OTG Lt. Minick R/N Lt. Painter

(b) After the maneuver at the IP, the bombardier proceeded to set up course on known check points. 18 miles from the BRL the bombardier picked up the target area, and 12 miles from the BRL he identified the assigned MPI and initiated a normal sighting operation. Bubbles were level and synchronization was excellent at bombs away. Bombs were released on a true heading of 125 degrees. C-1 Auto-Pilot was used on the bomb run. The interval between 95A and 95B was approximately 5 seconds, which was too close. Consequently, 95C's interval appeared to be too great.

(c) Bombing Altitude: 25100° True, 25200° Indicated

(d) Time of Release: 0925

(e) Method of Release: Minimum Train

(f) PI Report: 1. The bombs dropped by 95B fell in a split pattern, which blanketed the dispersal area to the left of the assigned MPI. There were 12-15 hits upon the dispersal track, 5 hits and several near misses to the Main Line Railway Tracks, and 3 of the remaining 5 A/C were probably destroyed. 2 bombs were observed in fields 1200° short of the main pattern.

2. Bomb Pattern: 1460°L x 1850°W. This measurement excludes the stray bombs of 1 A/C which would extend the pattern 645° in width.

3. Bombing Errors: Range 8 473°0  
Deflection: 8 1075°L  
Radial 8 1160°

4. Percent of Bombs Within 1000° & 2000° of the MPI: 38% & 90%.

5. Bombing Results in relation to damage inflicted: GOOD.

6. Bombing Results in relation to sighting: GOOD.

(g) Bombing Malfunctions: A/C 8774: had a mission failure and returned 34 x 100 GP and 2 x 500 IB.

(3) 95C Squadron: (8782)

(a) AL Lt. Wright N Lt. Whalen  
P Lt. Tessier B Lt. Keyes  
R/N Lt. Finfinger

(b) Initiating the bomb run on a true heading of 180 degrees, the bombardier proceeded to set up course on known check points as slight haze prevented location of the target area until 12 miles from the BRL. 9 miles from the BRL, the bombardier identified the assigned MPI and completed a normal sighting operation. Synchronization was very good and bubbles level at bombs away. Bombs were released on a final true heading of 131 degrees. C-1 Auto-Pilot was used on the bomb run.

(c) Bombing Altitude: 23500° True, 23600° Indicated

(d) Time of Release: 0926

(e) Method of Release: Minimum Train

(f) PI Report: 1. The bombs dropped by 95C fell in smoke of 95B's bursts in the vicinity of C Squadron's MPI. Two bursts were visible on the Main Line RR tracks, 14 were in fields short of the tracks and the remaining bombs are obscured by smoke. Only 14 bursts are visible outside the 1000° circle.

2. Bomb Pattern, Bombing Errors, Percent of Bombs Within 1000° & 2000° of the MPI could not be ascertained.

(g) Bombing Malfunctions: A/C 6475: had a mission failure and returned 34 x 100 GP and 2 x 500 IB. A/C 8469: returned 1 x 100 GP because of a rack malfunction. A/C 8106: jettisoned 34 x 100 GP and 2 x 500 IB early on the bomb run. This was due to a personnel error.

e. PFF Narrative:

(1) 13A:

Four PFF A/C were dispatched. All sets operated satisfactorily and assistance was given for navigation and bombing. Bombing was by visual means.

(2) 13B:

Four PFF A/C were dispatched. 390A deputy set was out because of a deficient transmitting tube. 390A, B, C were able to receive the course beacon strongly. There was no rate beacon in operation on the Continent. H2X assist was given in navigation.

(3) 13C:

Three PFF A/C were dispatched. 95A and B sets operated satisfactorily with good beacon reception and gave assistance in navigation. 95C had good beacon reception, however, the search function of the set was inoperative due to malfunction of altitude potentiometer unit.

5. Communications: a. VHF: (1) (a) The 100 Group, led by Lt. Col. Lyster, was in Task Force I. Discipline on Channel A was reported good, and all contacts on this channel were made without difficulty.

(b) 390 and 95 Groups, led by Maj. Englebrecht and Capt. Wright respectively, reported good communications on Channel A in Task Force II. 390B had some unnecessary chatter, and just before the IP was reached there was an unnecessary transmission. Leader ordered the channel clear, however, and discipline was good in target area.

(2) (a) 100 Group Leader reported communications good on Channel B. Weather reports were received from Kodak A/C, and Control Points 1 and 2 were sent to Division Ground Station; Control Points 3 and 4 were not sent.

(b) Task Force II reported good contacts with Kodak A/C and Division Ground Station, except for a period at OP 2 when Arrow-swift seemed to be out of range.

(3) (a) Fighters were readily contacted in TF I. Aid was requested and received.

(b) In TF II, 390 Leader delegated high Leader to contact fighters. Contact was established, and Leader later answered fighters directly.

(4) No distress transmissions were reported in either TF. Leader of 100A reported some jamming of all VHF Channels approximately one minute before E/A attacked the Group. Jamming stopped as the E/A left.

b. W/T: (1) Some slight jamming of Division W/T Station was reported at 1030; otherwise reception was good. In TF I, 100 Group Leader sent only Strike Report as bombing was done in Group formation.

(2) Control Points: (a) Task Force I:

	CP1	CP2	CP3	TGT	CP4
Flight Plan	0719	0754	0907	0934	1035
ATA	0718	0756	0912	1003	1017
TOD	0726	0820	0922	1013	1051

(b) Task Force II:

	CP1	CP2	TGT
Flight Plan	0819	0847	0919
ATA	0819	0851	0924
TOD	0834	0857	0936

(3) Strike Reports: (a) Task Force I:

100A S A 2 1003 TOD 1013

(b) Task Force II:

390A	P A 5	0924	TOD 0931
390B	S A 4	0944	TOD 0950
390C	P A 2	0925	TOD 0933
95A	P A 2	0925	TOD 0940
95B	P A 2	0925	TOD 0934
95C	P A 5	0926	TOD 0945

6. Photography: a. 95 installed 3 scope, 5 oblique, and 9 vertical cameras, 3, 5, and 8 of which took pictures: A/C 6902, #2 A/C of lead element in 95A: failed to take-off. Four sets of scope photos received, 3 of which were beacon photos and 1, H2X photos. Beacon photos were unplottable, because only one beacon was used on bomb run. H2X photos are plottable.

b. 100 installed 2 16 mm scope, 1 oblique, and 9 vertical cameras, 1, 0, and 9 of which took pictures: PFF A/C 8705, lead A/C of 100B, camera out of time; A/C 8503 flying #3 high element of 100A with oblique camera aboard, missing in action. 1 roll 16 mm negatives were received.

c. 390 installed 4 scope, 2 oblique, and 9 vertical cameras, 3, 2, and 9 of which took pictures: PFF A/C 6837 flying #2 A/C lead element of 390A; remote scope ripped out and used for bombing. The negatives taken by the oblique cameras were too thin to print. Three sets of scope photos were received, 2 of which were H2X photos and 1, beacon photos. The beacon photos are not plottable, because only one beacon was used on the bomb run. H2X photos are plottable.

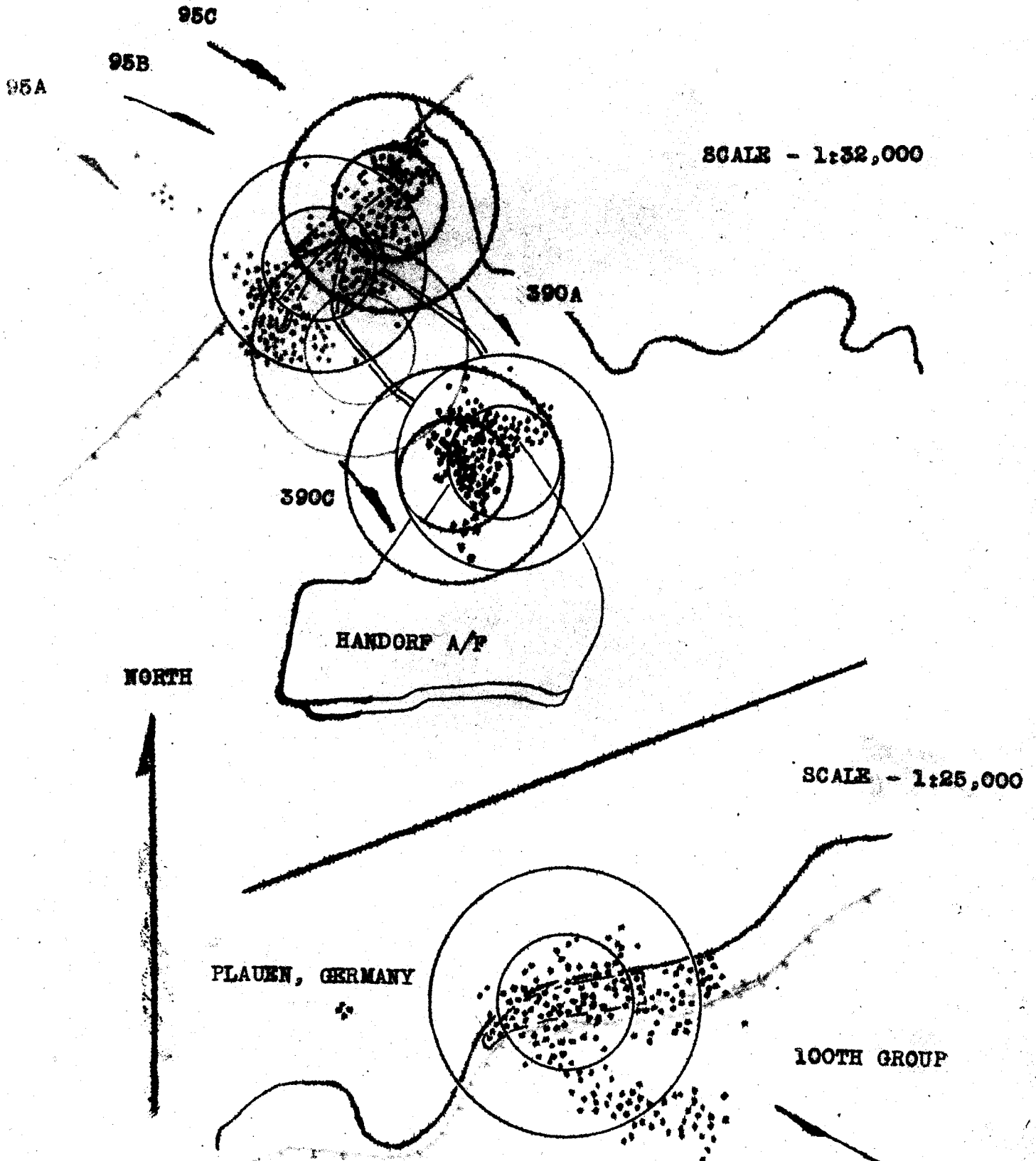
By Command of Brigadier General HUGLIN:

*Ernest A. Kiessling*

ERNEST A. KIESSLING,  
Lt. Col., Air Corps,  
Director of Training & Analysis.

- 13A GROUP: ATTACKED THE SECONDARY TARGET VISUALLY IN GROUP FORMATION.  
100TH (red dots)
  - 13B GROUP: A & C SQUADRONS ATTACKED THE PRIMARY VISUALLY. B ATTACKED A T.O. VISUALLY. 390A (red dots) 390C (purple dots)
  - 13C GROUP: ATTACKED THE PRIMARY TARGET VISUALLY BY SQUADRONS.  
95A (green dots) 95B (red dots) 95C (purple dots)
- CIRCLES - 1000' and 2000' from the MPIs. Purple circle for 390C was chosen AP.

390B SQUADRON ATTACKED VORDEN A/F.



STATION

119

FORM 3

DATE

21  
~~20~~ MAR 45

LET	SHIP	PILOT	TARGET	TIME OFF		LANDING		REMARKS
				EST	ACT	EST	ACT	
335	J 8210	HAMILTON	"A" SQUADRON	✓	600		1145	
<del>334</del> <del>333</del>	L <del>669175</del>	RICHARDSON		✓	650		1132	
335	E 6838	SEABURG		✓	616		1144	
335	R 7783	PALMER		✓	617		1147	
412	P 8441	LEGG		✓	618		1146	
335	X 8346	VOLZ		✓	619		1147	
335	S 9052	BRADLEY		✓	621		1150	
335	F 8942	CRAWFORD		✓	612		1209	
412	C 8140	HANSEN		✓	623		1149	
335	K 8269	NELSON, RA		✓	615		1151	
335	H 7376	TURNER		✓	616		1148	
412	V 9177	MARKEK		✓	623		1150	
			"B" SQUADRON					
334	M 8230	JENSEN		✓	601		1135	
412	J 8826	SHAPIR		✓	602		1130	
334	P 9152	<del>ROK</del> TWINING		✓	609		1135	

STATION \_\_\_\_\_

FORM 3

DATE 21 Mar 45

	LET	SHIP	PILOT	TARGET	TIME OFF		LANDING		REMARKS
					EST	ACT	EST	ACT	
334	B	8776	RIVET		✓	606		1137	
334	T	8996	CUMMINGS		✓	620		1136	
334	X	8990	HELGESON		✓	607		1136	
412	H	6522	WILLIS		✓	608		1140	
334	J	7201	BROWN		✓	609		1143	
<del>412</del>	<del>B</del>	<del>8774</del>	JOHANN	no		622		652	aborted
334	F	7154	SHEPARD		✓	613		1139	
412	<del>F</del>	<del>8774</del>	CHRISTAL		✓	611		1144	
412	Z	8281	YOUNG		✓	614		1138	
412	G	8331	DULLE			605		1148	
			"C" SQUADRON X						
412	R	8782	TESSIER		✓	604		1153	
336	E	8106	ROSS			603		1155	
412	M	8741	COLEMAN		✓	633		1153	
336	U	8469	SALVO			626		1157	
336	L	6475	SUTTON	no		631		643	aborted



HE QUARTERS 3D BOMBARDMENT DIVISION  
"J" FORM

GP.  
STA.

1. DATE 21/3/44 TARGET \_\_\_\_\_ DUTY OFFICERS LT. WELLS
2. CBW 13C GROUP 95C GP. LEADER LT. WRIGHT A/C ~~782~~ 8782 W/T TRBR  
POSITION LOW DEPUTY LDR. LT. ROSS A/C 8106 W/T MXWE
3. EST. TAXI TIME 0605 EST. T.O. 1ST A/C 0625 ETD BASE 0800  
MTR BASE 1139
4. NUMBER A/C ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED 13 NUMBER OF SPARES PPF INCLUDED

HE QUARTERS 3D BOMBARDMENT DIVISION  
"J" FORM

GP. 95  
STA. 119

1. DATE 21/3/45 TARGET \_\_\_\_\_ DUTY OFFICERS LT. WELLS
2. CBW 13C GROUP 95B GP. LEADER CAPT GREER A/C 8230 W/T JCKM  
POSITION HIGH DEPUTY LDR. LT. SHARAR A/C 8826 W/T TRB-J
3. EST. TAXI TIME 0555 EST. T.O. 1ST A/C 0605 ETD BASE 0800  
MTR BASE 1139

PPF

HE QUARTERS 3D BOMBARDMENT DIVISION  
"J" FORM

GP. 95  
STA. 119

1. DATE 21/3/45 TARGET \_\_\_\_\_ DUTY OFFICERS LT. WELLS
2. CBW 13C GROUP 95A GP. LEADER CAPT. WRIGHT A/C 8210 W/T UCLJ  
POSITION LEAD DEPUTY LDR. LT. RICHARDSON A/C 6902 W/T UCLG
3. EST. TAXI TIME 0605 EST. T.O. 1ST A/C 0605 ETD BASE 0800  
MTR BASE 1139

PPF

called in  
0235



War Room  
Mac

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13TH COMBAT BOMB WING (H)

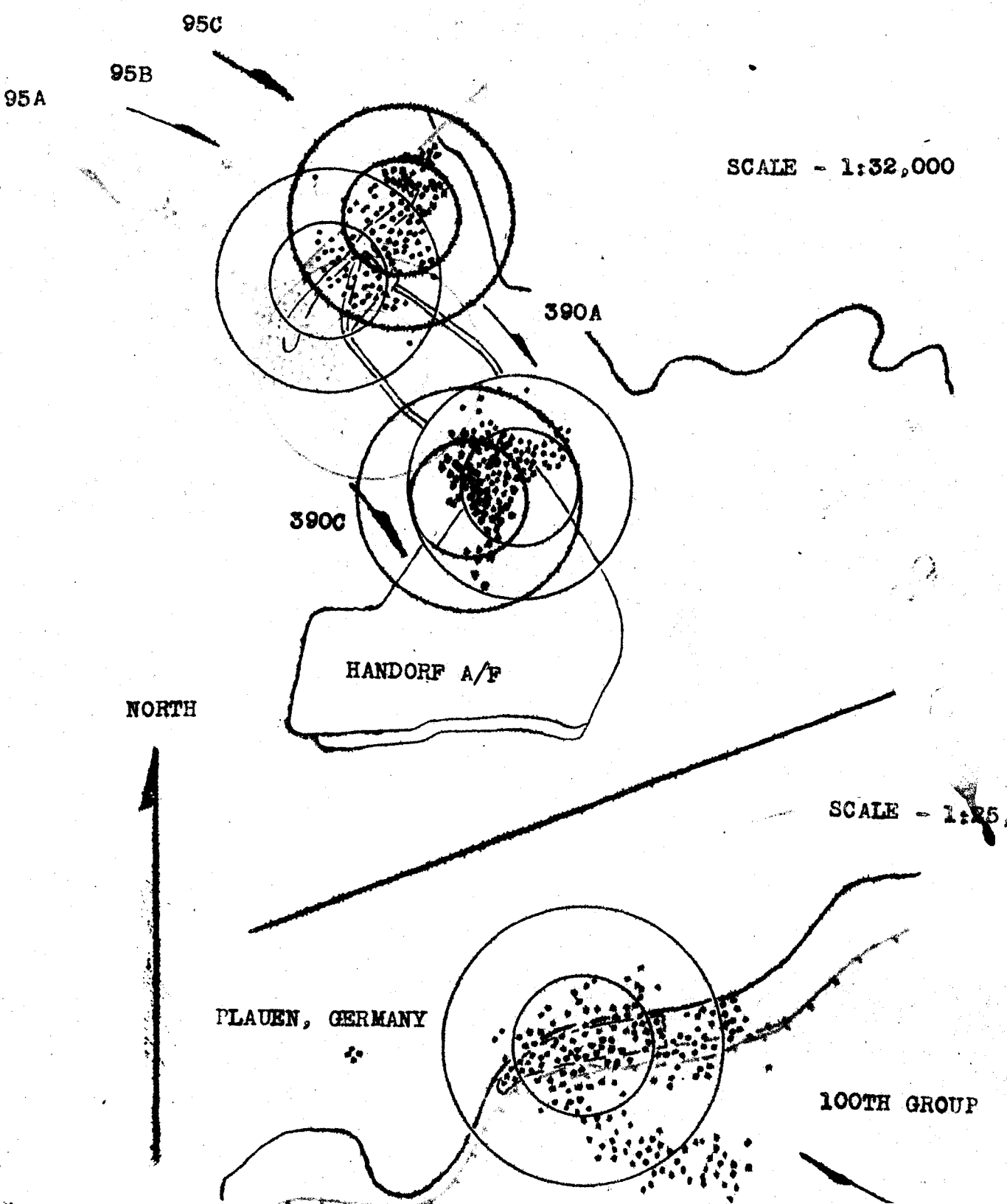
HANDORF A/F, GERMANY  
PLAUEN, GERMANY

21 MARCH 4

- 13A GROUP: ATTACKED THE SECONDARY TARGET VISUALLY IN GROUP FORMATION  
100TH (red dots)
- 13B GROUP: A & C SQUADRONS ATTACKED THE PRIMARY VISUALLY. B ATTACKED  
A T.O. VISUALLY. 390A (red dots) 390C (purple dots)
- 13C GROUP: ATTACKED THE PRIMARY TARGET VISUALLY BY SQUADRONS.  
95A (green dots) 95B (red dots) 95C (purple dots)

CIRCLES - 1000' and 2000' from the MPIs. Purple circle for 390C was chosen AP.

390B SQUADRON ATTACKED VORDEN A/F.



War Room  
Mac

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13TH COMBAT BOMB WING (H)

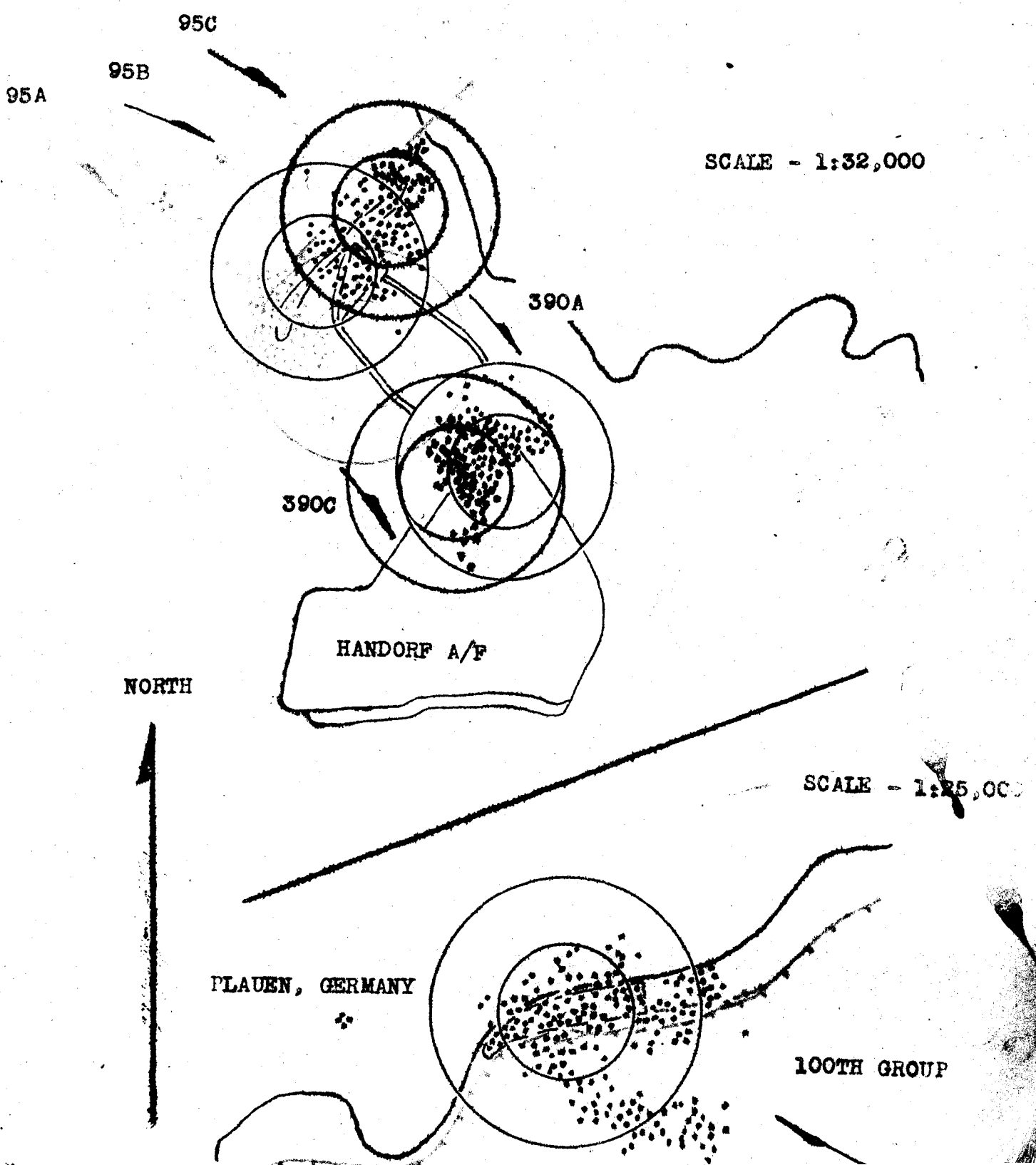
HANDORF A/F, GERMANY  
PLAUEN, GERMANY

21 MARCH 45

- 13A GROUP: ATTACKED THE SECONDARY TARGET VISUALLY IN GROUP FORMATION.  
100TH (red dots)
- 13B GROUP: A & C SQUADRONS ATTACKED THE PRIMARY VISUALLY. B ATTACKED  
A T.O. VISUALLY. 390A (red dots) 390C (purple dots)
- 13C GROUP: ATTACKED THE PRIMARY TARGET VISUALLY BY SQUADRONS.  
95A (green dots) 95B (red dots) 95C (purple dots)

CIRCLES - 1000' and 2000' from the MPis. Purple circle for 390C was chosen AP.

390B SQUADRON ATTACKED VORDEN A/F.



S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
AAF STATION 101  
APO 634

SECRET  
By authority of  
C.G., Eighth Air Force  
Initials, J.F.A.  
Date: 21 March 1945

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 325

PERIOD: 0001 hours 21 March to 2400 hours 21 March 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.	1400	1353	3219.9	3-3-3A	4	2	3	9	0
Fighter Escort (a)	796	736	8.2	9-0-0A 46-0-10G	0	3	8	11	8
Fighter Sweeps	36	36	0	0-0-0(b)	0	0	0	0	0
Fighter Bombing	0	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Photo Recon.	31	24	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Weather Recon.	45	45	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Air/Sea Rescue	23	23	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Operations	19	19	10.6	0-0-0 (c)	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	2380	2266	3238.7	12-3-3 A 46-0-10G(d)	4	5	11	20	8

- (a) Includes two groups based on Continent.
- (b) 0-0-6 gliders
- (c) Me-262s
- (d) Includes 13-0-4 jet a/c

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

1400 a/c (890 B-17s, 510 B-24s) from three Air Divisions sortied against ten A/Fs in western and northwestern Germany and a synthetic oil plant in eastern Germany as follows:

MORNING: 1308 a/c (890 B-17s, 418 B-24s) from three Air Divisions sortied in five forces against nine A/Fs in western and northwestern Germany and Ruhland synthetic oil plant. 1263 a/c dropped 3025.3 tons (1779.5 tons GP,

S E C R E T

1229.8 tons Frag and 16 tons IB) on assigned A/Fs, one secondary and three T/Os. All bombing visual, with Gee-H assists in some cases. Weather: CAVU to 2/10 low cloud, with some ground haze. E/A Opposition: only the first force on deep penetration was attacked. Some 16 - 17 Me-262s made attacks in Wittenberg, Giessen and Torgau areas. Other e/a were sighted, but effective fighter support prevented them from reaching bombers. Claims: 3-3-3 Me-262s, Air. Losses: 9 a/c (8 B-17s, 1 B-24 - 4 to e/a, 2 to AA, 3 to unknown causes).

AFTERNOON: 92 B-24s, 2nd Air Division, sortied against Essen/Mulheim A/F. 90 a/c dropped 194.6 tons (108.8 tons Frag and 85.8 tons GP) on primary visually at 1802-1808 hours from 21,500 - 23,800 feet. Weather: CAVU with ground haze. Flak: moderate to intense, accurate. Battle Damage: 55 minor, 5 major. E/A Opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: nil. NYR: nil. Bombing results - very good.

First Force

Four group formations (152 B-17s, 3rd Air Division) sortied against Ruhland synthetic oil refinery. Primary not attacked, due to weather. 142 a/c dropped 410.3 tons GP on Plauen-Vomag tank plant, on Reichenbach (T/O) and a u/i T/O at 0959-1004 hours from 20,300-23,500 feet. Bombing visual. Leaflets dropped on Reichenbach. Weather: 10/10 undercast at primary; CAVU to 2/10 at targets attacked. Flak: meager, moderate, fairly accurate at Plauen. Battle damage: 36 minor, 12 major. E/a Opposition: Attacks as follows--3-4 Me-262s east of Wittenberg, 6 Me-262s North of Giessen, 7 Me-262s North of Torgau. Claims: 3-3-3, Air. Losses: 5 B-17s (4 to e/a, 1 to unknown causes). NYR: nil.

Fighter Support: Six groups, including two groups based on Continent, (314 P-51s) sortied. Up 0650-0730 hours, down 1140-1315 hours. 273 effective sorties. E/a opposition: 8 t/e jets engaged Plauen area, 4 Me-262s in Meiningen area, 5-6 Me-262s area of Ottingen A/F, 10-15 Me-262s NE of Wittenberg. Several other jets and some conventional s/e e/a sighted. 5 u/i t/e, probably jets, strafed on Alt-Lonnowitz A/F. Claims: 9-0-0 Me-262s, Air, 3-0-0 u/i t/e ground. Losses: 2 P-51s (1 to AA, possibly down in Russian-held territory, 1 to unknown causes). NYR: 3 P-51s - 2 believed and 1 known safe on Continent.

Details of Bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Eff. Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Results</u>
Ruhland Syn. Oil Plant	152	Not Attacked		
Plauen AFV (Sec)		107	312.3	Fair - Poss. Good.
<u>Other Targets</u>				
Reichenbach		34	95.0	Fair
U/I T/O		1	3.0	Unobserved
Totals	152	142	410.3	

Second Force

Four group formations (151 B-17s, 3rd Air Division) sortied against Handorf A/F. 143 a/c dropped 364.2 tons (348.2 tons GP, 16 tons TB) on primary and on one other target (Vorden A/F) at 0920-0954 hours from 22,800-24,800 feet. Bombing visual. Leaflets dropped on Vorden. Weather: CAVU - to 2/10 low cloud. Flak: meager to moderate, accurate. Battle damage: 56 minor, 15 major, 1 Cat. "E". E/a Opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 1 B-17 to AA. NYR: nil.

Fighter Support: Two groups (98 P-51s) sortied. Up 0752-0759 hours; down 1245-1305 hours. 94 effective sorties. E/a opposition: nil. Groups gave top cover to other groups strafing A/Fs at Hopsten and Salzbergen, and one group strafed A/Fs in Dummer Lake and Steinhuder Lake areas. Claims: 0-0-2 ground. Losses: nil. NYR: 1 P-51, safe on Continent.

Details of Bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Eff. Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>GP</u>	<u>TB</u>	
Handorf A/F	151	129	305.4	16.0	Very Good
<u>Other Target</u>					
Vorden A/F	—	14	42.8	—	Poor
Totals	151	143	348.2	16.0	

Third Force

Six group formations (214 B-17s, 3rd Air Division) sortied against Zwischenahn, Marx and Wittmundhafen A/Fs. 208 a/c dropped 597.7 tons GP on primaries visually at 0935-0948 hours from 23,000-25,000 feet. Leaflets dropped on Wittmundhafen and Marx. Weather: CAVU to 2/10 low cloud. Flak: nil to meager, very inaccurate. Battle damage: 1 minor. E/a Opposition: nil. One u/i e/a sighted near Marx A/F, 1 Me-410 over Wittmundhafen A/F. No attacks. Claims: nil. Losses: nil. NYR: nil.

Fighter Support: Two groups (109 P-51s) sortied. Up 0819-0830 hours; down 1245-1345 hours. 108 effective sorties. One group strafed Achmer A/F. Claims: 2-0-8 ground. Losses: 1 P-51 to unknown causes. NYR: nil.

Details of Bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Eff. Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Results</u>
Zwischenahn A/F	60	57	180.6	Good
Marx A/F	77	77	238.7	Good - Very Good
Wittmundhafen A/F	77	74	178.4	Very Good
Totals	214	208	597.7	

S E C R E T

Fourth Force

Forty-one squadron formations (418 B-24s, 2nd Air Division) sortied against Alhorn, Hesepe and Achmer A/Fs. 406 a/c dropped 918.7 tons (821.0 tons Frag; 97.7 tons GP) on primaries visually at 0934-0948 hours from 18,600-22,200 feet. Leaflets dropped on Achmer and Hesepe. Weather: CAVU with slight haze at targets and enroute. Flak: nil at Alhorn, nil to meager, generally inaccurate at other targets. Battle damage: 21 minor. E/a Opposition: nil. Losses: 1 B-24 to unknown causes.

Fighter Support: Two groups (99 P-51s) sortied. Up 0752-0826 hours, down 1153-1230 hours. 95 effective sorties. E/a opposition: nil. Both groups strafed Achmer A/F. Claims: 35-0-30 ground, including 13-0-4 jet a/c of which 10-0-0 were AR-234s. Four dummy a/c also destroyed. Losses: 5 P-51s to unknown causes. NYR: 2 P-51s.

Details of Bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Target</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Eff. Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
			GP	Frag.	
Alhorn A/F	65	61	75.9	275.1	Very Good
Hesepe A/F	169	165	21.8	330.8	Very Good
Achmer A/F	184	180		415.1	Very Good
Totals	418	406	97.7	821.0	

Fifth Force

Ten group formations (373 B-17s - 1st Air Division) sortied against Hopsten and Rheine A/Fs. 364 a/c dropped 734.4 tons (325.6 tons GP, 408.8 tons Frag) on primaries and on two other A/Fs at 0950-1028 hours from 20,000-24,000 feet. Bombing visual with Gee-H assists in some cases. Leaflets dropped on Rheine and Hopsten. Weather: CAVU, with some drifting clouds and haze. Flak: nil to meager, generally inaccurate. Battle damage: 35 minor, 14 major. E/a Opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 2 B-17s (1 to AA, 1 to unknown causes).

Fighter Support: Two groups (102 P-51s) sortied. Up 0823-0830 hours; down 1200-1220 hours. 97 effective sorties. One group strafed Salzbergen A/F for no claims. The other group, after escorting, bombed and strafed Hopsten A/F. 33 a/c dropped 8.2 tons frag with unobserved results. Strafing claims: 6-0-0 s/e ground. Losses: 3 P-51s (2 to AA, 1 to unknown causes). NYR: 2 P-51s, believed safe.

Details of Bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Eff. Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
			GP	Frag.	
Hopsten A/F	191	159	139.1	185.9	Good
Rheine A/F	182	180	163.8	198.2	Good
Hesepe A/F		13		24.7	(Poor)
Achmer A/F		12	22.7		(Fair)
Totals	373	364	325.6	408.8	

S E C R E T

2. Fighter Escort

Sixteen groups, including two groups based on the Continent (796 P-51s) sortied in support of bomber forces as follows:

MORNING: Fourteen groups including two groups based on Continent (722 P-51s) sortied in support of five bomber forces. Up 0650-0830 hours; down 1140-1345 hours. 667 effective sorties. E/a opposition: 25-30 Me-262s engaged in Plauen, Meiningen, Wittenberg and Ottlingen areas. Jet and orthodox e/a strafed over Achmer, Alt-Lonnewitz and Hopsten A/Fs. -33 P-51s dropped 8.2 tons GF on latter A/F. Claims: 9-0-0 Me-262, Air; 46-0-40 ground, including 13-0-4 jet a/c. Four dummy a/c also destroyed on ground. Losses: 11 P-51s (3 to AA, 8 to unknown causes. NYR: 8 P-51s, believed safe.

AFTERNOON: Two groups (74 P-51s) sortied. Up 1624-1636 hours; down 1930-1940 hours. 69 effective sorties. E/a Opposition: nil. Claims and Losses: nil. NYR: 1 P-51.

3. Fighter Sweeps

One group (36 P-51s) sortied against Giebelstadt A/F. Up 1507 hours; down 1900 hours. 36 effective sorties. Swept Wurzburg-Giebelstadt area uneventfully. No e/a seen on Giebelstadt A/F. Gliders on a training field vicinity of Ochsenfurt strafed. Claims: 0-0-6 Gliders. Losses: nil.

4. Fighter Bombing

Nil

5. Photo Reconnaissance

31 a/c (16 F-5s, 1 Spitfire, 1 P-38, 13 P-51s) sortied as follows:

- 1 Spitfire photographed RR activity in central Germany.
- 9 F-5s obtained photos of targets in Ruhr area.
- 1 P-38 obtained photos in Nurnberg area.
- 7 F-5s aborted
- 13 P-51s provided escort
- Losses: nil

6. Weather Reconnaissance

45 a/c (4 B-17s, 6 Mosquitoes, 35 P-51s) sortied as follows:

- 2 B-17s on routine flight over sea to NW of Lands End.
- 2 B-17s on weather flights to and from Azores.
- 6 Mosquitoes flew weather flights over North Sea, Belgium, western Germany, U.K., South of Ireland, central Germany and Scotland.
- 35 P-51s as weather scouts to bomber operations. 1 P-51 crash-landed on return.
- Losses: nil

S E C R E T

7. Air/Sea Rescue

23 a/c (16 P-47s, 3 PBVs, 4 P-51s) sortied. 16 P-47s, 3 PBVs, with escort of 4 P-51s on routine search and patrol. One incident reported. Losses: nil.

8. Special Operations

49 a/c (23 B-24s, 4 B-17s, 16 P-51s, 6 Mosquitoes) sortied as follows:

12 B-24s dropped leaflets over Holland and Germany night 20/21 March. All effective.

11 B-24s sortied in support of bomber operations -- 3 a/c jamming from 0437-0848 hours, 7 a/c jamming from 0720-0837 hours, 1 a/c jamming from 0655-0910 hours. Losses: nil.

3 B-17s, escorted by 6 P-51s, on special operation dropped 10.6 tons GP on IJmuiden.

1 B-17, escorted by 4 P-51s, on special operation dropped 2 tons special bombs on Oberusel. A/c completed mission and returned safely.

6 P-51s as airborne radio relays. All effective.

2 Mosquitoes on special operations in support of 2nd and 3rd Air Divisions. Both a/c completed mission and returned safely.

4 Mosquitoes on chaff dispensing mission in support of 1st Air Division.

Losses: nil.



C. INTELLIGENCE1. Enemy Air OppositionMorning Operation

In today's operations the enemy continued current trend of employing moderately strong forces of t/e jet a/c to oppose strategic heavy bomber penetrations. The only bomber force opposed was the comparatively small force bombing Plauen. Sightings indicate some 30 plus Me-262s were employed to defend the vital Leipzig area. Skillful use of haze and high cirrus cloud at bomber altitudes enabled an aggressive enemy to definitely destroy four of the five bombers lost by this bomber force. Escorting fighters and bombers claim to have destroyed 9 and 3 Me-262s respectively. There was again no s/e opposition.

The main e/a attacks occurred from around 0930 to 0945 hours in the Wittenberg - Torgau area, some 20 to 25 minutes before bombing. The 3rd Group in the bomber column lost the lead a/c of the low element to a five minute attack by three to four Me-262s which aggressively approached from 6 o'clock level. The last Group in the column was attacked viciously by 7 to 8 Me-262s for nine minutes. Four separate attacks were made by one to three e/a, which concentrated on the low squadron, approaching from five to seven o'clock high to level and aggressively pressing attacks to within 75 yards range. These attacks on the last Group resulted in the loss of three bombers, one of which is reported to have been rammed by e/a. Some of the e/a flew right through the bomber formation. Eight to ten Me-262s attempted interception without success on withdrawal in the Meiningen - Marburg area, making a few individual passes from 6 o'clock level. During strongest e/a attacks escorting fighters were at an extreme disadvantage, being unable to employ an altitude advantage to break up enemy attacks on bombers flying just below and in lower edge of cloud layer. However, many of the e/a, some of which were apparently trying to attack in flights of four flying line abreast, were prevented from reaching the bombers. In all, our fighters encountered 30 or more Me-262s today for claims of nine destroyed. Two of the e/a were destroyed near Oettingen A/F shortly after taking off.

A large formation of conventional s/e with two jets, sighted by early returning fighters at 0930 in the Hengelo area at 30,000 feet, was presumably concerned with tactical operations.

A very few scattered t/e jet a/c were sighted by our large forces operating over northwest Germany, but no opposition developed.

Afternoon Operation

No e/a opposed B-24s attacking Essen/Mulheim A/F.

2. Flak

Plauen - Moderate, fairly accurate.  
Hopsten A/F - Nil to meager and accurate.  
Rheine A/F - Nil to meager, inaccurate.  
Handorf A/F - Meager to moderate, accurate.  
Marx A/F - Nil to meager, very inaccurate.  
Zwischodahn A/F - Nil to meager, very inaccurate.  
Wittmundhafen A/F - Nil to meager, very inaccurate.  
Essen - Intense, accurate.  
Alhorn A/F - Nil.  
Hesepe A/F - Nil to meager, generally inaccurate.  
Achmer A/F - Nil to meager, generally inaccurate.

3. Observations

A/c in woods west of Bergen A/F.

A/F at 5246-0613E, 6 miles north of Meppel seen with several a/c and appeared to have underground hangar.

What appeared to be a landing strip was observed at 5247-0717E. A/F not plotted and had not been bombed.

New NW-SE runway observed on Steenwijk/Havelte.

Runway extended into wooded area at 5235-1031E (probably Wesendorf) - with shining objects seen in woods, believed to be dispersed a/c.

20 e/a parked in A/F at 5049-1250E (probably Chemnitz).

23 e/a parked in A/F at 5120-1112E (probably Esperstedt).

20 a/c parked in A/F at 5228-0808E (probably Vorden).

About 50 t/e e/a on A/F at 5133-1313 E (Lonnwitz).

A tower with revetments on SE edge of woods six miles NW of Ligen (5236-0713E). Large factory observed in same woods.

M/Y at Quackenbruck well filled and very active.

M/Y sidings reported full at Meppel.

Rheine M/Y very active.

Reisa M/Y (5119-1318E) heavily loaded.

Saalfeld M/Y heavily loaded.

Factory with new road construction observed in woods at 5239-0711E.

4 oil storage tanks in woods - one exposed, others deep in wooded area - at 5232-0700E.

4. Damage to Enemy Installations

Hopsten A/F - Good Results.

At time of attack 18 a/c were visible on the A/F. Of the 13 concentrations of G.P. and Frag. bombs dropped, 12 were plotted in and adjacent to the A/F and dispersal area. Haze and type of bombs dropped made pin-pointing of individual bursts impossible. However, the following hits could be seen in installations:

S E C R E T

At least 70 hits on runway.

4 hits on northernmost hangar, fires burning late in attack.

2 groups of frag. bombs blanketed the ammunition dump. Four explosions seen and fires burning late in the attack.

Installations at SE corner of the field blanketed by frag. bursts.

Probable damage to six a/c in this area from hits or near hits.

Flak installations seen hit from frag. bombs.

This attack should render the field unserviceable until damage to runways is repaired, as the center of the landing ground was completely blanketed by the G.P. bombs.

Blaine A/F - Good Results.

15 concentrations of G.P. and Frag. bombs plotted in and adjacent to A/F and dispersal areas. Hazy photography and type of bomb made it impossible to pinpoint all bursts. However, hits could be seen on the following installations:

Approximately 75 hits on runways from G.P. bombs.

Eastern half of SW dispersal area blanketed by G.P. bombs.

Repair hangar and RR lines at N end of field blanketed by frag. bombs.

One severe explosion on rail lines.

Machine gun range and refueling area at W side of field blanketed by frag. bombs.

Work shop at NW corner of landing ground blanketed by frag. bombs. The NW dispersal area and barracks area well covered by frag. bombs. At least 5 a/c were visible in a wooded area one mile W of the A/F. This area was hit by one concentration of frag. bombs with possible damage to a/c.

This A/F should be unserviceable, as damage to runways and landing ground is severe.

Achmer A/F - Very Good Results.

One concentration of G.P. bombs could be seen bursting in the NE portion of the A/F, blanketing the intersection of the NE-SW and NW-SE runways. Individual pin-pointing of bomb strikes impossible due to haze. However, from concentrations noted it was evident that both of these runways received direct hits. The machine gun testing range was also hit. All parts of A/F well hit.

Hesere A/F - Very Good Results.

One concentration of frag. Bombs could be seen bursting in open areas approx. 1500 yards SE of the center of the A/F as a result of small force attack, but main attack by 2nd Division left greater part of A/F blanketed with bursts. Hits on runways, landing ground, dispersal areas and a few bursts in adjacent fields.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Alhorn A/F - Very Good Results.

A/F is well covered with bursts, including hits on runways, landing grounds and dispersal areas.

Wittmundhafen A/F - Very Good Results.

Bombed by eight squadrons carrying 500 lb. G.P. and 100 lb. G.P. bombs. At least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the bombs fell on the A/F and runway. Of the 23 small a/c seen on the field none appear to be under the patterns. Four of the a/c are possible jet planes.

Randorf A/F - Very Good Results.

Target attacked by 11 squadrons which dropped 100 and 500 lb. G.P.'s and a few 500 lb. I.B. clusters. Most of the field was covered by patterns although smoke prevented accurate location of some of these. 29 a/c were counted on the field plus another eight along the end of the N-S runway which had the appearance of being either repaired or junked - total being 37. Of these, 15 were under or very close to the edge of pattern plus the eight whose condition is unknown - total being 23.

Plauen - Fair, Possibly Good Results.

Bombed by seven squadrons carrying 500 G.P. bombs and three squadrons with 100 lb. G.P. bombs. Part of the group pattern, probably  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the bombs of 500 G.P., blanket most of the target area with bursts on the foundry, machine shop and store houses. One ship-load of 500 G.P. is seen on the cellulose factory  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile beyond the plant resulting in a small fire.

Marx A/F - Good to Very Good Results.

Attacked by three squadrons using 500 G.P. and three squadrons using 150 G.P. bombs. The central part of the A/F was blanketed and all runways are probably unserviceable with nearly all bombs on the A/F. Of the 15 a/c seen on the field probably 2 are under the patterns.

Zwischenhahn A/F - Good Results.

This target was attacked by three squadrons dropping 500 lb. G.P. and three squadrons carrying 100 lb. G.P. Of the latter only two squadrons hit the field. Ten a/c were on the field at time of attack. Two 500 lb. patterns are seen on the SE corner of the field and later photographs show that the two large hangars in this area have been flattened. The other three patterns cover most of the balance of the field.

Vorden A/F - Poor Results.

One squadron dropped a pattern in woods and open field near Vorden A/F.

S E C R E T

SECRET

Reichenbach (T/O) - Fair Results.

One group bombed this town. Group formation pattern of 1000 G.P. is seen in the built-up area and fields.

Afternoon Mission.

Essen/Wilhelm A/F - Very Good Results.

Bursts blanketed the greater part of the A/F. Hits on runways, landing ground, dispersal areas and a few bursts in adjacent fields.

SECRET

SECRET

5. Ground Activity

21st Army Group

- Patrol activity and heavy shelling by enemy artillery.

12th Army Group

- Further US armor has arrived in the Remagen bridgehead. Infantry units made further progress against SP guns and rocket fire. 12 enemy tanks were attacked by aircraft in vicinity F 642364. Leading elements reached F 7429, Sahl F 6935 and ~~7035-6835-6635-5739-5639~~ and armor reached F6536 and G.37. The 3rd US Army has taken Mainz, Worms and Kaiserslautern and has contacted armored elements of 7th US Army at Q8090. 3rd Army has reached line Q 8178, 8380, 9582, 9984, R 0587. Neustadt has been cleared. Our troops are now on Sieg River from F 6045 to the Rhine. Enemy counter-attack at F 7035 repulsed.

6th Army Group

- Armored elements reached R 2250-Q 8090-8075-~~7770-7378-7803~~ and 7887. Infantry now on line ~~Q 4878-5077-5381-5475-5876-7377-7382~~ and 6803.

6. G.A.F. Activity over England

Flying Bombs -

0001 - 2400 hours 21 March.

<u>Launched</u>	<u>Landfall</u>	<u>Gr. London</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>
5	1	0	1

SECRET

D. OPERATIONS OF OTHER AIR FORCES

1. Tactical Air Forces

	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Claims</u>	<u>Losses</u>
Ninth Air Force	2708	10-1-2 A 3-0-3 G	17
First U.S. T.A.F.	745	0-0-1 G	1
Second T.A.F.	1141	0-0-0	9
R.A.F. Fighter Command	<u>Report not available</u>		—

Ninth Air Force

Sorties : 661 Bombers  
1788 Fighters  
259 Reconnaissance

2708 a/c

Missions : 9th Bomb Division - 661 sorties. Communication centers, including Coesfeld, Dulmen, Holtorn, Stadtlohn, Ahans, Vreden attacked with good to excellent results; flak positions also bombed.

9th T.A.G. - 725 sorties. Armed reconnaissance general areas - Siegen - Limburg area. Air cooperation, rail cutting, pre-arranged support east of Rhine.

19th T.A.G. - 531 sorties. Armed reconnaissance in Darmstadt, Fulda, Marburg area. Air cooperation, pre-arranged support and rail interdiction east of Rhine.

29th T.A.G. - 532 sorties. Armed reconnaissance in Wesel, Paderborn, Duisburg, Dortmund, Ruhr area.

259 a/c on reconnaissance for Ninth Air Force.

E/a claims : 10-1-2 air, 3-0-3 ground.

Other Claims :	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
M/T	302	230
AFV and Tanks	72	44

S E C R E T

Other Claims (contd)

Destroyed

Damaged

RR Cars	1262	1057
Buildings	167	104
Gun Positions	16	1
Bridges	5	4
Horse Drawn Vehicles	66	28
Rail Outs	221	
Highway Outs	18	

Losses : 17 fighters

First U.S. T.A.F.

Sorties : 143 Bombers  
602 Fighters

745 a/c

Missions : 42nd Bomb Wing - 143 sorties. Ammunition plant and storage area at M 648348 attacked with good results; Flak position at M 650350 with unobserved results; also rail centers at Kenzingen, Riegel and Schramburg.

12th T.A.C. - 370 sorties. Dive bombing attacks on bridge at Speyer, gun position at R 5281, strong point at Q 9754, with good results; armed reconnaissance and air cooperation to ground forces.

1st French T.A.C. - 189 sorties. Armed reconnaissance in Karlsruhe and Offenburg areas; RR target at R 3073 dive-bombed; fighter sweeps in Karlsruhe area.

Western French Air Force - 43 sorties. AA batteries and gun positions in Royan sector attacked with good results.

Claims : 0-0-1 ground

Losses : 1 a/c.

Second T.A.F.

Night 19/20

Sorties : 68 Light Bombers  
35 Fighter Operations  
18 Reconnaissance  
121 a/c

Missions : Bucholt, Coesfeld, Westerburg, Engelkirchen, Haldern bombed with unknown results. Armed reconnaissance over RRs leading to 21 Army Group area.

Claims and Losses: Nil.



SECRET

Day - 21 March

Sorties : 150 Bombers  
66 Armed Reconnaissance  
171 Prearranged Support  
120 Rail Interdiction  
381 Fighter Operations  
95 Reconnaissance  
2 Air/Sea Rescue  
993 a/c

Missions : Gestapo headquarters at Copenhagen attacked by 20 Mosquitoes. RR centers at Bochoft and Borken attacked. Enemy Hq. of 25th Army destroyed at Z-250127.

Claims : Nil

Losses : 9 a/c

R.A.F. Fighter Command

Report not available.

S E C R E T

2. Fifteenth Air Force

21 March

419 B-24s, with 201 P-51s as escort, sortied against Neuberg A/F. 376 B-24s, escorted by 191 P-51s, dropped 816 tons frag and RDX bombs on primary, on Gobligen A/F and T/O's visually, with excellent results on Neuberg. Losses: 2 B-24s.

116 B-17s sortied against Vosendorf Oil Refinery. 72 a/c dropped 160 tons 1000 lb. GP bombs on primary visually with good results, and on Vienna SE M/Y by PFF, with poor results. Losses: 1 B-17.

124 B-17s, with 91 P-38s as escort, sortied against Kagran Oil Refinery. 109 B-17s, escorted by 83 P-38s, dropped 326 tons 1000 lb. GP bombs on primary (12 a/c), Villach M/Y (13 a/c), Florisdorf Oil Refinery (72 a/c), Klagenfurt M/Y (6 a/c), and T/O's (6 a/c). Bombing by PFF. Claims: 1-0-0 air (Papa area). Losses: nil.

110 B-24s, with 50 P-38s as escort, sortied against Bruck-om-der-Mur M/Y. 108 B-24s, escorted by 45 P-38s, dropped 217 tons 1000 lb. GP bombs on primary (48 a/c), with good results. Koflacher M/Y (33 a/c), with poor results, Prgerska M/Y (19 a/c), with good results, Villach M/Y (8 a/c), with good results. Losses: nil.

Bombers

Sorties : 769 a/c (529 B-24s, 240 B-17s)  
Effective Sorties: 665 a/c  
Tonnage : 1419  
Claims : 1-0-0 - Air  
Losses : 3 a/c (2 B-24s, 1 B-17)

Fighters

Sorties : 342 a/c (201 P-51s, 141 P-38s)  
Effective Sorties: 319 a/c  
Claims : Nil  
Losses : Nil

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

3. R.A.F. Bomber Command

<u>Day 21 March</u>	<u>Targets</u>	<u>Losses</u>
133 Lancasters 6 Mosquitoes	Oslabshausen Oil Refinery, nr. Bremen	0 0
20 Lancasters	Arbergen RR Bridge, nr. Bremen	1
104 Lancasters	Munster M/Y	0
56 Lancasters	Munster RR Viaduct	3
150 Halifaxes	Rheine M/Y	1
16 Lancasters		0
12 Mosquitoes		0
497 a/c		5

Night 21/22 March

131 Lancasters 12 Mosquitoes	Bruchstrasse Benzol Plant at Langendreer nr Bochum	
151 Lancasters 8 Mosquitoes	Hamburg - DPAG Oil Refinery	
142 Mosquitoes 3 Mosquitoes 7 Mosquitoes 32 Mosquitoes 25 Halifaxes 10 Fortresses 8 Liberators	Berlin Bremen Minelaying Bomber Support	
1 Mosquito 6 Halifaxes	RCM	

536

Losses for night operation  
unavailable.

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

CHARLES Y. BANFILL  
Brigadier General, U.S.A.  
Director of Intelligence

- 7 -

S E C R E T

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

APO 559  
21 March 1945

SUBJECT: S-2 Report for the Mission to Handorf, Germany, 21 March 1945.

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

1. The Mission: The 95th Group flew as the 13C Combat Group to attack dispersal areas at the Handorf-Munster Airdrome. The primary target was attacked by all three squadrons visually. The order of bombing was 95A, 95B, 95C.

95A - Eleven A/C plus one PFF A/C took off and formed the lead squadron. All A/C bombed the primary target.

95B - Twelve A/C plus one PFF A/C took off and formed the high squadron. Eleven A/C plus one PFF A/C bombed the primary target. One spare A/C, 8774, turned back at 0630 hours from over the base because of gas fumes in ship and returned bombs.

95C - Twelve A/C plus one PFF A/C took off and formed the low squadron. Ten A/C plus one PFF A/C bombed the primary target. One spare A/C, 6475, because of mechanical difficulties, turned back over the base. A/C 8106 jettisoned bombs at 5200-0750.

2. For further information reference is suggested to the Operational Narrative teletype of the Intelligence Section.

For the Intelligence Officer:

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