

HEADQUARTERS VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 276

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8 FC F.O. 562, 563; 8 AF F.O. 1143
11 SEPTEMBER 1944



HEAVY BOMBER ATTACKS ON TARGETS IN GERMANY

	<u>PEN. TGT. & W/D SUPT.</u>	<u>TGT. & W/D SUPT.</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
No. of Groups (14)	11 Missions	4 Missions	15 Missions
A/C Airborne	470 P-51's 45 P-47's 33 P-38's <u>548</u>	120 P-47's	470 P-51's 165 P-47's 33 P-38's <u>668</u>
A/C on Mission	435 P-51's 43 P-47's 27 P-38's <u>505</u>	111 P-47's	435 P-51's 154 P-47's 27 P-38's <u>616</u>
A/C Lost	30 P-51's	Nil	30 P-51's (XXX)
A/C Crashed in Eng. or seriously damaged	2 P-51's	Nil	2 P-51's
Personnel Caslts.	30 (M)	Nil	30 (M) (XXX)
A/C Claims	116-7-23 s/o air 8-0-4 s/e gnd 34-0-36 t/e gnd 0-0-3 3/o gnd <u>158-7-69</u>	Nil	116-7-23 s/e air 8-0-4 s/e gnd 34-0-36 t/e gnd 0-0-3 3/e gnd <u>158-7-69</u>
E/A Seen	*	*	350 Plus (XX)
Bombers seen to go down	45	6	51 (X)

Miscellaneous ground targets: 23-0-37 Locomos, 34-0-48 Box Cars, 0-0-9 Tanks on Flat Cars, 1-0-1 Oil Tank Cars, 3-0-0 Trucks, 1-0-0 Oil Storage Tanks, 0-0-1 Auto, 0-0-1 RR Station, 7 soldiers killed.

(X) Possible duplications as compiled from individual Group sightings.

(XX) Estimate after elimination of duplicate Group sightings.

(XXX) Some landed in Allied territory.

1. 1st Force (3rd Div., 4A & B, 13A & B, 45 A & B, 92A & B, 93A & B), Target: CHEMNITZ MACHINE WORKS AND OIL PLANTS AT ROHLAND, BOHLEN, AND BAUX.

SUMMARY OF ESCORT:

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339th Ftr Gp from Brussels, 1015, thru tgt. to Murlenbach, 1445.
55th Ftr Gp from vic. Verviers, 1040, to vic. tgt. about 1230,
357th Ftr Gp from Koblenz 1118 to S. Dresden 1230 thru tgt. to Koblenz
1345.
352nd Ftr Gp swept Munster-Weimar area, then escorted from Pozneck, 1201,
thru tgt. to St. Goar, 1345.

E/A OPPOSITION:

339th Ftr Gp attacked 100 plus 109's and 190's, 1215, vic. Annaburg, 28,000
claiming 15-1-3. 1 jet plane destroyed P-51 vic. Eberback, 15,000 then zoomed up-
ward and left pursuers. Lone early return saw 50 s/e e/a vic. Kassel, 1315, 10,00
55th Ftr Gp engaged 50 plus 109's 26,000 to deck, 1145, near Erfurt, claiming
24-0-7. 200 plus 109's and 190's soon vic. Meiningen, 30,000 about 1215 but could
not engage. Vic. Sonneburg, 1230, engaged 100 plus 109's and 190's from 25,000
to 10,000 destroying 3. 357th Ftr Gp saw 1 jet a/c near Reichenbach 30,000 ft.,
climbing 40/50 degrees, no engagement. 352nd Ftr Gp attacked 30 plus s/e e/a
forming up Einbeck area, 32,000; in fight to deck 1135/1200 claim 5-0-0. 20 plus
s/e e/a engaged Nordhausen-Mulhausen-Gottingen area 27,000 to deck, 1155/1215,
7-0-0 claimed. 20 plus ME 109's engaged vic. Gotha 28,000 to deck, 1145/1200
scoring 2-0-0.

FLAK:

Heavy, moderate, inaccurate - Frankfurt, Augsburg, Masstricht.
Heavy, intense, inaccurate - Leipzig, Koblenz.
Heavy, moderate, accurate - Kassel.
Heavy, intense, accurate - Chemnitz, Munster, S. of Koblenz.

OBSERVATIONS:

The Rhine River between Mainz and Mannheim was crowded with barges and river
shipping moving south. 100 to 125 e/a of all types dispersed in wooded area on
either side of Autobahn, 20 to 25 miles SE of Munich; small landing strip to NE
of wooded area. A/F with one E-W asphalt runway approx. 1 mile long observed at
Worth (4947N-0909E), some u/i a/c on field, it is believed this is a jet A/F. 1
Loco, pulling 30 freight cars, observed just NE of Munich moving NE 1330 hrs. Th
loco dest. 30 barges on water way S. of Koblenz. Dummy A/F 15 miles NE of Munic
with 15 plus well constructed ME 109 and JU 88 dummies. Heavy shipping observed
on Rhine River at Weisbaden. 1 bomber down 1215 hrs N. of Plauen due to e/a. 15
plus s/o and t/o a/c on A/D N. of Langensalza, 1200.

GROUND STRAFING:

1-0-0 Oil Cars, 6-0-14 Locos, 28-0-18 Box Cars, 1-0-0 Truck, 2 soldiers
killed, 0-0-1 Auto, 0-0-1 RR Stn.

2. 2nd Force (1st Div., 1A & B, 40A, B & C, 41A & B, 94B), Targets: MERSEBURG
AND LUTZKENDORF SYNTHETIC OIL PLANTS.

SUMMARY OF ESCORT:

359th Ftr Gp from Blankenheim, 1050, thru tgt. to Eisleben, 1210.
364th Ftr Gp from 40 miles SW Koln thru tgt. to Koln, 1250.

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4th Ftr Gp from N. Koblenz, 1057, thru tgt. to W. Koblenz, 1335.
479th Ftr. Gp from Laacher Lake, 1120 to tgt. then lost 1st Div. and escorted
3rd Div. out to coast.

E/A OPPOSITION:

364th Ftr Gp sighted 35 plus ME 109's vic. Sangerhausen, 31,000, 1140, as section climbed toward them e/a evaded, only claim 1 damaged; 20/25 ME 109's, 24,000, were attacked with claims 2-0-0; section attacked 100 plus 109's and 190's vic. Sangerhausen, 1130, 23,000, claiming 11-0-1, 1 pilot missing. 4th Ftr Gp attacked 50 plus ME 109's and FW 190's, 20/28,000 NW Naumberg, 1145, claiming 5-1-0; 1 ME 109 dest. of 10 in vic. Plotzkau, in same area one of three 109's destroyed and 1-0-1 FW 190's claimed. 359th Ftr Gp attacked 50 109's and 190's 32,000, 1115, claiming 1-0-2 on fight to deck vic. Laubach; 5 ME 109's dest. over A/F, WJ 1168; 30 190's and 109's attacked 30,000 vic. Mulhausen, 1135, 2-0-1 claimed; of 100 s/e e/a seen vic. Kolleda, 1150, 8-2-1 claimed in attack from 30,000; of 15 FW 190's seen Eisleben, 6-2-1 claimed.

FLAK:

Heavy, intense, accurate - Halle

OBSERVATIONS:

Three RR Cars marked with red crosses were on train at WH 0258, 1300, including oil tank car; we set tank car afire. 5 s/e e/a on gnd and 10 e/a in landing pattern at Langensalza, WJ 0585, 1100. 75 balloon barrage around lake and 2,000 ft. hill N. of Vogelsand, 5035N-0625E. 21 plus barges headed S. in Rhine River vic. Koblenz, 1310. New a/d being built Euskirchen, WF 3731. Barrage balloons along river between Koblenz and Mainz and N. of Vogelsand A/F, WF 0621. In Marseburg area, 4 contrails at 35,000 ft. seen headed 290 degrees moving very fast, possibly jet a/c. 8 barges and 4 tugs on river S. of Koblenz, 1110. 15 plus vessels seen headed E. out of Honta, of Westerschlede, 1310, from 24,000 ft.

GROUND STRAFING:

10-0-11 Locos, 0-0-10 Box Cars, 2-0-0 Trucks, 1-0-0 Oil Storage Tanks, 0-0-1 Oil Tank Car, 5 German soldiers killed.

3. 3rd Force (2nd Div., 2, 14, 20 96 CW's), Targets; MISBURG OIL REFINERY, HANNOVER LOCO. WORKS, MAGDEBURG OIL PLANT AND ORDNANCE DEPOT.

SUMMARY OF ESCORT:

355th Ftr Gp from Koblenz, 1120, thru tgt. to Zwolle, 1330.
78th Ftr Gp from Northem 1210, thru tgts. and out over North Sea, 1410.
353rd Ftr Gp from Halberstadt 1215, thru tgt. to N. IJmuiden, 1418.
56th Ftr Gp from Oscherleben area, 1219, thru tgt. to Quakenbruck, Egmond, 1330/1400.
361st Ftr Gp from vic. Koblenz 1120, thru tgt. to S. Egmond, 1405.

E/A OPPOSITION:

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355th Ftr Gp attacked 20 plus 109's as e/a hit bombers vic. Kassel, claim 10-0-0; vic. Marburg 1150, 2 109's destroyed of 18/20 attacking bombers from 30,000 ft; 2 e/a seen S. Brunsurck, 32,000, also 6 e/a bounced bombers same place, no combat by Group; no losses in engagements. 361st Ftr Gp dest. 1 lone ME 109 25 miles S. Gottingen, 1145, no loss.

FLAK:

Light, meager, accurate - Harkskamp
Light, moderate, inaccurate - N. of Hesepe.
Heavy, intense, accurate - Munster.
Heavy, moderate, inaccurate, proximity fuse - Flushing.
Light, intense, accurate - Marburg.
Heavy, moderate, accurate - Osnabruck, Magdeburg, Hannover.

OBSERVATIONS:

Spare returning early reported a/c at 35,000 ft. flying great speed inland over Great Yarmouth at 1115, leaving thick contrails. 18 plus JU 88's or ME 410's on A/F SE of Kassel. Heavy barge traffic on Rhine River at Koblenz, headed south. About 25 balloons near lake (WF 9272), about 1,000 ft. At Quackenbruck, "POW" printed on top of box car of train headed S. Saw 13 medium vessels off Knocke, headed for Walcheren Islands.

GROUND STRAFING:

7-0-12 Loco's, 6-0-10 RR Cars, 0-0-9 Tanks on Flat Cars.

4. 4th Force (2 B-17's); Aphrodite, Target: HELIGOLAND SUBMARINE BASE.

364th Ftr Gp escorted uneventfully to tgt. and out 25 miles N. Terschelling Island, 1800 hrs.

5. POINTS OF INTEREST:

1. Enemy effort difficult to estimate. Extremely heavy reaction, estimated at 350 plus s/e e/a, were encountered from Giessen at 1115 to tgts. of the three forces as late as 1215. E/A were seen at high altitude in large formations, but engaged later in smaller formations of 30 to 50.

2. E/A aggressive, but apparently not experienced.

3. Seems likely that part of e/a based on A/D's along Rhine were used against this operation, as well as e/a based deeper in Germany.

6. BOMBER REPORT:

Twenty-three combat wins (735 B-17's, 398 B-24's - 1131 a/c) dispatched in three forces to attack synthetic oil plants, military vehicle parks and an ordnance depot in central Germany. Ten attack targets. Support by fighter groups. 341 a/c dropped 2390.6 tons B.M. on nine assigned targets and several T/O's. 75 B-17's attacked remaining target and escorted by one fighter group proceeded to assigned bases in Russia. Combat both visual and I.F. Strong opposition to bombers by approximately 125 a/c. Claims: 17-25-4. Losses: 52 a/c (39 B-17's, 13 B-24's).

a. Penetration, Target and Withdrawal Support - 1st Force.

1. (A) 55th Ftr Gp, Lt Col McGinn leading (B) 52 P-51s up 0937, down 1450 (C) 3 (I escort) (D) F.O. 563 (E) 4 lost (F) 3 Cat "A" (G) 4 - 1st Lt K. J. Crawford, 2nd Lt W. M. Lewis, both 38th Sqdn and 1st Lt K. T. Williams, 1st Lt W. E. Rosenoff, both of 343rd Sqdn, all missing (H) 28-0-8 s/e air, 1-0-0 s/e gnd; 1 FW 190 dest. on gnd by Lt Bishop, 343rd Sqdn. Air: Destroyed: 3 ME 109's by Lt Fryor, 2 ME 109's ea. by Lt Coons and Lt Matney, 1 ME 109 ea. by Lt Thorsen, Lt Crawford, Lt Holleman, Lt Sherman, all of 38th Sqdn; 1 ME 109 by Lt Col McGinn, 2 ME 109's by Lt Wakeland, 3 ME 109's by Lt Ingram, 2 ME 109's by Lt Haworth, 1 ME 109 by Lt Konantz, 1 ME 109 by Lt Fruh, 1 ME 109 by Lt Leonard, 2 ME 109's by Lt Cramer, 1 ME 109 by Lt Barrett, all of 338th Sqdn; 1 ME 109 by Lt Tischer, 1 FW 190 by Lt Yee Litt, 1 FW 190 by Lt Bishop, all of 343rd Sqdn. Damaged: 1 ME 109 by Lt Tibor, 38th Sqdn. 2 ME 109's by Lt Col McGinn, 1 ME 109 ea. by Lt Wakeland, Lt Leonard, Lt Ingram and Lt Haworth, all of 338th Sqdn. 1 FW 190 by Lt Bishop, 343rd Sqdn. (I) R/V made with 3 boxes of B-17's of 3rd Div. at 1040, 24,000 ft. in vic. of Verviers. Tudor remained with bombers and Acom and Hellcat Sqdns combed area ahead of bombers on their planned track. About 1145, Acom Leader sighted 2 large groups of contrails at 30,000 ft., 12 o'clock to him in vic. of Radclstadt near Erfurt. The Group turned starboard to get in position to attack out of the sun when 2 ME 109's somewhat over eager attacked out of the big gaggle, were engaged and destroyed by Hellcat Yellow Flight. Believed these 2 e/a committed the large formation of 50 plus 109's to the attack sooner than was planned. The Group swung back engaging the 109's head-on and combats ensued from 26,000 ft. to the deck with claims of 24-0-7. The e/a were very aggressive and fought tenaciously, breaking into flights of 2 and 4's. White Section of Hellcat Sqdn remained above, bouncing e/a when it was definite none were coming down from the enemy top cover group. Combat lasted for about 10 minutes, Sqdns then reforming into Flights and proceeding home because of lack of ammunition. 1 lone ME 410 was seen circling at 35,000 ft. in this area during engagement. Tudor Sqdn went on with bombers sighting 200 plus ME 109's and FW 190's flying in a large gaggle at about 30,000 ft. in the vic. of Meiningen. These e/a were to the left of the bomber track and when sighted turned away. Tudor at 24,000, dropped tanks and pursued e/a climbing toward them, but were unable to overtake them. Sqdn returned to bomber track picking up 2 CW's of 3rd Div, believed to be on "Frantic" mission, escorting same and withdrawing in vic. of their tgt. On course out, 3 CW's (18 a/c ea) were sighted headed east at 1230 in vic. of Sonneburg, and the last two CW's were under heavy attack. Sqdn pushed their throttles but when they got in the area, the e/s were headed for the deck, and the lead e/a on the attack were already down. Tudor chased e/a destroying three in engagement from 25,000 ft. down to 10,000 ft. On climbing back up about 100 chutes were seen in this area and only about 18 B-17's remained out of the 3CW's. 1 P-51 returning alone after this attack strafed and destroyed a lone FW 190 on an a/d in vic. Bamberg. Lt. Rosenoff's a/c seen to explode in air after being attacked by e/a in engagement at Sonneberg. Lts Crawford and Lewis were last seen in area of first engagement.

2. (A) 339th Ftr Gp, Major Gravette leading (B) 47 P-51s up 0928, down 1546 (C) 6 (1 escort) (D) F.O. 563 (E) 2 lost (F) Nil (G) 2 missing - Lt Jones and Lt Staggers, both of 305th Sqdn (H) 15-1-3 s/e air, 1-0-1 s/e gnd, 20-0-17 t/e gnd, 0-0-3 3/e gnd; Air: Destroyed: 1 FW 190 by Lt Erickson, 1 FW 190 by Lt McClish, 1 FW 190 shared by Lt McClish and Capt Robinson, 1 FW 190 by Major Aitken, 1 ME 109 by Capt Cloud, 4 ME 109's by Lt Gerard, 1 FW 190 by Lt Price, 2 ME 109's by Lt Mayer, 1 ME 109 shared by Lt McClish and Lt Graham, 2 FW 190's shared by Lts Graham and Coe. Probably Destroyed: 1 FW 190 by Lt Erickson. Damaged: 1 ME 109 by Major Aitken, 1 ME 109 by Lt Gerard, 1 FW 190 by Lt Stockton. Ground:

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Destroyed: 1 ME 410 by Lt Rich, 2 u/i t/e e/a by Lt Rich, 1 JU 88 by Lt Jaaskelainen, 1 ME 410 by Capt Tower, 2 JU 88's by Capt Tower, 1 JU 87 by Capt Tower, 1 HE 111 by Capt Tower, 2 JU 88's by Major Thury, 2 ME 410's, 1 JU 88 and 1 ME 110 by Lt Krauss, 1 u/i t/e e/a by Capt Olander, 1 u/i t/e e/a by Lt Slovak, 1 ME 410 by Lt Graham, 1 ME 410 by Lt Slovak, 2 JU 88's by Lt Bundgaard. Damaged: 1 ME 109 1 JU 88, 1 ME 410, and 1 HE 111 by Major Thury, 3 ME 410's by Lt Krauss; 1 HE 111 by Lt Jaaskelainen, 2 ME 410's by Lt Slovak, 2 JU 88's by Capt Tower, 1 DO 217, 1 ME 410, 1 JU 88 by Lt Graham, 3 JU 52's by Lt Bundgaard, 1 ME 410 by Lt Rich and 2 u/i t/e e/a by Capt Olander; all of 503rd Ftr Sqdn. Misc. Ground Targets: 1-0-0 Loco. (I) Landfall in Ostend, 1001 hrs, 19,000 ft. R/V 3rd Div, B-17's (4th, 5th, 6th CW's) at Brussels, 1015 hrs, 20,000 ft. In vic. north of Frankfurt bomber formation became decomposed resulting in a confused formation which was well scattered on either side of bomber course. The three Sqdns of 339 Group separated to cover as much of bomber formation as possible. In vic. of Jossa (5113N-0936E) at 1100 hrs, at 22,000 ft, 505th Sqdn left bombers to pursue boggies traveling toward Munich area. In an area from 20 to 25 miles SE of Munich this Sqdn observed 100 plus e/a of all types dispersed through out woods, on either side of Autobahn, there was a small strip just NE of the dispersal area which probably served these a/c. The ground claims set out resulted from strafing those dispersed a/c. This Sqdn then proceeded to home station crossing out enemy coast individually and in elements from Le Treport to Dunkirk approx. 1500 hrs. 503rd Sqdn while patrolling toward front of bomber force, observed 100 plus FW 190's and ME 109 s, vic. of Annaburg, 1215 hrs, 28,000 ft. E/A were in two gaggles of 50 plus each, and were moving in position to attack bombers from the stern. These a/c were attacked by the 503rd with resulting air claims, set out in para. H. E/A did not attempt attack on fighters, but instead pushed their attacks on the bomber 12 plus of the bombers were seen to go down as a result of the attack. Upwards of 35 chutes were seen, the combat lasted from 1215 to 1230 hrs, and ranged from 28,000 ft. to the deck. The 504th Sqdn which was escorting the 4th, 5th and 6th CW's of the first force and which was to the rear of the 504th Sqdn was called up by the latter, but arrived after combat had gone to deck, 504th Sqdn then stayed up covering the remaining bomber formation. Leaving bombers at Murlombach 1445 hrs, 20,000 ft, making landfall out S. of Ostend 1450 hrs, 10,000 ft. 503rd Sqdn did not rejoin bombers after combat but proceeded back to base, making landfall out Ostend 1420 hrs, 16,000 ft. Lt. Stagers, 505th Sqdn was hit by light moderate accurate flak from A/F dispersal area SE of Munich, and as a result bellied in. Lt Jones, 505th Sqdn was attacked in vic. Eberbach 4928N-0859E by jet plane resembling the ME 262 with pronounced sweep back wings, jet plane made one pass at approx. 15,000 ft. resulting in the destruction of Lt. Jones plane. E/A was pursued as it zoomed upward but quickly out distanced the other members of the flight. 50 s/e a/c observed in a formation in vic. of Kassel, 5118N-0930E, at 1315 hrs flying at 10,000 ft. These a/c were not attacked as they were observed by single crippled a/c returning early. 100 plus ME 109's and FW 190's observed in vic. Annaburg, 1215 hrs, 28,000 ft. E/A were in two gaggles of 50 plus each.

3. (A) 357th Ftr Gp, Capt England leading (B) 61 P-51s up 0956, down 1520 (C) 6 (D) F.O., 563 (E) thru (G) Nil (H) 2-0-0 Locos, 4-0-0 Box Cars, 1-0-0 Military Truck, 0-0-6 Flat Cars, 0-0-1 RR Stn, 0-0-1 Open Car, 2 German officers killed. (I) Landfall in Walcheren 1032 hrs at 18,000 ft. R/V S. of Koblenz 1118 hrs at 25,000 ft. Left frantic bombers when 20th Gp R/V'd 1230 hrs S. of Dresden at 25,000 ft. 20th Gp still carried wing tanks. R/V with remainder of 1st Force S. of Annaburg 1240, 25,000 ft. Left bombers Koblenz area 1345 hrs, 23,000 ft. Landfall out Walcheren 1440 hrs, 14,000 ft. White Flight of 363rd Sqdn strafed at Mayen (WL 6393) with above results. All targets positively identified as German.

One flight of 364th Sqdn attempted to strafe A/D believed to be Darmstadt (WM 6843) but were driven off by intense flak at 10,000 ft. Observed approx. 12 e/a not camouflaged, some believed dummies. 1 bomber down 1215 hrs N. of Plauen due to e/a, 5 chutes; bomber previously shot down 2 enemy fighters and 3rd split S'd to deck before Group could attack. 2 bombers down at Neustadt, no chutes. 1 bomber down target area, 4 chutes. Bombing believed excellent, concentrated hits observed on southern section of target. Encountered flak from many small towns on route in.

b. Target and Withdrawal Support - 1st Force.

1. (A) 352nd Ftr Gp, Lt Col Mayden leading (B) 53 P-51s up 1000 down 1430 (C) 8 (I escort) (D) F.O. 563 (E) 2 Lost (F) 1 Cat "A" (G) Lt Rayborn, 328th Sqdn and Lt Combs, 486th Sqdn both missing (H) 14-0-1 s/e air, 1-0-0 s/e gnd, 3-0-4 t/e gnd. 328th Sqdn: air: 1 FW 190 Dest ea. by Capt Hendrian and Lt Semon shared with Capt Hendrian. 487th Sqdn, air: 3 ME 109's and 1 FW 190 dest. by Lt Col Meyer, 2 ME 109's by Capt Johnson, 2 FW 190's and 1 ME 109 by Lt Forga, 1 FW 190 dest. by Capt Bennett, 1 FW 190 dest. by Lt Waters, 1 ME 109 dest. by Lt Schuh, 1 ME 109 prob dest by Capt Bennett and 1 ME 109 dam. by Capt Bennett. 487th Sqdn, ground: 1 u/i e/a dest. by Lt Sears, 2 JU 88's dest and 2 JU 88's dam by Lt Littge, 1 JU 88 dest. and 2 JU 88's dam. by Lt Stewart. Misc. Ground Targets: 3-0-14 Locom, 24-0-12 Goods Wagons. (I) Swept Munster, Wernigerode, Bad Franenhausen, Weimar area as directed, making R/V by 1 Flight, 328th Sqdn, with good formation 7th and 8th CW's of 1st T. F., Pozneck, 28,000 ft, 1201. Before R/V, 487th Sqdn observed 30 plus s/e e/a forming up Einbeck area, 32,000 ft, 1135. Engaged to deck from 1133 to 1200, scoring 5-0-0, during this engagement. Combat ensued with additional 20 plus s/e e/a Nordhausen-Mulhausen-Göttingen area from 27,000 ft. to deck, 1155 to 1215, scoring 7-0-0. 1 Flight, 328th Sqdn, engaged 20 plus ME 109's vic. Gotha, 28,000 ft. to deck, 1145 to 1200, scoring 2-0-0, operating with a/c of another unidentified P-51 group. While on deck, observed 15 plus s/e and t/e on A/D N. of Langensalza, 1200. Strafed by 1 flight destroying 1 e/a. Observed and strafed A/D at Gotha 1220, where 20 plus s/e and t/e e/a noted, destroying 3. Sqdn while withdrawing from area strafed and damaged 7 Locom and approx. 20 goods wagons E. of Rhine River. Unable to pinpoint exact location. 486th Sqdn at 1205 attacked M/Y at Herzberg, with above results. Broke escort St. Goar, 28,000 ft., 1345. Bombing results at Brux unobserved due to weather conditions. 1 CW 3rd Div. B-17's bombed T/O at Bad "omburg with good to excellent results. Lt Combs, 486th Sqdn last seen in Herzberg, on deck, 1205. Lt Rayborn last seen S. of Gotha 1145. R/T and F/B intercom good.

c. Penetration, Target and Withdrawal Support - 2nd Force.

1. (A) 359th Ftr Gp, Capt Forehand leading (B) 49 P-51s up 0921, down 1430 (C) 1 (D) F.O. 563 (E) 1 Cat unknown, 4 Cat "A", 1 Cat "AC" (F) 6 lost (G) 6 missing: Lt Ivan E. Holloman, 369th Sqdn, Capt James W. Parsons, Lts James F. Hutton, Frank W. Holliday, F/O Charles R. Bruening, all 369th Sqdn and F/O James J. O'Shea, 370th Sqdn. (H) 25-4-6 s/e air, 8-0-13 t/e gnd; 368th Sqdn, air: 2 FW 190's and 1 ME 109 Dest. by Capt Benjamin H. King, 2 FW 190's dest. ea. by Lts George F. Baker and Louis E. Barnett, 1 FW 190 Dest. by Lt Chester R. Gilmore, 1 ME 109 dest. by Lts Clarence M. Lambright and Jack O. Flack (shared), 1 FW 190 prob. dest. by Lt Barnett, 1 ME 109 Prob. dest. by Lt Wilbur H. Lewis, 1 FW 190 dam. by Lt Arvy F. Kysely, 1 FW 190 dam. by Lt Robert E. Benefiel, 1 ME 109 dam. by Lt Benefiel. 369th Sqdn, air: 1 ME 109 dest. ea. by Capt James W. Parsons, Lt Gilbert R. Ralston, Jr., Lt John E. Keur, Lt Claude J. Crenshaw. 1 FW 190 dest. by Lt Ralston, 2 FW 190's Dest. by Lt Grant M. Perrin, 1 FW 190 prob. dest.

by Lt Perrin, 1 ME 109 Prob. dest. by Lt Robert S. Gaines, Jr. and 1 ME 109 Dam. by Lt Gaines. 369th Sqdn, gnd: Destroyed: 1 JU 188 and 1 JU 88 by Lt James R. Parsons, 2 JU 88's by Lt Joseph W. Mejaski. Damaged: 3 JU 188's and 2 JU 88's by Lt Parsons, 4 JU 88's by Lt Mejaski. 370th Sqdn, air: 3 ME 109's dest. by Lt Cyril W. Jones, Jr., 1 ME 109 dest. (shared) by Lts Jones and Wallace C. Murray, 1 ME 109 dest. and 1 FW 190 dam. by Lt John W. Wilson, 1 FW 190 dest by Lt James H. O'Shea and 1 ME 109 dest. by Lt William E. Buchanan. 370th Sqdn, ground: 1 JU 88 dest, 2 ME 210's and 2 JU 88's dam by Lt Jones, 2 JU 88's dest. by Lt Murray and 1 ME 177 dest. (shared) by Lts Jones, Murray and Buchanan. Misc. Ground targets: 7-0-0 Locos, 1-0-0 Oil Tank Car. (I) 368th and 370th Sqdns R/V Vinegrove 2-1/2/3 Blankenheim, 1050, we at 22/24,000, they at 24/28,000. 369th Sqdn R/V 1050 Dorsel, 22,000, with B-17's marked white "D" in black square. All Sqdns had combat with estimated 200 e/a. Some a/c stayed with bombers to 1210, Eisleben, 25,000 when left to ward off another attack. Others took out stragglers. Combat: 1115, vic. Laubach E. of Giessen, 50 ME 109's and FW 190's flying beautiful VIII Ftr Com formation at 32,000 ft. tried attack trailing 1st Force CW. 368 Sqdn broke up e/a, drove them to deck, scored 1-0-2. 1130, NE of Gotha, 4 WJ 1168, 1 flight, 370th Sqdn saw e/a taking off, went down, got five ME 109's in air over this field while strafing parked JU 88's and ME 210's for 4-0-4 ground claims. 1135, vic. Mulhausen, 1 flight of 370th Sqdn saw 30 plus 190's and 109's headed E. at 30,000 ft. on bomber track 5 miles to port. Flight attacked, claims 2-0-1. 1150, vic. Kolleda, NE of Erfurt, 100 plus seen in two gaggles of 50 at 30,000 ft. north of bombers. 369 broke up these gaggles, 1 flight got in luftberry with estimated 50 e/a for claims of 4-2-1, rest of Sqdn picked up 4-0-0 in isolated combats. 1150, vic. Kolleda NE of Erfurt, another 369 Flight went down on u/i grass landing ground where claims of 4-0-9 on 50 parked e/a. 1205, vic. Eisleben, shortly after TOT, 15 plus FW 190's got in on bombers, shot down 4 B-17's, 2 chutes. 368 engaged for 6-2-1. 1205, 370th flight destroyed ME 177 among several dummies on landing ground S. of Gotha, WJ 0864. U/I NYR pilot of 359 Gp with 4th Gp got ME 109 in air over U/I landing ground, crashed to flak. Observations: 2 jetties vic. of tgt. S. of bomber course, 22,000 ft, 1200. Own casualties: B-17s, 1 afire from e/a, Kolleda, 1150, 15,000 ft. in 1st ATF, 5th CW, no chutes; 1 going down 1225 N of Eisenach, 1225, 5 chutes; 1 exploded vic. Hadamar, 1230, 2 chutes; 1 (red tail above orange stripe), 1 engine smoking, taken from Mulhausen to Blankenberghe, 1315. P-51's: 4th Gp (WDX) bailed S. Paris, 1300, chute opened 300 ft, pilot landed trees. U/I Ftr crashed 1336 NE of Eclou. 3 ships, believed Destroyers and u/i Warship at anchor W. of Walcheren, 1330. Bombing at 1200 on PFF thru 8/10 low cloud, no results seen.

2. (A) 364th Ftr Gp, Lt Col McManus leading (B) 50 P-51s up 0933, down 1452 (C) 4 (D) F.O. 563 (E) 2 Lost (F) 1 Cat "A", 1 Cat "AC", 1 Cat "E" (G) 2 missing - Lt Alfred Albrecht, 384th Sqdn and Lt Daniel W. Davis, 385th Sqdn. (H) 13-0-2 s/e air: 383rd Sqdn, air: 1 ME 109 dam. by Capt Barnes. 384th Sqdn, air: 1 ME 109 and 1 FW 190 dest. by Lt Bristow; 385th Sqdn, air: 2 FW 190's and 1 ME 109 dest. by Lt. Wilson, 2 FW 190's each dest. by Lts. Pascoe and Jamison, 2 ME 109's dest. by Lt. Trybuszewski, 1 FW 190 and 1 ME 109 dest. by Capt. Hill, 1 ME 109 dam. by Lt. Trybuszewski. Also 2-0-8 locos, 0-0-10 box cars. (I) R/V 1050 40 miles S.W. Koln 23,000 ft. Left bombers 1250 same place 20,000 ft. 35 plus ME 109's seen milling around vicinity Sangerhausen 1140, 31,000 ft. Escort Yellow section climbed to their altitude and e/a spotted them and evaded. One damaged, later dest. by 2 P-51's of another group. 20-25 ME 109's and 1 FW 190 seen by Goldfish Sqdn. in Luftbury vicinity Nordhausen 24,000 ft. at 1150, believed same e/a as escort saw. Attacked with claims of 2-0-0. Lt. Albrecht last heard from at 1245 calling for fix. 100 plus ME 109's and FW 190's seen climbing

from 18,000 ft. In 2 large gaggles vicinity Sangerhausen 1130. Eggflip Yellow section from 26,000 attacked them at 23,000 ft. as they went into Luftbury, with claims of 11-0-1. After attack, Capt. Hill found himself in formation with 40 plus e/a and to avoid attracting attention flew with them until they started to land at Frankfurt A/F when he peeled up and came home. Lt. Davis not heard from after combat. It is believed these enemy formations were broken up before they could attack bombers.

3. (A) 4th Fighter Group, Col. Kinnard leading (B) 46 P-51's up 0918 down 1440 (C) 3 (D) F.O. 563 (E) 1 P-51 crash-landed Germany due flak, 1 P-51 hit by exploding e/a on German drome, pilot bailed. 1 P-51 down near Paris due enemy action, pilot bailed. 7 P-51's lost (F) nil (G) Lt. Patterson and Lt. Ingalls, 336 Sqdn. out near Langensalza, Lt. Cooley, 335 Sqdn. bailed out S. of Paris, Lt. Janke and Lt. Cronin, 334 Sqdn., Lt. Russell, Lt. Eden, Lt. Diamond and Lt. Groseclose, 335 Sqdn., F/O Pierini, 336 Sqdn. missing (H) 8-1-2 air, 4-0-3 ground. 334 Sqdn. 1 ME 109 air, 1 ME 410 dest. ground by Col. Kinnard, 1 ME 109 each dest. in air by Capt. Montgomery and Lt. Werner, 1 FW 190 each damaged in air by Lt. Werner and Cliften; 335 Sqdn. 1 ME 109 dest. by Lt. Rinebolt, 2 ME 109's dest. by Lt. Cooley, 1 ME 109 P.D. by Lt. Peters, all air. 336 Sqdn. 1 ME 109 each dest. in air by Lt. Joiner and Lt. Dugan, 2 FW 190's dest. on ground by Lt. Dupree, 1 FW 190 dest. and 2 FW 190's and 1 JU 188 damaged on ground by Lt. Grove. Also 0-0-3 locos and 0-0-1 oil tank car. (I) R/V 1057 N. of Koblenz with 3 CW's B-17's 26,000 ft. At 1145 N.W. of Naumberg 50 plus ME 109's and FW 190's attempted a stern attack from 20/25,000 ft. on bombers and 5 dest., 1 P.D. Near Bad Frankenhhausen 10 ME 109's encountered, those headed for Plotzkau A/D to land, where 1 was dest., in same area 1 of 3 ME 109's at 4,000 ft. dest. and 1 FW 190 dam. same area. 1 FW 190 dest., 2 dam. and 1 JU 188 dam. on Langensalza A/D by strafing. 1 ME 109 shot down trying to land at Aschersleben A/D and ME 410 dest. on Limburg A/D. Escort broken W. of Koblenz 1335 hours. 3 locos attacked E. of Kassal and 1 tank car damaged at WH-9984. 1 B-17 seen at 18,000 ft. vicinity Blankenheim with left aileron shot off. 1 B-17 marked "XK-" escorted to Laon after 7 chutes seen leaving aircraft over Liege. 2 B-17's seen going down vicinity Mulhausen, 5 chutes. 5 chutes seen 1330 hours from bomber at 10,000 ft. over Thames Estuary.

4. (A) 479th Fighter Group, Col. Zemke leading (B) 33 P-38's up 0939 down 1537 (C) 6 (D) F.O. 563 (E) and (F) nil (G) 3 P-38's down in Allied territory in France (H) 1-0-0 loco, 0-0-2 goods cars, 1-0-0 truck (I) after R/V at Laacher Lake 1120, 20,000 ft. 436th Sqdn. went to lower altitude. Flight led by Col. Zemke strafed small convoy 5-6 trucks N.E. Metz. Col. Zemke landed on single engine Laon. Right rudder shot off of another ship believed to have landed in France. 434 Sqdn. swung left around Koblenz to avoid flak became separated from other Sqdn. Made R/V 1115 Gillion 1st Div. B-17's 27,000 ft., 10 miles east of Gissen. Became separated from bombers over target area Halle-Merseberg escorted one box 3rd Div. B-17's out. Haze and smoke pots prevented observing bombing results.

d. Penetration, target and withdrawal Support, 3rd Force.

1. (A) 361st Fighter Group, Lt. Col. Hopkins leading (B) 49 P-51's up 0953 down 1503 (C) nil (D) F.O. 563 (E) 1 (F) 1 Cat. unknown, (G) Lt. Loughood, 375 Sqdn. missing (H) 1-0-0 air. 1 ME 109 dest. by Lt. Drew, 375 Sqdn. Also 4-0-3 locos (I) R/V'd 1120 vicinity Coblenz 2 front CW's 3rd Force 25,000 ft. Escorted thru target and out enemy coast, breaking off 1405 S. Egmond 18,000 ft. Formations good to target, poor afterwards and many stragglers escorted out. 4th and 355th Groups observed escorting and 56th Group seen joining up target area. 1 lone ME 109 25 miles S. Gottingen 15,000 ft. 1145, attacked and dest. 12 S/E

contrails 30,000 ft. 1200 20 miles E. Northheim; lost when hit deck. Strafing results: Dest. 2 locos, 1 pulling train heading S.W. at RC-4125 and RC-3920. Dest. 2 and dam. 2 stationary locos at RC-2713, RC-7913 and RC-9417. Dam. 1 loco heading S.W. at RV-7945. Lt. Lougheed collided with straggling red tailed white diagonal striped B-24 with 1 engine out, believe of 467th BG, 1145, 15,000 ft., Wooded area RV-2207, 5 mi. N.W. Coevorden approx. 17 mi. E. Meppel. As Lt. Lougheed approached B-24 appeared to go underneath bomber to cross over, apparently pulling up and being sucked in by B-24's propwash both went down. Believe 1 chute seen just above overcast; total of 5 chutes seen below overcast. 1 B-24 down target area., 1 chute. 3 chutes, no a/c, Burgneustadt 1130. 2 chutes, no a/c Hersfeld 1145, 8,000 ft. WH-3954. 1 B-24 exploded 1240 20 miles N. Magdeburg 18,000 ft. no chutes 1 B-24 believe of 446th BG C/S "B" heading N. 1230 25 miles N. Hanover believe heading for Sweden. 1 B-24 down E. Magdeburg 1215. no chutes.

2. (A) 355th Fighter Group, Lt. Col. Stewart leading (B) 48 P-51's up 0948 down 1415, 1 sqdn. 1515 (C) 4 (D) F.O. 563 (E) 4 (F) 3 Cat. AC (G) Lt. Zimmerman crash-landed in France, Capt. Rafferty and Lt. McCurry, 354 Sqdn. and Capt. Morgan, 368th Sqdn. missing (H) 12-0-1 air, 4-0-2 ground. 1-0-9 locos, 0-0-9 tanks on flat cars, 0-0-10 box cars. Air - 3 ME 109's dest. by Lt. H.W. Brown, 2 ME 109's by F/Lt. Poglar, 1-0-0 ME 109 each by Maj. Marshall, Lt. Priest and Lt. Schultz, 1-0-0 ME 109 shared by Maj. Marshall and Lt. Johnson, 0-0-1 ME 109 by Maj. Marshall, all 354 Sqdn. 2-0-0 ME 109's by Lt. Maisch, 1-0-0 ME 109 by F/Lt. Lionel Frost, 358 Sqdn. Ground - 1-0-0 JU 52 each by Lt. Johnston and Lt. McCurry, 1-0-0 FW 190 by Lt. White, 1-0-0 FW 190 shared by Lt. White and Lt. Schultz, 354 Sqdn., 0-0-1 DO 217 and 0-0-1 ME 109 by F/Lt. Frost, 358 Sqdn. (I) sighted bombers off Ostend 1130, passed along their route and R/V 1120, Coblenz, 21,000 ft., two boxes B-24's, 2nd Div. Unable to break escort at 5157-1013E. as directed because no other fighter groups present to escort bombers. Took big friends to Hanover, Misberg, then R/V 1245, 27,000 ft. with lead combat wings B-24's leaving targets at Magdeburg. Broke escort Zwolle, 1330, 25,000 ft., then returned to Germany looking for low-flying e/a and A/F, but observed none. South Kassel 20 plus ME 109's hit rear boxes bombers from 3 o'clock, in diving attack from 20,000 ft., 10 dest. by this group. Vicinity of Marburg, 16/20 ME 109's hit bombers from 6 o'clock, 1150, 2 dest. by one sqdn. 2 JU 52's dest. and 1 DO 217 dam. at Marburg A/F, 1210. Other ground claims at Kirchhain A/F, WG-8248. Lt. McCurry hit by light flak while strafing Marburg A/F, flying in trail. He pulled up to 4,000 ft., bailed out while plane was in spin. Dinghy observed but no chute. One sqdn. strafed M/Y at Quackenbruck, 1245, dam. locos, tanks on flat cars, box cars.

e. Target and Withdrawal Support, 3rd Force.

1. (A) 56th Fighter Group, Maj. Baker leading (B) 36 P-47's up 1014 down 1501 (C) nil (D) F.O. 563 (E) nil (F) 1 Cat. A, 1 Cat. AC (G) nil (H) 2-0-0 locos, 6-0-0 R.R. cars (I) R/V Oscherleben area 1219 hours, 25/26,000 ft. Escort broken Quackenbruck to Egmond, 1330 to 1400 hours, 21,000 ft. 2 a/c escorted crippled B-24 from N. Magdeburg to the Zuider Zee. 2 a/c on return strafed 2 train in Munster/Osnabruck area with above results. One plane hit by flak Hanover 15,000 ft. One plane dam. from explosion of loco. Escort otherwise uneventful. No e/a. 1 B-24 exploded N. Stendal, no chutes.

2. (A) 78th Fighter Group, Capt. Marshall leading (B) 36 P-47's up 1007 down 1517 (C) 1 (D) F.O. 563 (E) and (F) nil (G) 3 down in Brussels area short on gas all believed to be O.K. (H) nil (I) L/F in Noordwijk 1105 at 19,000 out Ijmuiden 1435 at 15,000 ft. Reached R/V point 9 min. early bombers reported they were on time and on course so group turned S. along bomber course and made 1/V

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1210 at 27,000 ft. 84th Sqdn. escorted wrong CW over Magdeburg which was under 10/10 cloud and no bombing seen. 82nd and 83rd Sqdn. escorted our CW's over Hanover where visibility was good and fires seen N. Hanover and at Osnabruck where bombing was good. Escorted bombers out over N. Sea. No e/a seen. 1 bomber exploded and 1 spun in N. Hanover, no chutes seen.

3. (A) 353rd Fighter Group, Maj. Hoey leading (F) 45 P-47's up 1025 down 1439 (C) 2 (D) F.O.563 (E) thru (H) nil (I) L/F in S. of The Hague 18,000 ft. 1116 hours. R/V 1 CW B-24's Halberstadt 1215 hours, proceeded south picking up 14th CW vicinity Nordhausen 1225 hours, continued escort over Hanover observing large fire with black smoke up to 15,000 ft. Remained with bombers until L/F out north of Ijmuiden 1418 hours. No e/a seen. F/B intercom jammed and also German voice heard on A channel while over Holland saying, "I know, I know, I know, I know". B-17 with RAF markings flying up and down coast of Holland 1330 hours.

4. (A) 356th Fighter Group, Lt. Col. Tukey leading (B) 48 P-47's up 1034 down 1501 (C) 8 (D) F.O.563 (E) thru (G) nil (H) 2-0-2 locos, 0-0-7 freight cars 1-0-0 oil cars (I) L/F in 1135 Egmond 18,000 ft. L/F out 1412 Egmond 8,000 ft. At 1205 when we were 50 to 60 miles W. of Hanover, Vinegrove 3-3 and 3-4 said they were under a tttack but we were too far away to help. Arrived Hanover area 1225 at 27,000 ft. Bombers were late. Flw in area and made R/V at 1235 15 miles S.E. of Hanover at 25,000 ft. with 2 CW's of B-24's. Escorted bombers over targets. Bombing appeared to be accurate judging from smoke over Mistburg and Hanover. Gave escort to L/F out. No e/a seen. Although at 1342 Vinegrove 3-3 and 3-4 said they were under attack in Zuider Zee area. As we were furnishing close support at this time in this area the bombers must have been mistaken. Stragglers were escorted to L/F out. 355th Group seen at R/V and 56th Group W. of Meppel. 3 flights strafed near Dutch-German border with above claims. R/T C.K. 1235 vicinity of Hildesheim 1 B-24 spun in. No chutes. 1345 vicinity of Zwolle 1 B-24 dove in and exploded. 1240 2 bombers down in flames in Magdeburg area. Too far away to see chutes.

f. Escort, 4th Force.

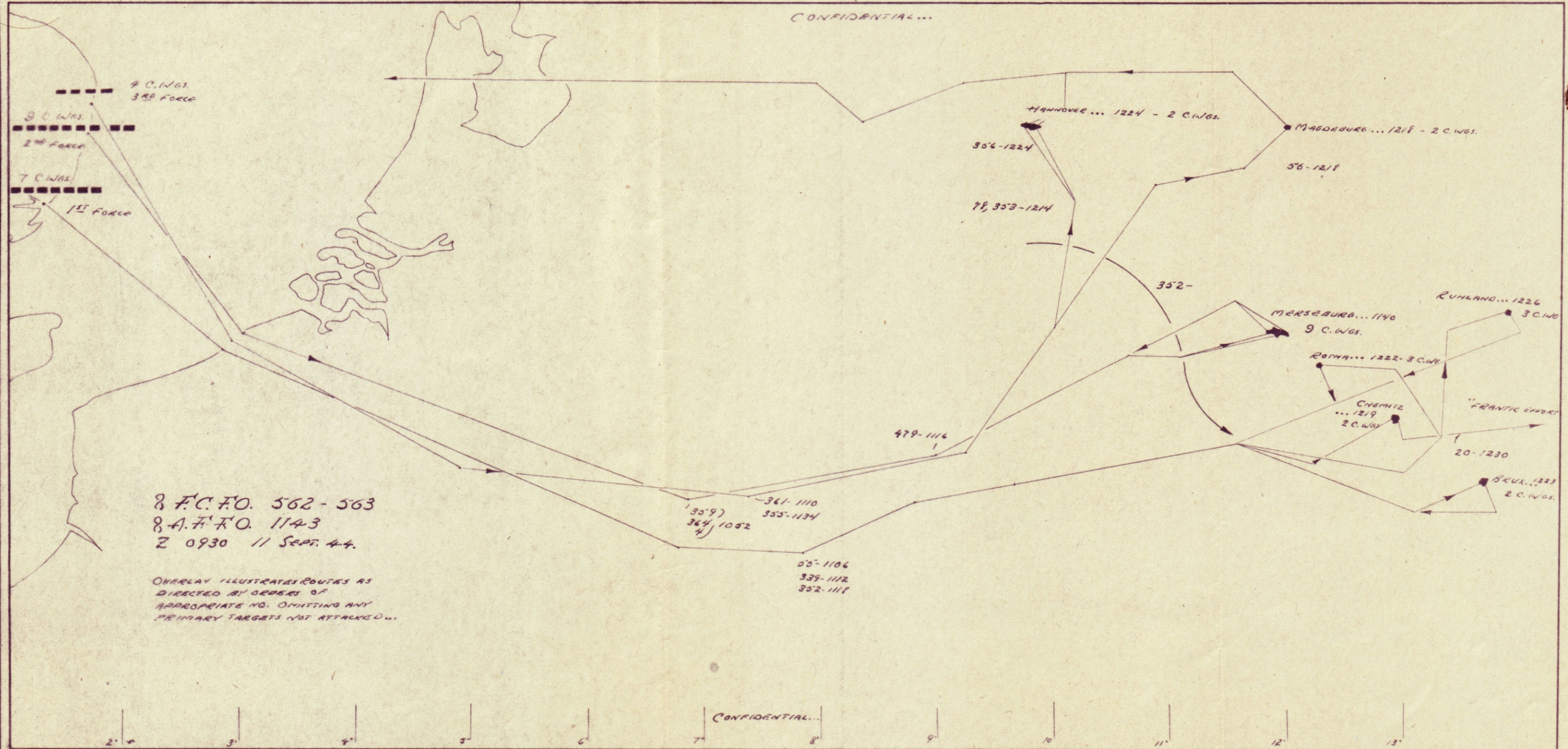
1. (A) 364th Fighter Group, Capt. Wicker leading (P) 15 P-51's up 1331 down 1909 (C) nil (D) F.O.564 (E) thru (H) nil (I) escorted thru target and out to 25 miles N. Terschelling Island 1900. No e/a seen.

By Command of Brigadier General GRISWOLD:

R. F. Sargent, Capt.
 LAURENCE K. CALLAHAN,
 Colonel, G.S.C.,
 Asst. C/S, A-2.

THE FOREGOING IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR RECORD PURPOSES.

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8 F.C.F.O. 562-563
 8 A.F.F.O. 1143
 Z 0930 11 SEPT. 44.

OVERLAY ILLUSTRATES ROUTES AS DIRECTED BY ORDERS OF APPROPRIATE HQ. OMITTING ANY PRIMARY TARGETS NOT ATTACKED...

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