



HEADQUARTERS VIII FIGHTER COMMAND  
NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 166

8 FC F.O. 312 - 8 AF F.O. 591  
24 APRIL 1944

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: Hq. VIII FC. :  
: Reg. No. 24197 :  
: Cy. No. 179 :  
: A-2 :  
:.....

HEAVY BOMBER ATTACK ON TARGETS IN GERMANY

STATISTICS - ALLIED FIGHTER GROUPS.

No. of Groups	Pen. Supt.	Tgt. Supt.	W/D Supt.	Totals
VIII FC (13)	5	6	4	15 Missions
IX FC (7)	2	Nil	5	7 Missions
A/C On Mission	171 P-47s 86 P-51s	122 P-51s 131 P-38s	319 P-47s 36 P-51s	490 P-47s 131 P-38s 246 P-51s <u>867</u>
A/C Lost	1 P-47	9 P-51s	4 P-47s 3 P-51s	12 P-51s 5 P-47s <u>17</u>
A/C Crashed in Eng. Or Seriously Damaged.	Nil	2 P-38s Cat. Unknown	Nil	2 P-38s Cat. Unknown
Personnel Casualties	1 (M)	9 (M) 1 (Sl W)	7 (M)	17 (M) 1 (Sl W)
Claims	4-1-1 (air) 28-0-13 (grnd)	47-3-14 (air) 27-0-24 (grnd)	15-2-5 (air) 3-0-1 (grnd)	66-6-20 (air) 58-0-38 (grnd) <u>124-6-58</u>
E/A Seen	32	225 Plus	54	311*
Bombers Seen To go Down	3	6	4	13*

Misc. Ground Targets: 1 barge, 4 locos destroyed, 3 flak towers, 4 locos and 1 train damaged.

\*Possible duplications as compiled from individual group sightings.

1. SUMMARY OF FIGHTER ESCORT.

1ST ATF (5 CWS, 1ST BD) TARGETS: LANDSBERG AND ERDING.

361st Group under Type 16 Control R/V'd 20 miles SW of Amiens with 5 CWS, 1st BD and 2 front CWS B-24s. Relieved 20 miles SW Chalons, 1203, by 56th A. 361st Group saw no e/a in air but strafed several A/Ds, total claims 5-0-0 without loss. 56th A Group continued escort to vicinity Strasbourg, 1240/1255. Group saw 16 e/a which made 1 pass at bombers and evaded before P-47s could engage. 354th Group, IX FC, from vicinity Strasbourg, 1240 to vicinity Munich, 1330.



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Group engaged 15 plus e/a near Friesen and Ingelstadt, claims 4-0-1 for nil loss. 357th Group from N of Augsburg, 1330 through target and out to S of Man-  
 la, 1480. Combat in target area with approximately 25 SE and 25 TE e/a. Claims 22-2-7 for loss of 4. 355th Group from 4830 - 1100 E, 1315 to vicinity Bockingen, 1435. Group engaged 50 plus S.E. with top cover of 20 plus S.E. e/a just NW of Munich. E/A aggressive and experienced. 30 plus e/a seen in area. seen in air NE of Trier and 11 FW 190s N of Saarbrücken. Group claims - -7 in air for loss of 4. 353rd Group R/V'd 1430, SE of Heilbronn, escorted vicinity Namur, 1545. Group engaged 5 plus FW 190s vicinity Germesheim for claims 1-0-1. 2 other e/a attacking B-17 straggler were dispersed NW of Charleroi. 1 P-47 lost, pilot bailed out O.K. 4th Group provided Free Lance area support, arriving Frankfurt area, 1233. Group engaged 34 FW 190s and ME 109s just N of Worms. Claims 12-2-4 for loss of 3. No bombers seen. 405th Group, IX FC, under Type 16 Control, R/V'd 20 miles S of Malmedy, 1528; broke escort 1645 North Foreland. 4 stragglers escorted. No e/a seen.

3RD ATF (4 CWS, 3RD BD) TARGET: FRIEDRICHSHAFEN.

56th B Group from Vitry, 1215 to vicinity of Strasbourg, 1300-1315. Bomber formation wide and strung out. Group saw only 1 e/a in air but strafed several A/Ds for total ground claims 16-0-11, nil loss. 55th Group R/V'd with the leading 2 CWS of 3rd BD 1250 vicinity of Strasbourg, escorted them through target, returning to target area for successive boxes and bringing them on through. Left Bombers 1350, S of New Ulm. Group engaged and dispersed 20 plus e/a just prior to R/V who were attacking rear box bombers. Claims 1-1-0 for nil loss. 364th Group from Dornstettin, 1305 through target to Germersheim, 1416, no e/a seen, but group strafed miscellaneous ground targets from Mainz to Duren. 78th B Group from SE Speyer, 1405 to Belgian border, 1445. Saw 5 e/a at R/V who evaded without attacking bombers. 358th Group, IX FC, from 13 miles E of Criel, 1434 to NE Dunkirk, 1546. Escort uneventful.

3RD ATF (4 CWS, 2ND BD) TARGET: GABLINGEN.

359th Group, under Type 16 Control, R/V'd 1145, Ault. After numerous vectors to NE and SW directed back to bombers. Escort broken 1250, Lunneville. Strafing St. Dizier, Clampanois and Bellenville A/Ds for claims of 7-0-1. 356th Group from 1155-1235, escorted until 1317, 30 miles NW Lake Constance. P-38s delayed 2 minutes before group broke escort. Bomber formation widespread and nearly 20 miles long. 363rd, IX FC, R/V'd as briefed 1305, escorted to S of Ingelstadt, 1430. No e/a seen in air. 352nd Group R/V'd with 2 CWS B-24s vicinity Ingelstadt, 1315, escorted to vicinity Neustadt, 1430, after being relieved by P-47s. Group destroyed only e/a seen in air and strafed 4 u/i A/Ds for ground claims 27-0-24. 1 P-51 lost. 20th Group R/V'd just before target, 1345. Saw no e/a while escorting bombers but saw and destroyed 3 e/a in air at Bad Kreuznach, without loss. Also strafed miscellaneous ground targets. 78th A from SE of Speyer, 1437 to vicinity Trier 1520, after arrival of other 47s and 51s. No bombers in trouble and no e/a seen near bombers. Claims 2-0-1 on ground, nil loss. 362nd Group, IX FC, from Moselle River, 1500 to Nieuport, 1640. Engaged 4 ME 109s near Kaiserlaueern, destroyed 2. Two P-47s lost. 368th Group, IX FC, uneventful escort from E of Andenne, 1510 to Nieuport, 1625. 365th Group, IX FC, was vectored by Type 16 Control to Mezieres, Tournes, Belval and Brussels. No e/a seen in air, 1 e/a destroyed on ground. 1 P-47 lost.

Points of Interest: 1. T/E e/a encountered well within known range of our fighter escort, 2. Very large aggressive concentration of S/E e/a in the Munich



area. 3. Unaggressive reaction to both penetration and withdrawal in the coastal areas.

## 2. BOMBER REPORT.

524 B-17s and 230 B-24s were dispatched to attack targets in Germany. 281 B-17s dispatched were assigned to attack targets at Landsberg, Oberpfaffenhofen and Erding. 268 B-17s attacked dropping a total of 440.5 tons of G.P. and 175 tons of I.B. with results from good to excellent reported. 230 B-24s were assigned targets at Gablingen and Leipheim A/Ds. 219 attacked dropping a total of 300.5 tons of G.P. and 231 tons of I.B. with good to excellent results. 243 B-17s were assigned targets at Friedrichshafen of which 229 attacked. 369.5 tons of G.P. and 161 tons of I.B. were dropped with fair to good results. A large proportion of the major installations at Landsberg A/D, Oberpfaffenhofen and Erding received direct hits and at least five A/C on each field were hit. Combat Wings attacking Oberpfaffenhofen report severe attacks by 75 - 200 e/a from N of Augsburg, until after the target. Bombing was done visually at Gablingen and Leipheim, and patterns were very good, with M.P.I.S. well covered. Only attack by 5 - 15 e/a over Belgium on return route. All bombing was done visually at Friedrichshafen but 2/10 to 4/10 clouds, and a smoke screen were reported in the target area. Only e/a attacks were on the route in, by 20 S.B. e/a E of Strasbourg, and by 8-10 E/A SW of Stuttgart. A total of 35 B-17s and 4 B-24s were lost. Ten crew members were rescued after ditching. 204 B-17s and 54 B-24s suffered minor damage; 24 B-17s and 1 B-24 suffered major damage.

### a. Penetration Support - 1st ATF.

1. (A) 361st Fighter Group - Major Merritt leading. (B) 51 P-47s, up 1038 down 1355. (C) 2 (D) F.O. 312 (E) thru (G) Nil. (H) 5-0-0 (grnd), 1 FW 190 destroyed by Lt Johnson, 1 ME 109 destroyed each by Lt Johnson and Capt Casto, 1 ME 110 destroyed by Lt Johnson, 1 JU 88 destroyed by Lt Pautenbush, 1 fuel dump damaged by Lt Rautenbush and 2 hangars damaged by Lt Morehouse, all of 375th Sq. (I) Landfall 1119 Berck 20,000. R/V 20 miles SW Amiens 1130 with 5 CWs 1st Div B-17s and 2 front CWs B-24s. Relieved 1203 by red-nosed P-47s 20 miles SW Chalons. Upon recall 1210 2 Sqdns returned along bomber track, crossing out 1253/1310 Le Crottoy/Le Treport 14,000. 375th Sq crossed out by flights vicinity Berck 1315/1330, approx. 10,000. Type 16 reported bandits 20 miles S point "S" - investigated S to Troyes seeing none. 1 flight strafed Montdidier A/D 1245 observing 5 dummy JU 88s. 1 flight strafed Metz A/D 1235 destroying 1 FW 190, 1 ME 109, 1 JU 88 and damaged 1 hangar. Observed 10 plus e/a on this A/D, also intense, accurate light flak. Same flight then attacked Laon/Chambry A/D 1245 and destroyed 1 ME 109, 1 ME 110 and damaged 1 hangar and 1 fuel dump. Observing 20 plus e/a on this A/D. Intense accurate light flak here also. 30 plus e/a seen on Attigny A/D. Approx. 1208 1 B-17 seen circling and 5 chutes opened in area S of Chateau Thierry. At 1215 vicinity Montdidier 2 chutes seen to open. 1 B-17 seen to pull out of formation momentarily and then reform.



2. (A) 56th A Fighter Group - Lt Col Gabreski leading. (B) 24 P-47s, up 1047 down 1450. (C) 4 (D) F.O. 312 (E) thru (G) Nil. (H) 0-0-1 (grnd) 1 HE 111 damaged on Fieburg A/D by Lt Col Gabreski, 61st Sq. (I) Landfall in Sangatte/Cayeux 1120, 14,000. R/V'd 20 miles W Chalons-Sur-Marne 1200, 22/25,000. Escort broken by one squadron SW Strasbourg 1240, other two squadrons SE Strasbourg 1255, all 20/25,000 ft. Landfall out Dunkirk/St. Valery 1343/1427, 9/20,000 P-38s and P-51s seen. 5 CWs 1st ATF escorted. 12 S.E. o/a probably ME 109s in four ship flights attacked the 2nd CW of the 1st ATF from 27,000 S of Nancy making a 90 degree turning dive on the Forts from the S but were too far away for the group to engage. Near Lunevill 4 ME 109s made a pass at the Forts and went to the deck before they could be engaged. After escort was broken two A/C strafed Friesburg A/D where one of eight HE 111s was damaged. Observations: 1 - Moderate accurate flak 13,000 Laon-Cambry. 2 - Fort fired on one squadron.

3. (A) 354th Fighter Group, IX FC, (compiled from telephone report). (B) 49 P-51s, up 1055 down 1550. (C) 7 (D) IX FC F.O. 179. (E) thru (G) Nil. (H) 4-1-1 (air). (I) Landfall Boulogne 1125, 15,000. R/V near Strasbourg, 1233, 22,000. Left bombers near Munich 1330, 20,000. Landfall out Ostend 1500, 17,000. Encounters: 15 plus FW 190s and ME 109s near Friesen and Ingelstadt. Engaged these with above claims.

b. Target Support - 1st ATF.

1. (A) 357th Fighter Group - Major Bregne leading. (B) 52 P-51s, up 1140 down 1645. (C) 6 (D) F.O. 312. (E) 4 lost - 2 reasons unknown, 1 flak, 1 collision with o/a. (F) 4 Cat. A - flak. (G) 4 missing - Lt Connaghan, 362nd Sq, bailed out after collision over Munich, Lt Hinman, 363rd Sq, last seen 20 miles E of Munich, Lt Donnell, 363rd Sq, last seen over Munich, Lt Stager, 364th Sq, bailed out SE Strasbourg after plane hit by flak near Ludwigshaven, 1 slightly injured - Lt A. E. Smith, 362nd Sq, hit by flak. (H) 22-2-7 (air), 1 ME 109 destroyed each by Capt Williams and Lt F. C. Smith, 3 ME 110s destroyed each by Lt England and Lt Adams, 2 ME 110s destroyed by Lt Beal, 1 ME 110 destroyed by Lt Connaghan, 1 ME 110 P.D. by Lt A. E. Smith, 2 ME 110s damaged each by Lts A. E. Smith and Lt Roughgarden, 1 ME 110 damaged each by Lts Beal, Coon and Harris all of 362nd Sq; 1 JU 88 destroyed by Lt Pierce, 1 ME 109 destroyed each by Capt Throop, Capt Hiro, Lts Pierce, Bochkay and Browning, all of 363rd Sq; 1 ME 109 destroyed each by Lts Peterson, Summer, McKinney, Reese and Carder, 1 ME 109 P.D. by Lt Shaw, all of 364th Sq. (I) Landfall Walcheren 17,000, 1212. R/V N of Augsburg 25,000, 1330. Gave bombers close escort through target leaving them S of Mannheim 25,000, 1450. Crossed out Walcheren 25,000, 1555. Combat in target area from 23,000 to deck with results stated. Lt Connaghan collided with ME 110 shearing off enemy's wing next to fuselage. Approximately 100 T.E. E/A seen on A/D believed to be Maisach by a pilot returning alone on the deck. About 50 ME 109s and 25 ME 110s were observed on A/D E of Stuttgart believed to be Nellingen. Flak was intense and accurate at Ludwigshaven. A particularly good concentration of bomb hits was observed in Landsberg. Total of 25 S.E. and 25 T.E. seen in the target area.

2. (A) 355th Fighter Group - Lt Col Dix leading. (B) 48 P-51s, up 1115 down 1635. (C) 7 (D) F.O. 312 (E) 4 lost (F) Nil (G) 4 missing - Lt Demers, 357th Sq, seen to crash and burn, Lts R. L. Norman, H. K. Hillman and J. D. Sturm, all of 357th Sq. (H) 20-0-7 (air), 4 ME 109s destroyed by Capt Woody, 3 ME 109s destroyed by Capt Kucheman, 2 ME 109s destroyed each by Lt Boulet and Lt H. W. Brown, 1 ME 109 destroyed by Lt Fortier, 1 ME 109 destroyed by Capt Woody and Lt Boulet (shared), 1 ME 109 destroyed by Lt Boulet and Lt Fortier (shared), 1



ME 109 damaged each by Lt Boulet and Lt Fortier, all of 354th Sq; 2 ME 109s destroyed by Lt Demers, 1 ME 109 destroyed by Capt Wilson, 1 FW 190 destroyed each by Lt Col Dix and Capt Bille, 1 ME 109 destroyed by Lt Demers, Lt Butler and Lt McNeff (shared), 1 ME 109 damaged each by Lt Col Dix, Capt Wilson, Lt Minchew and F/O King, 2 barges damaged by Lts Butler, McNeff and Kaminski, all of 357th Sq. (I) Landfall Knocke, 1200, 22,000. R/V'd briefed area (4830-1100E) 1315, 23,000 with 5 CWs B-17s, first three excellent formation, last two fair. During escort 50 plus ME 109s and FW 190s at 25,000 with top cover of 20 plus 109s at 28,000 attacked bombers 1330, just NW of Munich, resulting in the above claims. E/A flew flight formations of 4/6 A/C, pressing attack thru entire bomber formations. E/A's appeared to come from NE, making right turn to hit bombers head on. Same time 30 plus e/a attacked bombers from S. German pilots very aggressive, capable. One squadron escorted bombers over target, others reformed after combats, rejoined bombers W of target. Broke escort near Bockingen, 1435, 23,000. Landfall out by flights, Ostend/Cape Griz Nez, 1540/1620, 13/16,000. One B-17 seen to go down after initial attack by 109s, 2 chutes. Two B-17s seen to explode target area, no chutes. One flight, 357th Sq, attacked barges in Rhine River (5000-0750E). Lt Demers lost when wings came off pulling out of dive. At Maisach A/D, W of Munich, 25 e/a, mostly T.E., seen. On A/D vicinity of Mannheim, 25/30 e/a, mostly T.E. observed. At A/D believed Rogersdorf or Holzkirchen, 50 plus e/a (109s and ME 111s) seen. On withdrawal 20 plus e/a in air seen NE Trier. No ammunition/no fight. Eleven FW 190s encountered N Saarbrücken. Lt Fortier turned into them but they would not engage. Appeared inexperienced. Radio normal.

c. Withdrawal Support - 1st ATF.

1. (A) 353rd Fighter Group - Col Duncan leading. (B) 49 P-47s, up 1322 down 1700. (C) 12 (D) F.O. 213. (E) 1 P-47 lost. (F) 1 Cat. AC - e/a, 1 Cat. A - e/a. (G) 1 missing - Lt Crampton, 351st Sq. (H) 1-O-1 (air), 1 FW 190 destroyed by Capt Leatherman, Lts Mincik and Toppel (shared), 1 FW 190 damaged by Lt Tumlin, all of 351st Sq. (I) Landfall Nieuport 1333, 14,000. R/V'd with 5 CWs 1st Div B-17s SE Heilbronn 1st CW at 1430, last CW at 1446. Left bombers vicinity Namur 1545 passing several wings of B-17s and B-24s on route out. Landfall out Nieuport 1645, 16,000. In vicinity of Germesheim 5 FW 190s dove out of the sun passed thru bomber formation. 1 destroyed and 1 damaged. Lt Crampton was seen to bail out approx. 8 miles E of Kaiserslautern, and land safely in wooded area. 2 ME 109s bounced B-17 straggler NW Charleroi. This attack dispersed and e/a chased to Liege but could not engage. 2 stragglers escorted to English coast by two flights. 1 B-17 ditched just off Ramsgate with men in dinghy reported to ASR. Later picked up.

2. (A) 4th Fighter Group - Colonel Blakeslee leading. (B) 41 P-51s, up 1054 down 1520. (C) 3 (D) F.O. 312 (E) 3 lost. (F) Nil. (G) 3 missing - 1st Lt H. T. Biel, 334th Sq, 1st Lt P. S. Riley and 2nd Lt M. G. Scargrough, both of 335th Sq. (H) 12-2-4 (air), 2 FW 190s destroyed by Lt Megrua, 1 ME 109 destroyed by Lt Howe, 1 FW 190 P.D. by Lt Megrua, 1 FW 190 damaged by Lt Pierce, all of 334th Sq; 2 FW 190s destroyed by Lt Schlogel, 1 FW 190 destroyed each by Colonel Blakeslee, Capt Happel, Lts McGratten, L. M. Read and Stanford, 1 FW 190 destroyed by Col Blakeslee and Lt Schlogel (shared), 1 FW 190 damaged by Col Blakeslee, all of 335th Sq; 1 FW 190 destroyed by Lt Godfrey, 1 FW 190 damaged each by Lt Godfrey and Lt McDill, 1 FW 190 P.D. by Lt Netting, all of 336th Sq. (I) Landfall Knocke 1146, 18,000. Arrived Frankfurt area 1233, 18,000, turned S and letting down to 10,000. Engaged 34 FW 190s and ME 109s flying down Rhine River headed SW at 10,000, just N of Worms. All claims re-



sulted from this encounter. 1 red-nosed P-51 seen going down smoking. 6 chutes observed in combat area. 6 of the e/a destroyed were observed firing their cannon towards the ground just before crashing. A/C flown by leader of FW 190s bore two large Vs pointing toward cockpit. One red-nosed silver ME 109 encountered. White-nosed-P-51s came in as combat was ending. Group out Zeebrugge 1415 15,000. 20 barrage balloons observed 8/10,000 at Worms. R/T transmissions poor. No bombers seen.

3. (A) 405th Fighter Group (compiled from telephone report). (B) 50 P-47s, up 1408 down 1805. (C) 3 (D) IX FC F.O. 179. (E) thru (H) Nil. (I) Landfall in Le Touquet 1450, 19,000. R/V'd 20 miles S of Malmedy 1528, 22,000. Landfall out SW of Ostend 1640, 17,000. Left bombers N Foreland 1645, 15,000. stragglers escorted out. No e/a seen.

d. Penetration Support - 2nd ATF.

1. (A) 56th B Fighter Group - Major Stewart leading. (B) 24 P-47s, up 1058 down 1520. (C) 2 (D) F.O. 312 (E) Nil. (F) 3 - 1 P-47 Cat. AC, flak, down Manston, 2 P-47s Cat. A, flak. (G) Nil. (H) 16-0-11 (ground), 2 DO 217s destroyed by Capt Truluck, 1 DO 217 destroyed by Lt Aranyos, 1 ME 210 destroyed each by Lt Peters, Lt Marshall and Lt Wisniewski, 1 ME 110 destroyed by Lt Kerr, 1 JU 52 destroyed by Lt Marshall, 2 ME 109s destroyed by Lt Kerr, 1 ME 109 destroyed each by Lt Peters, Capt Truluck and F/O Dale, 1 FW 190 destroyed by F/O Dale, 1 JU 87 destroyed by Lt Warner, 1 u/i A/C destroyed by Lt Wisniewski, 1 DO 217 and 1 ME 210 damaged by Lt Aranyos, 2 DO 217s damaged by Capt Truluck, 1 ME 110 damaged by Lt Kerr, 1 ME 210 damaged by Lt Wisniewski, 1 ME 109 damaged by Lt Peters, and 1 JU 87 damaged by Lt Wisniewski, all of 63rd Sq; 2 ME 109s and 1 u/i biplane damaged by Major Stewart, 62nd Sq. (I) Landfall in Calais/St. Valery 1132, 11,000. R/V'd Vitry 1215, 22,000. Escort broken by one Sq 25 miles SE Strasbourg 1300, 23,000, by one Sq 50 miles SE Strasbourg 1305, 25,000, and by the third near Sigmaringen 50 miles S of Stuttgart, 1315, 22,000. Landfall out Walcheren Island to Bercks-Mer 1415/1515, 6/10,000. P-47s, P-38s and P-51s seen. 4 CWs of 3rd Div escorted. Bomber formation wide and strung out. One JU 52 seen on deck S of Strasbourg. Thianville A/D with 25 S.E. e/a strafed, three damaged. 2 A/C believed B-17s seen Montdidier A/D. After breaking escort the 63rd Sq found an A/D SW of Stuttgart probably Obr. Thalheim on which were 20/25 e/a. As flak was apparently absent 4 passes were made on field starting 14 fires. One flight with ammunition, then strafed nearby A/D believed Eutingen where 40 DO 217s, JU 88s and FW 200s were seen. Observations: 1. Flak intense and accurate 9,500 ft. at Boulogne, moderate and late at Saarbrücken at 20,000, slight and inaccurate 8,000 at Brussels. 2. One B-17 seen headed for Switzerland.

e. Target Support - 2nd ATF.

1. (A) 56th Fighter Group - Lt Col Crowell leading. (B) 50 P-38s, up 1100 down 1549. (C) 6 (D) F.O. 312 (E) Nil. (F) 1 crash landed vicinity Manston - Cat. unknown, pilot uninjured. (G) Nil. (H) 1-1-0 (air), (I) Landfall in Le Crotoy 1147/21,000 to vicinity of Strasbourg, R/V'ing with 1 box of B-17s of 1st Div at 1245 W of planned R/V. Shortly thereafter making R/V with lead 2 CWs of B-17s 3rd Div at 1250, 25,000 to 28,000. Escorted heavies thru target, returning to target area for successive boxes, and bringing them on thru D S of Now Ulm at 1350, making landfall out Calais to Ostend 1508, 15/18,000. 20 plus ME 109s seen prior to actual R/V, attacking rear box of bombers. Group engaged e/a, which split S'ed for deck, 343rd Yellow flight making above



claims. 7 e/a seen at same place at 33,000. 10 S.E. e/a seen in vicinity of New Ulm. 5 E/A seen taking off from landing strip 10 miles N of target. Observations: 1. 25 plus barges lined up in Rhine River S of Strasbourg. 2. Smoke pots at Lake Constance area. 3. Large dam observed 20 miles ESE of Strasbourg. 4. 1 B-17 seen heading for Switzerland, 1 seen in flames in target area no chutes. 5. 18 u/i T.E., 1 silver 109, 2 Gotha gliders observed on A/D S of Strasbourg. 6. Silver T.E. e/a observed on A/D in camouflaged revetments 5 miles due W of Namur. 7. Flak at Le Crotoy, Metz, Strasbourg, and target area moderate to heavy. British Ack-Ack fired at 338th Sq on return over Clacton at 7/10,000 ft.

2. (A) 364th Fighter Group - Lt Col Dale leading. (B) 50 P-38s, up 1126 down 1636. (C) 6 (D) F.O. 312 (E) Nil. (F) 3 Cat. A, flak, 1 Cat. AC, flak. (G) Nil. (H) 1 river barge destroyed by Lt Linn, 1 train damaged by Lts Linn and Steincamp, 1 locomotive destroyed by Major Neece, Lts Linn, Seely, Steincamp, Visconte and Demille, 385th Sq, and Lt Fowle, 384th Sq. (I) Landfall in Knoeke 18,000, 1204. Landfall out Walcheren 14,000, 1514. Bombers reported early by Controller but made R/V approx. on time with 4 boxes 3rd Div at Dornstettin, 26,000, 1305, escorting rear half thru target to Germersheim 20,000, 1416. Bomber formations good; bombed thru smoke screen. One B-17 in 3rd box seen to explode over Friederichshafen 20,000, 1340, no chutes. One B-17 went down 30 miles N Lake Constance 20,000, 1340, 4 chutes. One B-17 went down vic. Ravensburg 14,000, 1320, one chute. P-38s, P-47s and P-51s with bombers but no e/a encountered. On Plienigen A/D SE Stuttgart 15-20 S.E. and T.E. A/C and one silver B-17 observed. One flight of 385th Sq strafed ground targets Mainz to Duren, destroying river barge 20 miles W Mainz, 1445, damaging train 40 miles N Trier and destroying locomotive 20 miles SE Duren.

f. Withdrawal Support - 2nd ATF.

1. (A) 78th B Fighter Group - Capt Doyle leading. (B) 23 P-47s, up 1225 down 1624. (C) 1 (D) F.O. 312 (E) thru (H) Nil. (I) Landfall Furnes 1307, 13,000. R/V'd SE Speyer 1405, escorted bombers to 1445 over Belgian border. Out over Furnes 1530, 13,000. 5 S.E. e/a pulling contrails seen approaching bombers from E at R/V at 28,000. Black flight climbed to engage but e/a peeled off and dove inland without attacking bombers. No other e/a seen, 1 B-17 spun in near Trier, 8 chutes seen. Bombers in good formation. R/T excellent. No e/a seen on A/Ds. No trains seen.

2. (A) 358th Fighter Group - (compiled from telephone report). (B) 46 P-47s, up 1315 down 1702. (C) 6 (D) IX FC F.O. 179. (E) thru (H) Nil. (I) Landfall in NE Dunkirk 1334, 12,000. R/V'd 13 miles E of Criel, 1434, 20,000. Left bombers NE Dunkirk 1546, 17,000. Landfall out 1546, 17,000. No e/a seen. Intense, heavy accurate flak at landfall in and landfall out. Bombers 4 minutes late. R/T control difficult to contact.

g. Penetration Support - 3rd ATF.

1. (A) 359th Fighter Group - Major C. S. Irvine leading. (B) 44 P-47s, up 1050 down 1443. (C) 5 (D) F.O. 312 (E) Nil. (F) 1 P-47 Cat. A and 1 P-47 Cat. AC, flak. (G) Nil. (H) 7-0-1 (ground), 1 ME 109 destroyed each by Lt Wetmore, Bateman and Lt Porter, 1 u/i S.E. destroyed by Capt S. R. Smith, 1 u/i T.E. destroyed by Capt S. R. Smith, Lts Wetmore and Bateman (shared), 1 ME 109 damaged by Lt Wetmore, all of 370th Sq; 2 u/i A/C destroyed by Capt Mosse, Lts Janney, Lammens and Burton (shared) also getting two hangars afire, damaging



barracks, admin building and power lines, all of 368th Sq. (I) Landfall 1145, 19,000. R/V'd two minutes before and at landfall. Ginfizz gave us numerous vectors to NE and SW eventually led us back to bombers, whom we left 1250, 23,000, vicinity Lunneville. After wing tanked P-47s joined. Landfall, 1349-1355, Dunkirk area, 9-16,000. Destroyed 3 ME 109s and u/i S.E. at St. Dizier, seen on A/Ds at Champenois, where hangars set afire, 1 T.E. at Belhenville. Many seen on A/Ds though out this area. No e/a in air. B-17 crashed 1220, SE Champagne, no apparent cause. No chutes. R/T good. Ginfizz faded at 200 miles from Hythe. His vectors too loosely-phrased, group leader said, precise neither on heading or purpose. Bomber intra wing formation loose but wings close together.

2. (A) 356th Fighter Group - Lt Col Tukey leading. (B) 42 P-47s, up 1054 down 1522. (C) 1 (D) F.O. 312 (E) 1 lost. (F) Nil. (G) Lt W. B. Ingram, Jr., 361st Sq. (H) Nil. (I) Landfall in 1148, 20,000. R/V'd with bombers from 1155 to 1235. One group P-47s at R/V escorted bombers till 1317 30 miles NW Liege Constance. One Group P-38s arrived 2 minutes before we broke escort. Landfall out 1435, 15,000, Knocke. R/T and intercom good. Observations: A few T.E. A/C on Bierset A/D W. of Liege. One large A/C in dive, struck ground near Epernay and exploded. Thought to be B-17. One burning object on St. Dizier A/D. Large concentration of barges, Rhine River, Strasbourg area. Heavy moderate flak Strasbourg area. Light flak from 3 trawlers off Knocke. Bomber formation extremely long and widespread, making escort very difficult. Distance between front and rear boxes nearly 20 miles.

3. (A) 363rd Fighter Group (compiled from telephone report). (B) 52 P-51s, up 1124 down 1624. (C) 8 (D) F.O. 179, IX FG. (E) thru (H) Nil. (I) Landfall in Bourg 1208, 14,000. R/V'd as briefed, 1305 20/27,000. Left bombers S of Neustadt 1430, 20/25,000. Landfall out between Bourg and Calais 1610, 9/17,000. Bombing results excellent on A/D S of Augsburg; many administration buildings and barracks received direct hits. At Louingen A/F which was bombed, 2 T.E. and 4 S.E. were seen on ground. On Metz A/D 2 ME 177s and 18 S.E. A/C seen. No e/a seen in air. Flak over target heavy and intense.

#### K. Target Support - 3rd ATF.

1. (A) 352nd Fighter Group - Major Proddy leading. (B) 45 P-51s, up 1127 down 1655. (C) 10 (D) F.O. 312 (E) 1 lost. (F) Nil. (G) 1 missing - Capt MacKean, 486th Sq. (H) 28-0-24 (1-0-0 air, rest ground), 1 JU 52 destroyed (air) by Lt Miklajcyk, 3 ME 110s destroyed by Capt MacKean, 2 JU 88s destroyed by Capt MacKean, 3 JU 88s destroyed by Lt Miklajcyk, 1 ME 410 (night fighter) destroyed by Lt Harker, 1 DO 217 destroyed by Lt Harker, 1 HE 177 and 1 ME 210 destroyed by Lt Colby, 4 ME 110s, 2 JU 88s and 1 JU 52 destroyed by Lt Heller, 2 JU 88s, 1 HE 111 and 1 DO 217 destroyed by Lt Anderson, 1 ME 110 destroyed by Lt Miles, 1 JU 88 and 1 DO 217 destroyed by Lt Wallace, 1 u/i S.E. trainer destroyed by Capt Andrew, 1 u/i trainer damaged by Lt Colby, 3 u/i trainers damaged by Lt Miles, 2 ME 109s damaged by Lt Wallace, 1 JU 88 damaged each by Capt Andrew and Lt Harker, 1 JU 52, 3 ME 110s and 1 u/i T.E. damaged by Lt Heller, 8 JU 88s damaged by Lt Whinnem and 3 JU 88s damaged by Lt Wallace, all of 486th Sq. (I) Landfall Nieuwe Sluis 18,000, 1220. R/V'd with good formation 2 CWS 2nd Div. B-24s vicinity Freudonstadt 22,000, 1315. P-38s with lead CWS. Bombing observed and considered good. Broke escort vicinity Neustadt 1430, 22,000 after P-47s relieved us. 486th Sq strafed 4 u/i A/Ds - one approx. 40 miles N of Munich 1415 and 3 in Stuttgart area approx. 1445 with the above results. One JU 52 destroyed in air over A/D 40 miles N of Munich. 30 plus T.E. e/a seen



on A/Ds Stuttgart area. 15 plus T.E. e/a seen on A/D vicinity Ulm. No other e/a seen in air. Capt MacKean's plane seen to strike high tension wire and explode approx. 12 miles N. of Augsburg. R/T and F/B intercom good.

2. (A) 20th Fighter Group - Major Johnson leading. (B) 51 P-38s, up 1140 down 1650. (C) 8 (D) F.O. 312. (E) Nil. (F) 1 P-38 Cat. A, flak, 1 P-38 Cat. and reason unknown. (G) Nil. (H) 3-0-0 (air), 1 ME 109 destroyed by Capt Taylor, 55th Sq, 1 ME 109 destroyed by Capt Reihmer, 77th Sq. and Lt Watson, 55th Sq, (shared), 1 ME 109 destroyed by Lt Shultz, 55th Sq; 2 locos, 1 flak tower destroyed by Lt Loehnert, 1 loco destroyed by Lt Col Wilson, 1 flak tower destroyed by Lt Loehnert and Lt Shultz, 1 flak tower damaged by Lt Anderson, 3 locomotives damaged by Lt Col Wilson, and 1 locomotive damaged by Lt Loehnert, all of 55th Sq. (I) In, 1232, Knocke, 20,000. R/V'd 2 CWS B-24s flying in poor formation, 1345, just before target, 21,000. 55th and 77th Sqns hit deck 1432. 79th Sqdn W/D, 1440, 20,000 and remained at altitude. Out, 1540-1610, Knocke to Ostend, 8,000-17,000. No e/a seen while escorting bombers. Bombing described as excellent. P-51s at R/V and W/D, P-47s R/V'd shortly before W/D. Approximately 100 barrage balloons seen over Mannheim, 800 ft. Several P-47s and P-51s simulated attacks on flights of group while in escort. R/T good. Total of 3 e/a seen in air at Bad Kreuznach. Group destroyed all three.

i. Withdrawal Support - 3rd ATF.

1. (A) 78th A Fighter Group - Lt Wilkinson leading. (B) 49 P-47s, up 1257 down 1657. (C) 9 (D) F.O. 312 (E) Nil. (F) 3 Cat. A, 1 Cat. AC. (G) Nil. (H) 2-0-1 (ground), 1 DO 217 destroyed by Lt Basher, 82nd Sq; 1 ME 110 destroyed by Lts Juchheim and Massa, 83rd Sq; 1 ME 110 damaged by Lt Juchheim, 83rd Sq. (I) Landfall Furnes 1336, 15,000. R/V'd with B-24s S of Speyer 1437, 20,000, which were escorted by P-38s and P-51s. One flight dispatched to escort few straggling B-17s N of course. Left bombers Trier area 1520 after arrival of other 47s and 51s. Flew over B-17s along W/D route. Crossed out Blankenburg 1605, 17,000. Bombers not attacked, none seen to go down. No e/a identified near bombers. Early return bounced at Furnes by 2 ME 109s. 2 ME 110s on Wengerahr A/D; 1 claimed destroyed, 1 damaged. One 20 M/M position on N end, and 1 at S end. One DO 217 on A/D believed to be St. Trond, attacked and claimed destroyed. Moderate M/G fire on N end of A/D. 15-20 black barrage balloons at Gernersheim, S of Mannheim. Bombers followed during entire escort by several u/i A/C, drawing contrails, 6 o'clock high. Flights unable to get close enough to identify.

2. (A) 368th Fighter Group, IX FC (compiled from telephone report). (B) 48 P-47s, up 1341 down 1732. (C) 1 (D) IX FC F.O. 179. (E) thru (H) Nil. (I) Landfall in Nieuport 1625, 20,000. One B-24 seen to explode from flak E of Brussels, no chutes. Bombers in fair formation. No e/a seen. Brussels area heavy, moderate and accurate flak. Novilles, heavy intense and accurate flak.

j. Straggler Support.

1. (A) 365th Fighter Group, IX FC (compiled from telephone report). (B) 37 P-47s, up 1459 down 1820. (C) 1 (D) IX FC F.O. 179. (E) 1 lost. (F) Nil. (G) 1 missing. (H) 1-0-0 (ground). (I) Landfall in Le Touquet 1544, 20,000. Landfall out Hautbone 1727, 18,000. 1 B-17 exploded 10 miles E of Brussels - 1559 believed caused by flak, no chutes. Vectored to Mezieres,



Tournes, Belval, to Brussels.

2. (A) 362nd Fighter Group, IX FC (compiled from telephone report). (B) 51 P-47s, up 1352 down 1739. (C) 1 (D) IX FC F.O. 179. (E) 2 lost. (F) Nil. (G) 2 missing. (H) 2-0-0 (air) S.E. (I) Landfall in Nieuport 1425, 17,000 R/V'd Moselle River 1500, 20,000. Left bombers at Nieuport 1640, 16,000. Landfall out Nieuport at same time. Near Moselle, passed last box of B-17s coming out in good formation. Went further in, in search of stragglers, found none. Near Kaiserlausern 1 flight of 377th Sq engaged 4 ME 109s and destroyed 2. On way out Yellow flight of 378th Sq saw two FW 190s dive thru box of B-17s and were chased by Checker nosed P-47s.

By command of Major General KEPNER:

W. J. Lodge, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt  
For:

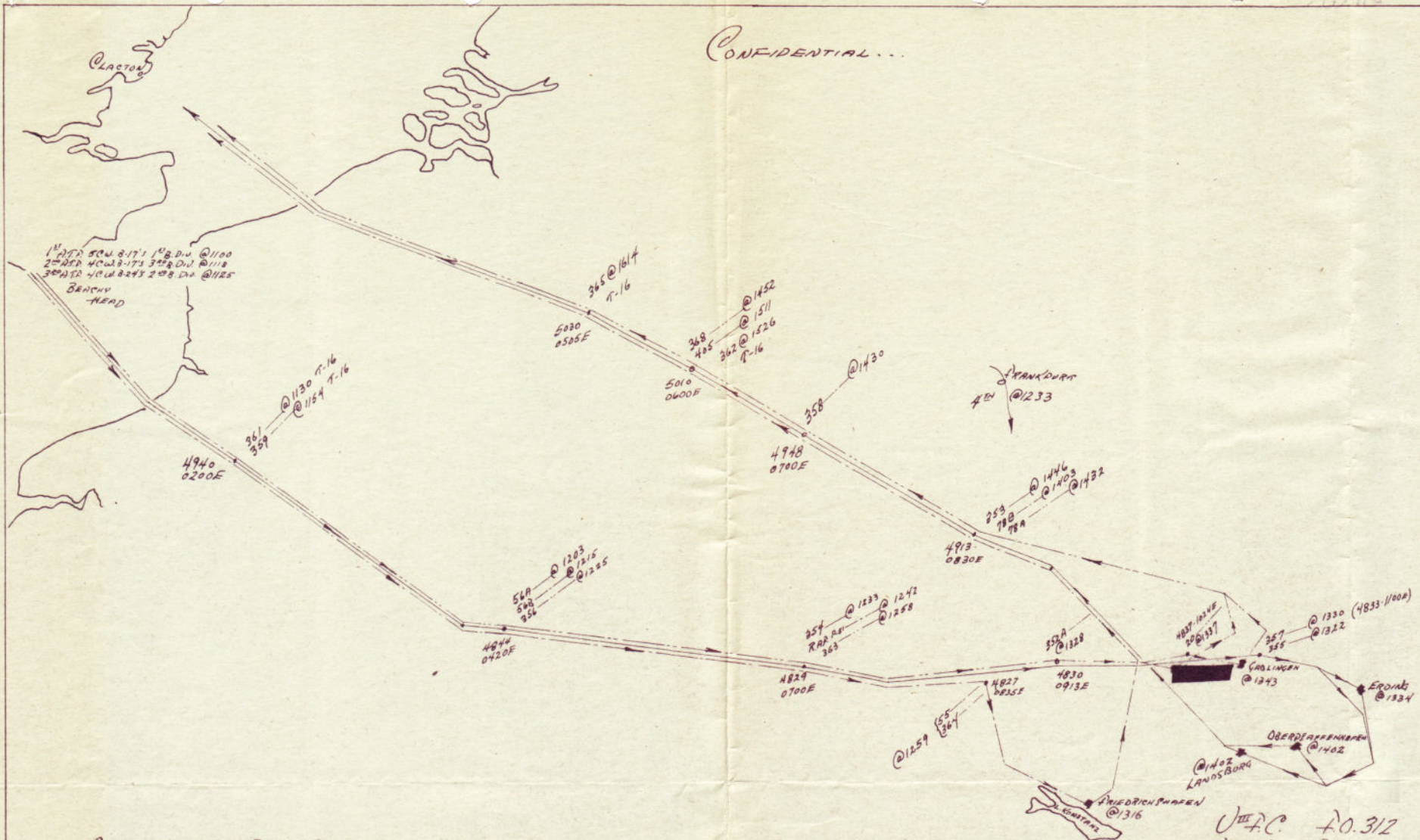
LAURENCE K. CALLAHAN,  
Colonel, G. S. C.,  
Ass't C of S, A-2.

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

ADDENDUM: Under 55th Fighter Group's report (H) add - 1 ME 109 destroyed by Lt Porter, 1 ME 109 probably destroyed by Lt De Young, both of 343rd Sq. Claims remain 1-1-0.



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

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ZERO HE 1100 HOS.  
24 APRIL '44