

BOMBER COMMAND REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

30th. NOVEMBER/1st. DECEMBER, 1943.

Essen: Minelaying: Leaflets:

SUMMARY

Essen 4 Mk.I OBOL Mosquitoes were detailed on a precision test against Krupp's works at Essen. 2 made controlled runs, and 2 bombed on D.R. because of the failure of their devices. All returned safely.

Minelaying 42 Stirlings and Wellingtons laid 115 mines off the French Atlantic ports; 2 other aircraft returned early. None was lost.

Leaflets 7 Wellingtons, accompanied by 7 U.S. Fortresses, dispersed leaflets over France and N.W. Germany without loss.

WEATHER FORECAST

Bases:- Generally fit all night, with variable amounts of cumulus and strato-cumulus, scattered showers and moderate visibility.

Germany:- Heavy convection cloud to above 20,000' over North Sea and North German plain. Much cumulo-nimbus cloud in central and S. Germany, with a few clearances. Munich might have good breaks late in the night, but these are unlikely.

France:- Good clearances in convection cloud. Scattered showers over W. coast.

FIGURES

		<u>Bombing</u>	<u>Mine- laying</u>	<u>Leaf- lots.</u>
(a)	No. of aircraft despatched.....	4	44	7
(b)	" " " reaching primary area.....	4	42	7
(c)	" " abortive sorties (tech defect).....	0	2	0
(d)	" " aircraft missing.....	0	0	0
(e)	" " mines laid.....		115	

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

Bases:- Fit all night. Cloud dispersed quickly after dusk.

Essen:- 7-3/10ths. layer cloud, occasionally breaking to 5/10ths. Tops 2,000'.

W. France:- 9/10ths. strato-cumulus, base 2,000', tops 5,000' in extreme E. Little or no cloud elsewhere. Good visibility. No moon.

ENEMY DEFENCES

Nothing of interest was reported.

CASUALTIES

All our aircraft returned safely. 2 Mosquitoes received minor damage from flak over Essen.

IM/JT.
C/S. 26342/5/CRS4,
2nd. January, 1944.

ESSEN: Minelaying Leaflets:
30th NOVEMBER/1st DECEMBER, 1943.

T. UNIT	GROUP	AIRCRAFT TYPE	SERIES	W/C REPORTING		REACTIVE		MIS-	DAMAGE				INTERCEPTIONS		RESULTS	
				1944 JAN.	1943 JAN.	OVER E. T.	NOT OVER E. T.		ENG	PLANE	FIGHTER	MISC. IN FLIGHT	OTHER CAUSES	TRACK- ED		NOT TRACK- ED
ESSEX	8 277	Waco IX	4	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2. 3.6
MINELAYING FORCES	1	Well.X	7	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12 mines
SP. FORCE	1	Well.X	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 mines
ST. FORCE	1	Well.X	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 mines
GLACIER	3	Star.III	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33 mines
L. FORCE	3	Star.III	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20 mines
S. FORCE	3	Star.III	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14 mines
CHEROKEE	3	Star.III	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 mines
LA FAYE	3	Star.III	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 mines
MINELAYING TOTAL			44	42	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	135 mines
LEAFLETS		Well.Ic	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
N. FORCE	91	Well.X	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	92	Well.X	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
LEAFLET TOTAL			7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
WELLINGS (U.S.A.B.C.)		Fortress	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL			55	53	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	

* NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL.

Leaflets: Wellingtons to - Rouen, Paris and Argentan.
 Fortresses to - houses, Toung, Krefeld and Opiden.

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BOMBER COMMAND REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

1/2nd. DECEMBER, 1944.

SUMMARY

31 Stirlings and Halifaxes were detailed to lay mines in the Kattegat, and off Aalborg and the Frisians. 23 reached their targets, laying 80 mines; and others, experiencing technical troubles en route, each laid 3 mines off Horn's Reef. 4 aircraft returned early, and 2 were lost, probably to fighters. 2 others were seriously damaged on landing.

WEATHER FORECAST

Midnight frontal positions:- (1) warm front 60°N. 00° - 55°N. 02°W. - 50°N.

Bases:- Poor visibility. 4 and 6 Groups, and half the airfields in 1, and 5 Groups will be unfit for early take-off; elsewhere, visibility will generally be 1,500-3,000 yards. Diversions will be most difficult to find. Cloud: strato-cumulus (base 1,000-1,500') and broken cumulus. Increase in easterly wind may clear southern bases towards dawn.

Germany:- Broken cumulus and strato-cumulus in N.W. Extensive breaks in convection cloud E. of 10°E., with good visibility. Layer cloud with a few breaks S. Leipzig: 7-10/10ths. strato-cumulus, tops 5,000', base below 1,500', with streaks of small patches above. Chances of loss from 1/10ths. total cloud. Moderate visibility.

France:- Well broken strato-cumulus.

Denmark and W. Baltic:- Broken convection cloud, tops generally below 3,000'.

RESULTS

(a)	No. of aircraft despatched.....	31
(b)	" " " reporting mines laid in primary area.....	23
(c)	" " " " " " " " alternative area.....	2
(d)	" " abortive sorties (weather.....2) (GEE u/s.....1) (cause unknown-crashed on return..1)	4
(e)	" " aircraft missing.....	2(6.4%)

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

Clear over W. Denmark. 9-10/10ths. cloud, tops 5,000', over Kattegat. 10ths. off Aalborg. 6-8/10ths. strato-cumulus, base 2,000', tops 6,000', over Frisians. Half moon.

ENEMY DEFENCES

Night fighters were heard operating off the Danish coasts. One Stirling was attacked and damaged by a Do. 217, and another saw a bomber destroyed in combat, although no claims were heard. No flak opposition was reported.

INCIDENTS

2 Stirlings did not return from the Kattegat and Aalborg. Both were probably lost to fighters. 2 aircraft were seriously damaged in landing accidents, one being wrecked with the loss of all its crew. Another was badly hit in combat.

31/12/1/OPSA
1 February, 1944

SQUAD	GROUP	AIRCRAFT TYPE	SORTIES	A/C REPORTING ATTACK ON		AIRCRAFT DOWN		DAMAGE	DAMAGE				RESULTS		
				PRIM. AREA	SEC. AREA	OVER E. T.	NOT DOWN E. T.		DOWN	DOWN	DOWN	DOWN		DOWN	DOWN
100	3	Star. III	3	1	1	-	-	1	-	1.0	-	-	1	-	3 mines (Lalberg) 3 mines (Horn's Reef)
100	3	Star. III	16	11	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	1B	-	-	33 mines (Zattgat) 3 mines (Horn's Reef)
100	4	Hal. III	12	11	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1B	-	-	44 mines
GRAND TOTAL			31	23	2	-	4	2	-	1.0	-	1B+D	1	-	86 mines

SC/OT.
C.R.S. 3

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BOMBER COMMAND REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

2/3rd DECEMBER, 1943.

BERLIN : Bochum : Witten : Leaflets.SUMMARY

1. Berlin. 458 aircraft, mostly Lancasters, left to give Berlin its fifth heavy raid within a fortnight. Unexpected winds were encountered en route, which blew many aircraft off track and nullified the Pathfinders' efforts to make P.R. runs from Rathenow. Consequently, although there were gaps in the cloud covering the city, most of the bombing was scattered over a wide area of open country to the S. Some concentration was achieved 5-8 miles S.S.E. of the aiming-point. 40 bombers (8.7%) were lost.
2. Bochum : Witten. OBOE Mosquitoes attacked targets in the Ruhr. One was lost.
3. Leaflets: 25 Wellingtons and Whitleys dispersed leaflets over N. France without loss.

WEATHER FORECAST

Midnight frontal positions:- (1) occlusion from $60^{\circ}\text{N. } 01^{\circ}\text{W}$ - $55^{\circ}\text{N. } 05^{\circ}\text{E}$ - $52^{\circ}\text{N. } 09^{\circ}\text{E}$ - $51^{\circ}\text{N. } 09^{\circ}\text{E}$ - becoming (2) warm to Alps and (3) cold to $47^{\circ}\text{N. } 05^{\circ}\text{E}$ - Bordeaux.

Bases:- all fit for early take-off, with cloud breaking; possibly a few showers in the north. Serious visibility troubles in all Groups after 2000; 4 and 8 Groups will be entirely fog-bound, and 6 Group will require wholesale diversions. 3 Group will be able to land all their aircraft and 1 and 5 Groups half theirs. Diversions: isolated stations in Training Groups, S.W., south coast and high level stations in non-bomber Groups.

Germany:- Cloud will tower to great heights in frontal zone, probably layered above 15,000', with no serious icing above this height. Cloud will extend in layers for some distance E. of the front; beyond $11-12^{\circ}\text{E}$, there will be well broken medium cloud and low strato-cumulus. Berlin will probably be obscured by fog and/or low cloud.

France:- Variable amounts of convection cloud N. of front. Broken cloud over W. coast, reaching to great heights, with heavy showers.

Winds to Berlin:-	Bases to 04°E	- $270^{\circ}/40$ m.p.h.
	$04^{\circ}-08^{\circ}\text{E}$.	- $210^{\circ}/60$ m.p.h.
	$08^{\circ}-12^{\circ}\text{E}$.	- $250^{\circ}/30$ m.p.h.
	Berlin	- $270^{\circ}/20-25$ m.p.h.

BERLINPLAN OF ATTACK

Route Haisborough - $52^{\circ}50'\text{N. } 03^{\circ}30'\text{E}$ - $52^{\circ}35'\text{N. } 04^{\circ}40'\text{E}$ - $52^{\circ}38'\text{N. } 10^{\circ}04'\text{E}$ - $52^{\circ}36'\text{N. } 12^{\circ}20'\text{E}$ - BERLIN - $52^{\circ}30'\text{N. } 13^{\circ}50'\text{E}$ - $52^{\circ}55'\text{N. } 13^{\circ}50'\text{E}$ - $52^{\circ}38'\text{N. } 03^{\circ}04'\text{E}$ - $52^{\circ}35'\text{N. } 04^{\circ}40'\text{E}$ - $52^{\circ}50'\text{N. } 03^{\circ}30'\text{E}$ - Haisborough.

Route Marking. Primary blind markers and Lancaster secondary blind markers were to drop red T.I. (LB) blindly or visually at $52^{\circ}38'\text{N. } 09^{\circ}45'\text{E}$ (42 miles/308°/Sunswick) on both the outward and homeward routes.

Method of Attack. Primary blind markers were to drop red T.I. on the aiming point and release one bundle each of WANGANUI flares (red with green stars),

using their H2S. Secondary markers were to attack at intervals throughout the raid, keeping the aiming-point marked with green T.I. and WANGANUI flares, blindly. Early backers-up were to aim greens at the estimated centre of visible reds, and later arrivals at the centre of greens, overshooting in instance by 2 seconds. If the T.I. were obscured by cloud, backers-up were to hold their markers and bomb WANGANUI flares on a heading of 105°M. at a speed of 150 knots I.A.S. Supporters were to bomb on H2S if possible, otherwise at reds on the above-mentioned heading. It was emphasized that these aircraft were to arrive on time. Main Force aircraft were to bomb the centre of reds or flares on the above-mentioned heading.

8. <u>Timing</u>	<u>Zero Hour: 2006</u>	<u>Duration of attack:</u>
Primary blind markers.	6 Hls.) 24 Lancs.)	at zero - 2
Secondary blind markers.	5 Hls.) 12 Lancs.)	at one a/c per min. from zero to +3 (but 2 a/c at zero + 2 and +3)
Backers-up	4 Hls.) 14 Lancs.)	at one a/c per min. from zero to +3 (but 4 a/c at zero + 2; and 2 at +3)
Supporters	29 Lancs.	at zero - 2
Main Force.	39 Hls. from zero to zero + 3 39 Hls. from zero + 3 to zero + 6. 111 Lanc. from zero + 6 to zero + 10 109 Lanc. from zero + 10 to zero + 14 106 Lanc. from zero + 14 to zero + 18	

(N.B. 650 aircraft were originally planned to go, but this number was reduced owing to the threat of fog at base.)

9. Marker Loads

Primary blind markers.	14 a/c: 1x4 flares - 4 red T.I. (2 LB) 12 a/c: 1x4 flares + 6 red T.I. (4 LB) 4 a/c: 1x4 flares + 8 red T.I. (4 LB)
Secondary " "	5 a/c: 1x4 flares + 3 green T.I. (1 LB) 12 a/c: 1x4 flares + 4 green T.I. (2 LB) + 2 T.I. (LB).
Backers-Up.	18 a/c: 3 green T.I. (2 LB)

10. Tactics (a) WINDO/ was to be dropped at the rate of one bundle every minute en route to within 30 miles of the target; one bundle every half minute within 30 miles of the target in both directions; and one bundle every minute for the rest of the way home.

(b) 4 Mosquitoes of 139 Squadron were to drop long delay bombs at zero + 6, after releasing WINDO/ at the rate of 6 bundles every minute from a point 20 miles from the target. 4 others of the same squadron were to proceed to the target T.I., turn on a track of 180°T., fly for 3½ minutes and then turn on to a track of 270°T., releasing spoof fighter flares on this track (S. of the target) at 20-second intervals. These aircraft were to drop WINDO/ at the rate of 6 bundles per minute from the target T.I., until their supply was exhausted. 4 more Mosquitoes of this squadron were to drop bombs at zero + 45, + 50 and +55; while 6 Mosquitoes of 627 Squadron were to bomb the centre of fires at zero + 40.

RESULTS

(a)	No. of aircraft despatched.....	458
(b)	" " " reporting attack on primary area.....	361 (78.8%)
(c)	" " " " " " alternative area.....	14 (3.1%)
(d)	" " abortive sorties (technical defect or manip. error.....)	31
	{ icing.....	6
	{ sickness of crew.....	4
	{ late.....	2
(e)	" " aircraft missing.....	40 (8.7%)

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

Bases:- Fog and mist gradually spread and thickened after dusk until, by 20.00, the whole country was covered except the extreme S.W. and Wales. After 21.00, rain developed in the N. and visibility improved.

Route:- The occluded front was crossed between 02°E. and the Dutch coast; cloud was well layered above 10,000', with good clear lanes. Moderate icing in cloud. Thence, 10/10ths layer cloud, tops lowering from 10,000' to 5,000' towards target.

Berlin:- 5-8/10ths tops 5,000'. Clear patches over city. Moderate visibility. Moon below horizon.

Winds at 20,000':-	Bases	100°/50 m.p.h.
	Holland	100-200°/20-30 m.p.h.
	N.W. Germany	350°/45-55 m.p.h.
	Berlin	35°-300°/20-30 m.p.h.

TARGET PHOTOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

No. of aircraft plotted in target area.....	0
" " " " " off target area (ground detail.....)	169 (43)
" " " " " " (fire tracks.....)	126

There is no photographic evidence to show that any aircraft bombed in the target area.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ATTACK

The winds actually experienced differed considerably from those forecast; they were southerly over the Dutch coast, but veered sharply to N. between the Dutch-German border and Berlin. Most crews failed to notice this change and, basing their flight calculations on a southerly instead of a northerly wind, were blown many miles S. of track, consequently arriving late at the target. Some Y-9 aircraft found their own winds from H2S fixes en route, but these differed so much from those forecast that the latter were used in preference. Crews of the Y-9s and markers successfully identified Rathenow, the starting point for their D.R. run; and others, attempting to map-read on H2S, probably mistook the towns of Paderborn-Brandenburg-Potsdam for the parallel series of Stendal-Rathenow-Nauen and as coming in to the target on a track 15 miles S. of that intended. Many made an attempt to make a D.R. run, but tried to home directly on the built-up area of Berlin.

As a result of these errors in navigation, the red T.I. were scattered over a wide area to the S. of Berlin. The nearest semblance to a concentration occurred 5-8 miles S.E. of the aiming-point, where there was a large gap in the cloud and where, at zero + 5, 5 or 6 salvos of reds were burning within a circle 1/2 miles diameter. These reds attracted most of the backscattered and by zero + 10 had been reinforced by 3 or 4 salvos of greens. 6 or 7 further salvos of greens fell here in the next 10 minutes, and the incendiaries which they attracted covered an area of 15 square miles, centred 1/2 miles S.E. of the aiming-point. Crews of the aircraft reporting attack were content to have bombed in this area, the rest, aiming at stray reds and greens, being widely dispersed.

DAY RECONNAISSANCE

16. Photographic cover was not obtained until another major attack had been delivered against Berlin, and the destruction then revealed includes the results of all the first 6 raids of the Battle of Berlin. Details of this damage will be given in Night Raid Report No. 489.

ALTERNATIVE TARGET

17. 14 aircraft attacked alternative targets, in the areas of: Neu Ruppen, Spandau, Hannover (2), Osnabruck, Magdeburg, Brandenburg, Texel (3), Eggen (2), IJmuiden and Den Helder.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

18. H2S. 30 primary blind-markers were despatched, including 4 aircraft with H2S Mk.III. The latter did not carry T.T. of a distinctive colour, as previous operations. 24 reported attack, 5 bombed alternative targets, 1 early and 2 were lost. 16 salvos of reds and 15 bundles of WANGANUI flares were dropped; the timing was very bad, the aircraft being spread over 17 minutes.

19. 17 secondary blind markers set out, and all reported attack; 10 of the dropped greens, but only 7 on H2S, the others acting as back-up. 8 bundles of flares were released. 6 secondary markers had unserviceable equipment.

20. 110 main force aircraft carried H2S for navigational purposes. 76 reached the target with their sets in order; 12 were lost.

ENEMY DEFENCES

21. Ground defences. At the beginning of the attack, heavy flak was fired in a loose barrage up to 22,000 around the major targets and was predicted at "seen" targets through gaps in the cloud. Searchlights were active in great numbers, and took every opportunity the weather offered for illuminating our aircraft. After the raid had been in progress half an hour, and seen after the appearance of fighter flares, the ceiling of the barrage was lowered and the flak decreased although individual aircraft were heavily engaged when seen. En route, a continuous belt of searchlights was reported between Hannover and Emden, and flak was encountered from the defences of these towns as well as from those of Bremen, Munster, Magdeburg, Osnabruck, Texel and Westerland.

22. Fighters. Sightings of enemy aircraft were almost entirely confined to the target area and the last part of the outward route, beyond Hannover. Of the identified types were twin-engined, with Ju.88's predominating. The running commentary began plotting our aircraft from the neighbourhood of the Zuyder Zee, and announced Berlin as the main objective at 1947, 19 minutes before zero hour. Many illuminated targets were provided for the fighters over the capital. CORON warned fighters of fog and told them to land, angering the commentators. 4 enemy aircraft were claimed as destroyed: 2 Ju.88's by Lancasters of 1 Group, and an He.100 and an He.109 by Lancasters of 5 Group.

CASUALTIES

23.	No. of aircraft missing.....	40
	" " " damaged (flak.....)	53
	" " " " (fighter.....)	8
	" " " " (flak and fighter.....)	3
	" " " " (non-enemy action.....)	15
		79

The casualty rate was above the average for recent raids on Berlin. Unexpected winds caused aircraft to stray from the route; cloud gaps over the target enabled searchlights to illuminate our bombers; and the enemy fighter force was in action over the target almost as soon as the attack began.

24. 9 aircraft were shot down by fighters (possibly free-lance) on the outward route between Hannover and Berlin; - 12 were seen to fall in the target area, 7 to flak and 5 to fighters; all these aircraft, except 2 of the flak victims, had previously been coned by searchlights. Few losses were seen on the way home, but our aircraft were dispersed over a wide area extending eventually from Emden to the north of the Scheldt estuary, so that many must have flown over defended towns, or provided good opportunities for controlled fighters. There is no evidence to show which form of defence achieved the more success.

25. 56 aircraft (12.4%) reported damage from flak, and 11 (2.3%) from fighters. 3 aircraft were wrecked on landing. 2 collided over enemy territory, but escaped serious injury.

BOCHUM

26. 6 Mk.I. OBOE Mosquitoes left to attack the Bochum branch of Vereinigte Stahlwerke, but only one made a satisfactorily controlled run. 4 had partial failure of their equipment; 3 of these bombed the primary area on D.R., and one returned early. The sixth aircraft was lost without trace.

WITTEN

27. 1 Mk.II FOUNDLAIN-PEE Mosquito was despatched to attack the Ruhr Stahlwerke at Witten, but its device failed and it bombed the primary area on D.R.

RESULTS

28. 24 Wellingtons and Whitloys dispersed leaflets over allotted areas in northern France; a twenty-fifth jettisoned its bundles usefully. All returned safely.

BY PVD.
C/S. 26342/2/CRS4
in February, 1944.

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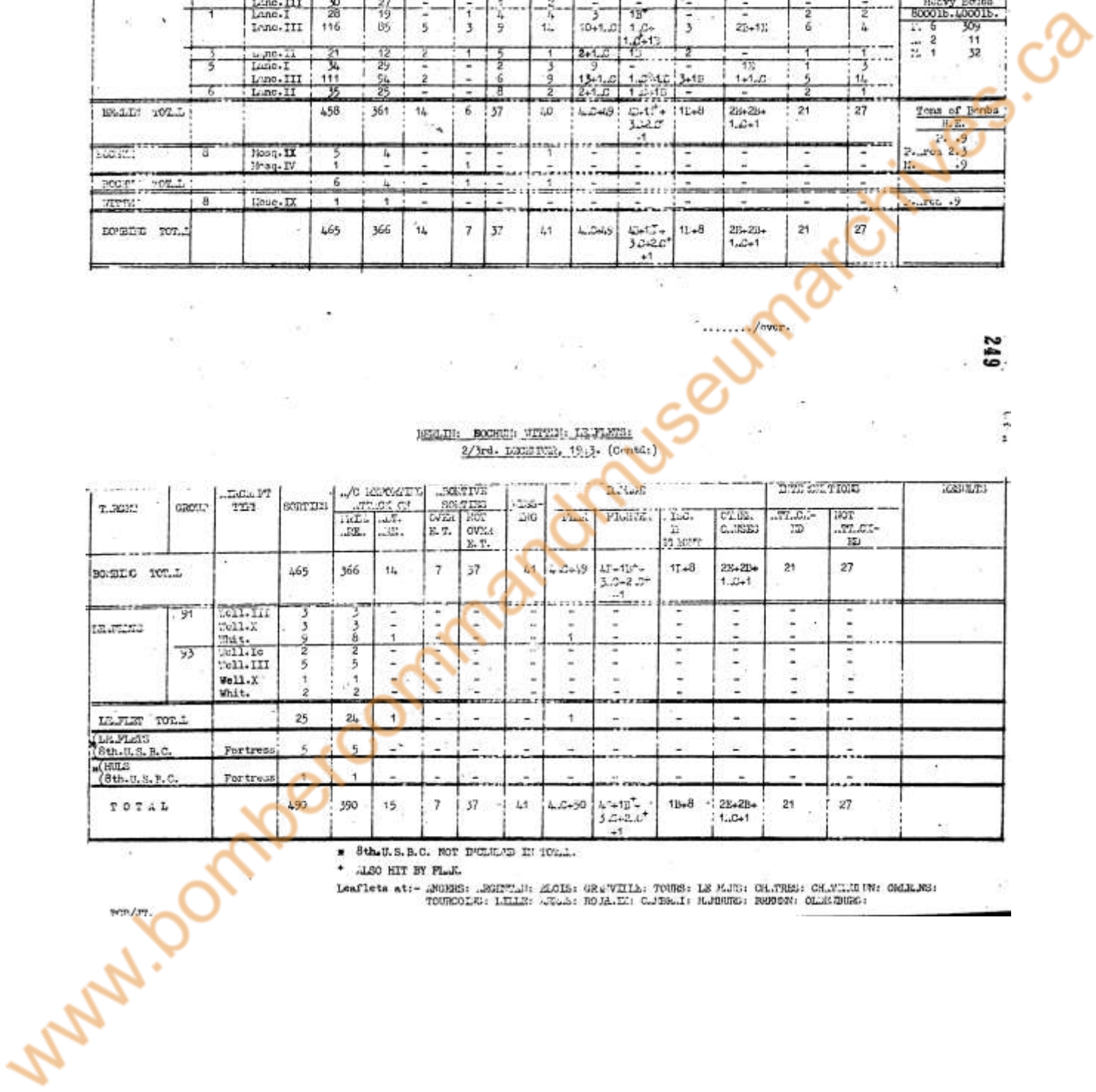
T. TYPE	GROUP	DRAFT TYPE	SQUAD	% REPORTING				DAMAGE		DAMAGE				RESULTS			
				AT OR BY		DAMAGE		Killed	Wounded	Destroyed	Damaged	Total	Total	Total			
				REPT.	REPT.	REPT.	REPT.							H.S.	Inc.		
BOMB	8	Hell. I.	15	11	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1,797.6	716.9
	PTP	Lanc. III	50	44	4	-	-	2	8	13	-	-	3	2	...	26.5	21.2
	8	Hsq. IX	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,84.2	86.9
	M.P.	Hsq. IV	16	13	1	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Lanc. III	30	27	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	Lanc. I	28	19	-	1	4	4	3	18*	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
	Lanc. III	116	85	5	3	9	14	10+1.0	1.0+1.0	3	20+11	6	4	-	1.5	309	
	Lanc. II	21	12	2	1	5	1	2+1.0	1.0	2	-	1	1	-	2	11	
	Lanc. I	34	29	-	-	2	3	9	-	-	13	1	3	-	1	32	
	Lanc. III	111	54	2	-	6	9	13+1.0	1.0+1.0	3+1.0	1+1.0	5	14	-	-	-	
	Lanc. II	25	25	-	-	8	2	2+1.0	1.0+1.0	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	
BOMB TOTAL			458	361	14	6	37	40	4.0+4.0	3.0+1.0*	11+8	20+20+	21	27	Total of Bomb		
BOMB															H.S.		
8	Hsq. IX	5	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Total 2.3		
	Hsq. IV	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	H.S.		
BOMB TOTAL			6	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Total 2.9		
BOMB															Total 2.9		
BOMB TOTAL			465	366	14	7	37	41	4.0+4.0	4.0+1.0*	11+8	20+20+	21	27	Total of Bomb		

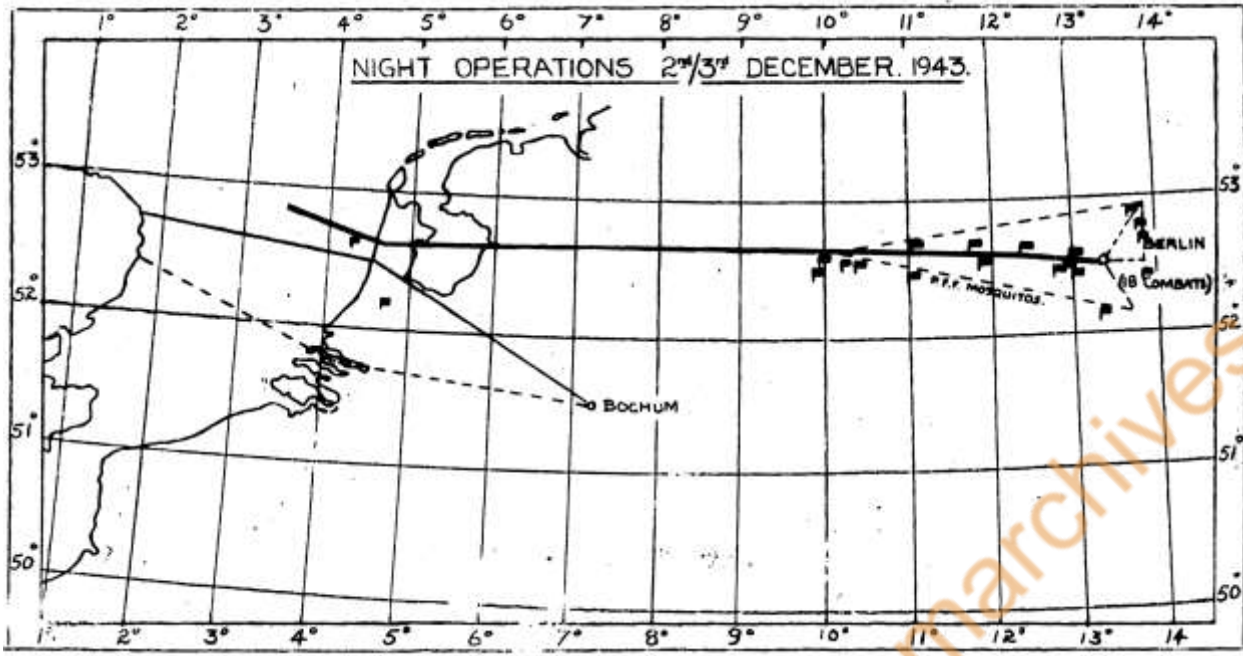
RESULTS: BOMBED WITHIN 10 FEET
2/3rd. DISTRICT, 1913. (Contd.)

T. TYPE	GROUP	DRAFT TYPE	SQUAD	% REPORTING				DAMAGE		DAMAGE				RESULTS		
				AT OR BY		DAMAGE		Killed	Wounded	Destroyed	Damaged	Total	Total		Total	
				REPT.	REPT.	REPT.	REPT.								H.S.	Inc.
BOMB TOTAL			465	366	14	7	37	41	4.0+4.0	4.0+1.0*	11+8	20+20+	21	27		
BOMB	91	Hell. III	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Hell. X	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Whit.	9	8	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	93	Hell. Ic	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Hell. III	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Hell. X	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	Whit.	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
BOMB TOTAL			25	24	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		
BOMB																
8th. U.S. B.C.			Fortress	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
8th. U.S. P.C.			Fortress	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
TOTAL			490	390	15	7	37	41	4.0+4.0	4.0+1.0*	11+8	20+20+	21	27		

* 8th. U.S. B.C. NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL.
* ALSO HIT BY FLAK.

Leaflets at:- ANCHERS: BOSTON: MOIS: GRAYVILLE: TOURS: LE MANS: CHARENTIS: CHARENTON: ORLANS: TOURCOING: LILLE: ST. LOUIS: ROYAL: CLEVELAND: HAMBURG: RUSSON: OLSBURG:





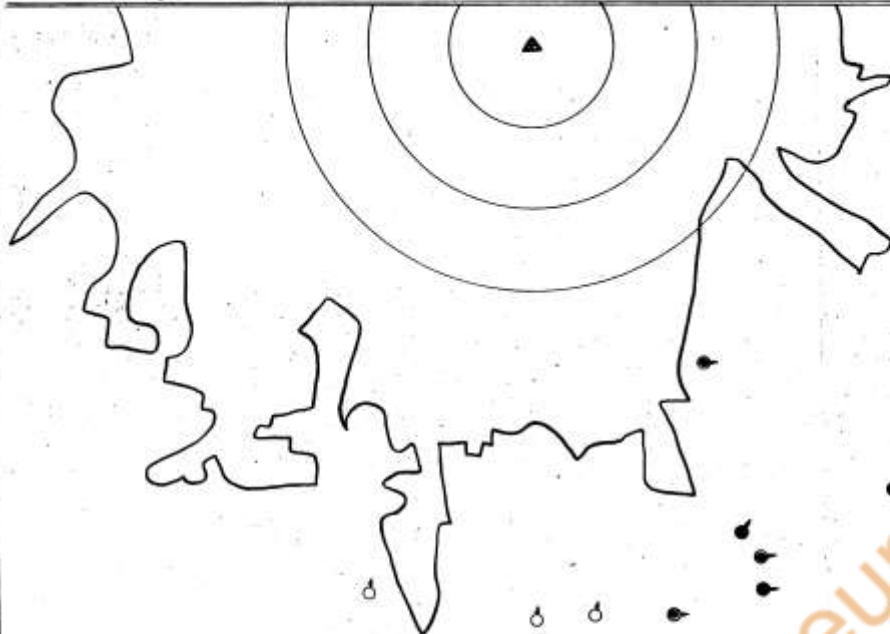
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FINAL PLOT OF NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHS

TAKEN 2/3RD DECEMBER 1943.

TARGET: BERLIN 251

SECRET



3 aircraft have been plotted outside the area of this map.

Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile.

Photographs taken with Bombing		
	PFF marker aircraft	Main force aircraft
Plotted by ground detail	⊙	⊙
Plotted by fires	⊙	⊙
Plotted	By ground detail	By fires
Within target area	-	-
Outside target area	43	126
Unplotted	9	91
Number of prints (with bombing) examined: 269		

DRS/DC SRFB
 19-1-44 Tracer: [initials]
 Ref N/K-481 Col [initials]

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BOMBING REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS.

3/4th DECEMBER, 1943.

LEIPZIG: Berlin: Hinslaying.

LEIPZIG.

527 Lancasters and Halifaxes were despatched to Leipzig. The city had been unsuccessfully raided in October, under appalling flying conditions; but this time a most accurate attack was delivered, in spite of 10/10ths visibility. 564 acres of the fully built-up area were devastated. Every building of the World's Fair, then engaged in war production, was partly demolished. The largest wool-combing plant in Germany was one-third destroyed, and enormous damage was caused to factories, railway stock and industrial and municipal buildings. 23 aircraft (4.4%) were lost; 3 fighters were shot down.

Berlin. 9 Mosquitoes carried out a successful point attack on Berlin, diverting fighters from the main objective. All returned safely.

Hinslaying. 10 Halifaxes laid 40 mines off the Frisians; 2 others were damaged early. None was lost.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Midnight frontal positions:- Occlusi over Alps - Munich - Nuremberg - Cologne - S.W. England.

Bases:- Afternoon fog should clear by dusk, leaving all airfields fit for 10/10ths. strato-cumulus (base 1,500', tops 4,000') and moderate to good visibility. Freezing level 2,000'; icing moderate.

Germany:- N. of 54°N: 8-10/10ths. strato-cumulus, base 1,000', tops 4,000'. Much cloud at various levels in central and S. Germany. Leipzig: clear of cloud, although some breaks may be seen; poor visibility.

France:- Variable amounts of cloud; heavy convection over W. coast, with heavy showers.

LEIPZIG

LINE OF ATTACK

Route Haisborough - 52°50'N. 03°50'E - 52°35'N. 04°35'E - 52°40'N. 04°10'E - 52°25'N. 11°22'E - Leipzig - 51°30'N. 12°5'E - 50°15'N. 07°40'E - 50°10'N. 01°30'E - Benchy Head - Reims.

Route marking - All primary blind markers were to drop yellow T.I. (LB) 10 miles N. of Hannover and red T.I. (LB) 9 miles N. of Brandenburg, on the forward route, either on H2S or visually; and yellow T.I. (LB) 6 miles S.S.E. of Reims, and 10 miles S.S.E. of Coblenz, on the return route.

Method of attack - Primary blind markers were to mark the aiming point with red T.I., and release one bundle each of 10 M.I. flares, using H2S. Secondary blind markers were to keep the aiming-point marked with greens and M.I. flares. Early backers-up were to aim at greens at the centre of reds, with a 2 second overshoot; if clouds obscured the T.I., they were to bomb the flares on a heading of 182°N. at a speed of 150 knots. Later backers-up were to aim at the centre of greens, with a 2 second overshoot. Supporters were to bomb blindly,

...../if possible; otherwise

if possible; otherwise on reds or T.I. (T.I. flares). The importance of accurate timing was especially emphasized to these aircraft. Main force aircraft were to bomb the centre of greens, if visible, otherwise flares in the same way as the supporters.

8.	<u>Timing</u>	<u>Zero hour: 0400</u>	<u>Duration of attack: 0358-0414</u>
	Primary blind markers.	5 H.L.s. } at zero - 2 (including 4 Lancs. with 24 Lancs) } H2S Mk.III)	
	Secondary " "	5 H.L.s. } from zero to zero + 14 (one a/c per 15 Lancs) } but 2 at zero +3, +5, +7, +9, and +11	
	Backers-up	3 H.L.s. } from zero to zero + 14 (one a/c per 17 Lancs) } but 2 at zero +3, +4, +6, +8, and +10	
	Supporters	7 H.L.s. } at zero - 2 29 Lancs)	
	Main Force	102 H.L.s. from zero to zero + 3 104 H.L.s. from zero + 3 to zero + 6 124 Lancs. from zero + 6 to zero + 10 123 Lancs. from zero + 10 to zero + 14	

12 A.R.C. aircraft were to be spread evenly throughout the attack.

9. Marker loads

Primary blind-markers.	11 a/c: 124 flares (red + green stars) + 4 red T.I. (2LB)
	14 a/c: 124 flares (red + green stars) + 5 red T.I. (3LB) + 2 green T.I. (LB) + 1 yellow T.I. (LB)
	4 a/c: 124 flares (red + green stars) + 8 red T.I. (4LB)
Secondary blind markers.	5 a/c: 124 flares (red + green stars) + 4 green T.I. (2LB)
	15 a/c: 124 flares (red + green stars) + 6 green T.I. (4LB) + 1 red T.I. (LB) + 1 yellow T.I. (LB)
Backers-up.	20 a/c: 4 green T.I. (2LB)

10. Tactics (a) WINDOW was to be dropped at the rate of one bundle per 2 minutes 30 miles from the target; 2 bundles per minute within 30 miles of the target in both directions; and one bundle per minute for the rest of the way home.

(b) 11 Mosquitoes of 139 and 627 Squadrons were to make diversionary attacks on Berlin, dropping green and yellow T.I. in addition to H.E. 4 were to bomb at zero - 20, and one each minute from zero - 19 to zero - 13. The first 4 were to make a D.R. run from the routemarker T.I. N. of Hannover, and aim at the northern edge of fires burning from the previous night's attack or on D.R. the rest were to aim greens at the centre of all visible T.I. WINDOW was to be dropped at 4 bundles per minute from 52°31'N. 12°25'E to Berlin.

LPS

(a) No. of aircraft despatched.....	527
(b) " " " reporting attack on primary area.....	428 (81.1%)
(c) " " " " " alternative area.....	9 (1.7%)
(d) " " abortive sorties (tech. defect or manipulative error..... 54)	67 (12.7%)
(crow failure..... 7)	
(icing..... 6)	
(e) " " aircraft missing.....	23 (4.4%)

OTHER EXPERIENCED

Bases:- Pit All night.

Route:- Little cloud over North Sea. Beyond 05 E., 8-10/10ths. stratus plus, tops 4-6,000', stretched to the target. Cloud cover was available the whole of the return route.

Leipzig:- 10/10ths. layer cloud, tops 5-5,000'. No moon. Good horizontal visibility.

Winds: On route, at 20,000': north-easterly, 30-35 m.p.h.
 Target, at 13,000': " " " 20-25 m.p.h.
 " " " surface wind: south-easterly, 10 m.p.h.

PHOTOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

No useful photographs were returned, because of cloud conditions over the target.

NATURE OF ATTACK

Since no night photographs were taken, the course of the raid cannot be reconstructed in detail. The primary blind markers achieved an excellent concentration, all bombing between zero - 5 and zero - 1. Secondary markers kept good cluster of WERRAUE flares burning until the end of the attack. Main force crews were able to see the T.O. through the cloud, and the bombing continued to be concentrated. Black smoke rose to 12,000', and a late arrival at the target reported that many fires were burning furiously in an area approximately 2 miles square.

RECONNAISSANCE

Photographs taken 10 hours after the raid showed that the whole of the central part of the town was obscured by cloud formed by the smoke and heat of fires still burning beneath. A fortnight later, further photographs revealed the extent of the devastation. Nearly 30% of Leipzig was laid in ruins by this single attack. The greatest concentration of damage occurred around the imposing Central Station, which was itself seriously affected, together with the town works, very many industrial premises and public and administrative buildings, and large areas of residential property. The wasted area extends southwards 1 1/2 miles of the main station and eastwards as far as the site of the World's Fair.attered incidents occurred as far out as Gantzeritz, 7 miles N. of the town centre; but the large industrial districts to the N. were almost unaffected.

Leipzig was famous for its fairs. The largest of these is the World's Fair, which had permanent exhibition buildings covering more than 100 acres. These buildings were rumoured to have been adapted for war production in engineering and the assembly of Junkers aircraft; and this theory was confirmed by the number of aircraft fuselages seen outside one of the main buildings. Not one of these 17 large buildings remains intact, and some, including the largest, which boasted an unsupported roof span of 324 feet, were completely destroyed. Nearly 50 other identified factories, and 77 small and unidentified industrial premises, were affected. The wool-combing plant of the Leipziger Alkammerlei, the third largest of its kind in Germany, was more than one-third

...../destroyed.

destroyed. Nearly half of the branch factory of the Erla Maschinenbau, producing aircraft components, was wrecked.

17. Leipzig not only claims the largest railway station in Europe but, for its central position in German territory, is an important railway centre and a junction on the supply route to the Russian front. The main station apparently suffered damage only to its roof and lights; but many of the groups of goods and despatch sheds, transshipment sheds and custom sheds in the immediate neighbourhood were gutted, together with some of the rolling stock in the sidings. The Silenburger suburban station was burnt out, and goods sheds and buildings at the Bayerische station were destroyed or damaged. The block of office buildings of the main Railway Administration, opposite the main station, appeared to have been completely gutted.

18. Both the town gasworks were severely damaged. In the main plant, near the central station, 2 large gas-holders were wrecked and a retort-house and all buildings gutted. The other works, to the S. of the town, sustained serious damage to the gas-washing plant, the sulphur renewal plant, the retort-house, the largest gas-holder, besides other small buildings of coal storage. Power stations of the municipal electricity works adjoined both of these gasworks but apart from slight damage to a small building of the Cornowitz electricity works, neither was affected.

19. By being concentrated in the central area, the damage involved many of the most prominent features of the city. Leipzig, for instance, a well-known centre of the fur-trade and the shops and publishing offices were crowded along the Brühl Avenue. Almost every building on the whole length of this street was gutted. The book-trade of Germany, which has likewise been centred in Leipzig since the 16th. century; not only were many of the publishers' offices destroyed in this raid, but the Bookellers' House and the offices of the German Book Craft Association were burnt out, and some damage was caused to the Deutsche Bucherei, or German National Library. Together with many hotels, churches, theatres and civic buildings, both the Old and the New Exchange, the old municipal theatre and the new opera-house, the Grassi Museum, the old market-hall, the city hall, the University and 13 other academic institutions, the district office of the Nazi Labour party and the headquarters of the 35th. S.A. Brigade were completely destroyed. Altogether, 56. acres in the fully built-up area of the town were devastated.

ALTERNATIVE TARGETS

20. 9 aircraft attacked alternative targets, on the basis of: Texel (2), Allerschl, Hannover, Bitterfeld, Dessau, Kassel and Quackenbruck.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

21. H2. 24 of the 27 primary blind markers reached the target; 17 Hk. and 2 Hk. III aircraft released both red T.I. and red base-point flares, while Hk. III aircraft dropped T.I. only. Their timing was exceptionally good, 70% the flares being released within a minute of the planned time. 19 secondary blind markers maintained the illumination, 15 dropping flares and green T.I. and releasing T.I. alone. The serviceability of the blind markers was very high, only 3 of the 42 Hk. II sets being unserviceable over the target. 141 other Y-aircraft were despatched, 119 of which reached the primary. 66 of these reported that their equipment was serviceable throughout. 7 Y-aircraft were

HEAVY DEFENCES

22. Ground defences. The heavy guns of Leipzig fired a loose barrage of moderate intensity up to 20,000' and occasionally higher. Both heavy and light flak was concentrated around the marker flares. Searchlights could not penetrate the cloud. En route, accurate heavy flak was encountered from Egmund. No crews reported ground opposition all the way to the target from the turning-point of Berlin; but these crews may have strayed W. of track and attracted the attention of the defences of Dessau, Kothau and Bitterfeld. Searchlights were very active at Frankfurt on the return route, downing at least one aircraft;

...../other bombers were

other bombers were engaged over Hannover, Bremen and Amsterdam.

Fighters From 0200, the German controllers plotted our aircraft accurately along the route beyond Quackenbruck as far as the turning-point, and numerous encounters occurred during this period. At 0310, all fighters were ordered to Berlin, where bombs were reported at 0315. The ceiling for flak over the capital was announced; but no reference to Leipzig was heard. Few fighters were observed beyond the turning-point or in the target area. On the westerly return route, combats occurred as far as Frankfurt. Single-engined fighters were in the majority, though most of the attacks were made by twin-engined aircraft. 3 fighters were claimed as destroyed, 2 Ju.38's by Halifaxes of 1 Group near Quackenbruck, and one He.110 by a Lancaster of 1 Group in the area of Stendal. The last claim was confirmed by other observations.

RESULTS

24.	No. of aircraft missing.....	23 (4.4%)
	" " " damaged: (flak..... 29)	
	(fighter..... 11).....	55
	(flak and fighter..... 1)	
	(British incendiaries..... 5)	
	(other causes..... 9)	

5 aircraft were seen to go down on the outward route between Egnone and the east coast of the Zuycer See. 3 of these fell to flak; 2 at Egnone, where the heavy guns were accurate, and one in the Zwolle/Moppel area. The other 2 were destroyed by fighters. 5 more losses were observed between Quackenbruck and the turning-point, all probably to fighters. In the target area 2 aircraft were lost to flak and one to a fighter. The only evidence of losses on the way home is the report of a flak casualty at Jena. Other aircraft may have fallen to the Frankfurt defences, which were very active on the homeward route. 6 of the identified losses may therefore be definitely attributed to flak and 8 to fighters.

25. 4 aircraft were wrecked beyond repair, one by flak, one by fighters, and 2 in landing accidents. 2 other bombers collided over enemy territory, but escaped serious injury.

26. 9 Mosquitoes of 159 A.S. Sq. carried out a "point" attack on Berlin between zero - 12 and zero - 15, following the plan described in paragraph 10(b). The diversion was successful, all the free-lance fighters being directed from the turning-point towards the capital. All our aircraft returned undamaged.

27. 10 Halifaxes laid 40 mines off the Pristins; 2 others returned early. No incidents were reported.

HCJ/JC.
EC/S. 26342/2/ORS4,
9th February, 1944.

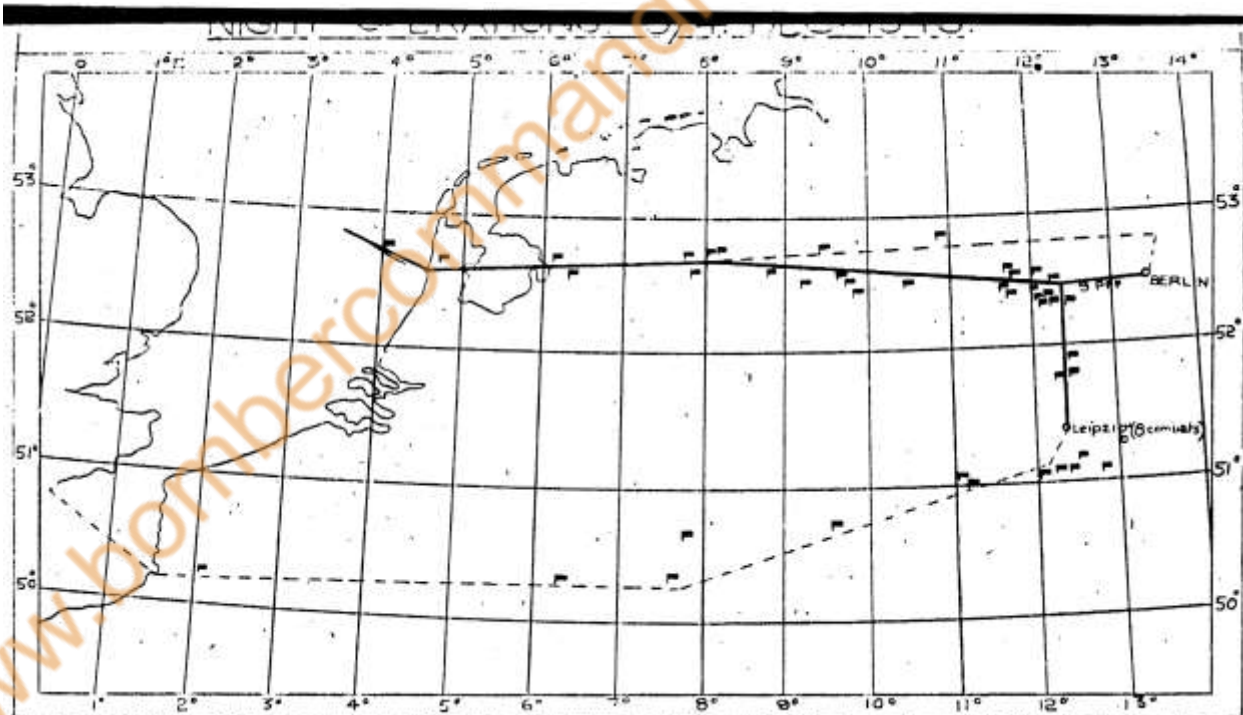
TARGET	GROUP	AIRCRAFT TYPE	SQUADS	A/C REPORTED		SQUADS		MISS-ING	DETAILS				INTERCEPTIONS		RESULTS		
				APPLD. ON	ALT.	OVER	NOT		FLAK	FIGHTED	DISC.	OTHER	JTACK-ED	NOT	Tons of Bombs	H. E.	Ino.
				ARR.	ARR.	E.T.	OPER.				IN FLIGHT	CAUSED		ATTACK-ED			
LEIPZIG	8	Hal.II	13	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. 683.5	703.5
	8	Hal.III	52	46	1	5	1	1	2+1.0	1+1.0	-	-	-	5	7	16.1	20.2
	M.F.	Hal.III	26	23	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32.9	31.0
	1	Hal.I	14	11	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	2		
		Hal.III	66	69	1	6	-	2	5	1.0+1.0	2.0+1	-	-	4	5		
	3	Hal.II	11	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-		
	4	Hal.I	101	78	1	17	-	5	0	2.0	3+1.0	-	-	4	6		
		Hal.III	22	12	-	8	-	2	-	1*	-	-	-	2	1		
	5	Hal.I	22	20	1	1	-	2	1.0	1	-	-	-	1	1		
		Hal.III	81	73	1	2	4	1	3	1.0+2.0	2	1R	-	5	9		
6	Hal.I	41	31	-	8	-	2	5+12	-	1.0	-	-	-	2			
	Hal.III	37	28	-	5	-	4	1	-	1	1R	-	-	2			
	Hal.II	19	11	-	7	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	2			
LEIPZIG TOTAL			527	428	9	4	63	23	1R+1.0	3R+6.0	4.0+7	2R+1.0	23	39			
BERLIN			5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
BERLIN TOTAL			9	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
BOMBING TOTAL			536	437	9	4	63	23	1R+1.0	3R+6.0	4.0+7	2R+1.0	23	39			
MINSKAYE PRISLONI			4	10	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40x1000lb. mines	
LEAPLATS (8th. BRAC)			4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
TOTAL			548	447	9	4	65	23	1R+1.0	3R+6.0	4.0+7	2R+1.0	23	39			

MCE/JT
O. R. S. 2.

* ALSO HIT BY FLAK.

† NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL.

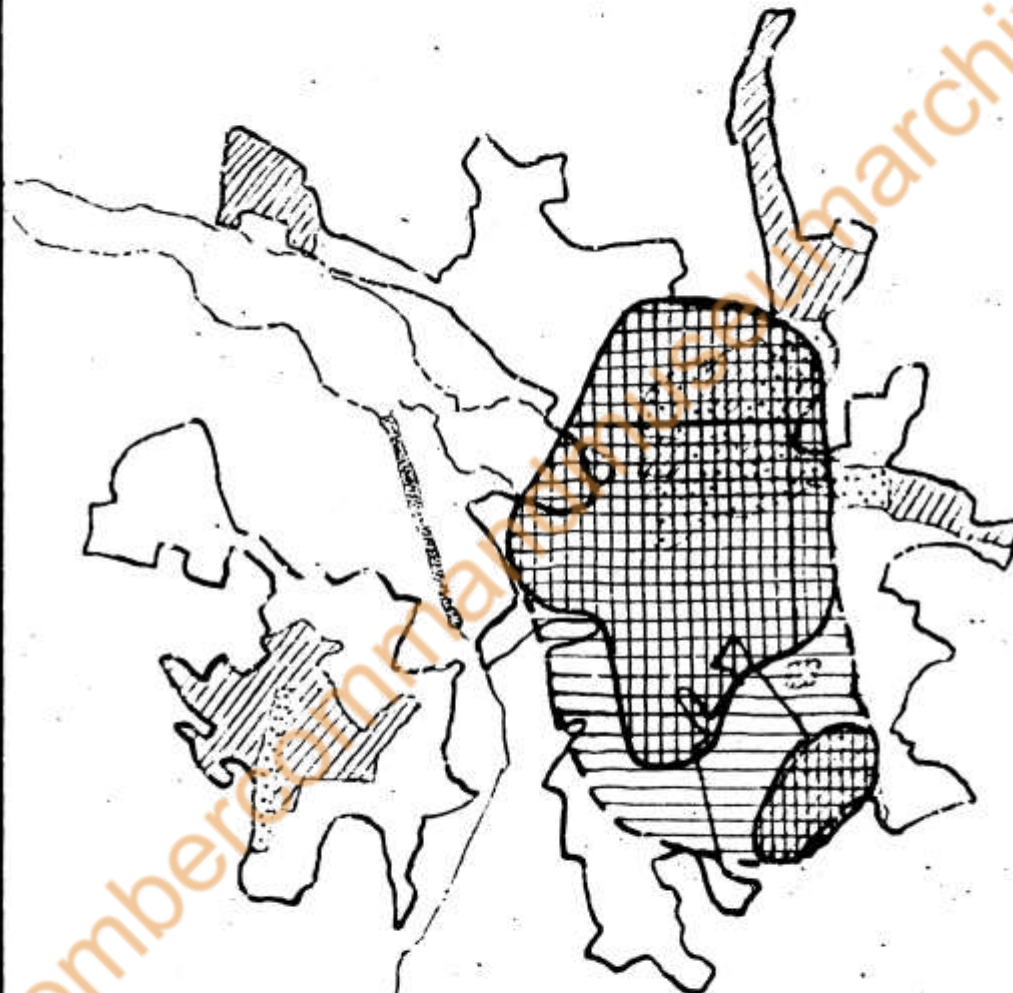
256



BOMB PLOT NOT AVAILABLE

DIAGRAM INDICATING LOCATION OF
ATTACK AS SHOWN BY DAMAGE
LEIPZIG 3/4th (DECEMBER 1943).

SECRET



-  Main Area of Damage
-  Area of Heavy Damage
-  Mainly Residential
-  Industrial.
-  Rail Area
-  Water

0 1 2 3
Scale: 1 in = 1 ml.

ORS BC
19244 Tracer FSB
. . . . CHKS RMC

BOMBER COMMAND REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS4/5th. DECEMBER, 1943.Duisburg: Minelaying: Leaflets:DETAILS

1. Duisburg 9 He.I OBOE Mosquitoes, working on 5 Channels, were despatched to attack the Vereinigte Stahlwerke at Humbern. Switching was tried with all Channels in an attempt to reduce the mutual interference which had given trouble on previous occasions. 5 aircraft made satisfactorily controlled runs: 2 experienced OBOE failure and bombed the primary on D.T., and 2 returned early.

2. Minelaying 31 aircraft laid 124 mines off the Frisians; 16 others returned early, and one was lost.

3. Leaflets 9 Whitloys and Wellingtons, out of a force of 10, dispersed leaflets over northern France; the target area was objective. 4 U.S. Fortresses operated simultaneously.

WEATHER FORECAST

4. Bases:- Visibility troubles will affect Group at dusk, and spread slowly southwards over the west of 1 and 4 Groups. 5 Group may not be workable after midnight. 3 and 8 Groups, and eastern stations in 1, 4 and possibly 5 Groups, should be fit till very late.

Germany:- Much strato-cumulus N. of 50°N., with some clearances; cloud will probably be thin, with a low base and poor visibility beneath. Further S., there is a threat of medium cloud, which may be thick, spreading from the Alps.

France:- Much strato-cumulus, with some breaks. Base 1,000' over W. coast, with patches below.

Frisians:- Broken strato-cumulus, probably in small amounts. Good visibility; but low stratus or fog may remain.

RESULTS

	<u>Bombing</u>	<u>Minelaying</u>	<u>Leaflets</u>
5. (a) No. of aircraft despatched.....	9	48	10
(b) " " " reaching primary area.....	7	31	9
(c) " " abortive sorties (tech. defect)....	2 (SEE u/s or weather..16 (t.d.)..		1
(d) " " aircraft missing.....	0	1	0
(e) " " mines laid.....		124	

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

6. Duisburg:- 10/10ths. thin low cloud. (2 crews reported nil). Good visibility. Moonlight.

Frisians:- 10/10ths. strato-cumulus, tops 1,500', before midnight. Thin scattered cloud by 0030. Poor visibility. Sea fog. No moon.

Central France:- 10/10ths. strato and alto-cumulus.

.... /ENEMY DEFENCES.

BOMBER COMBAT REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

10/11th. DECEMBER, 1943.

Leverkusen: Krefeld: Leaflets:

OPERATION

Leverkusen 25 Mosquitoes were despatched on an attack against the chemical works of I.G. Farbenindustrie at Leverkusen. 10 were equipped with OBOE (6 Mk.I, 3 FFWIPER Mk.II and 1 POUTAIN-PEI Mk.II), and 4 of these carried red T.I. as well as their bombs, to mark the target for the non-OBOE aircraft. Only one OBOE Mosquito, however, made a successful run, and no T.I. were dropped. 1 Mk.I and 2 Mk.II aircraft experienced fading signals, and bombed on D.R., and the other 2 Mk.II aircraft returned early for other reasons. The high proportion of failures may be attributed to the fact that the target was beyond working range under the conditions that prevailed. 12 non-OBOE aircraft attacked the target on D.R., and 2 others bombed Duron and Sinspach. None was lost.

Krefeld 2 Mk. I aircraft were detailed for this target, but neither received satisfactory signals. Both bombed on D.R., one attacking the primary area and the other Wesel.

Leaflets 4 Wellingtons from Training Group dispersed leaflets eventfully over Northern France.

WEATHER FORECAST

Midnight frontal positions:- (1) 48°N. 57°W. 00° - 55°N. 01°E - Birmingham - Le Havre - 48°N. 05°W - Leipzig.

Bases:- E. of front, strato-cumulus at 1,500-2,000'. Light showers along front. Fog or low stratus locally S. of front.

Germany:- Light snow in frontal zone, with low cloud to 8-10,000' and layers above. Good clearances in strato-cumulus N. of front. Much cloud S. of front, with patches of fog or low stratus.

France:- Much fog and low cloud S. and W. of front. Strato-cumulus and fog patches over Bay of Biscay.

Denmark:- Patches of strato-cumulus.

RESULTS

	<u>Lever-</u> <u>kusen</u>	<u>Kre-</u> <u>feld</u>	<u>Leaf-</u> <u>lets</u>
(a) No. of aircraft despatched.....	25	2	4
(b) " " " reporting attack on primary area....	20	1	4
(c) " " " " " alternative area. 2	2	1	0
(d) " " abortive sorties (tech.defect).....	3	0	0
(e) " " aircraft missing.....	0	0	0

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

Ruhr:- 10/10ths. cloud, tops 10,000'. Bright moonlight. Good visibility.

DEFENCES

Intense heavy flak was accurately predicted up to 23,000'. No searchlights exposed, and no fighters were seen.

REMARKS

All aircraft returned undamaged.

W/JT.
S. 26342/1/ORS4.
11 February, 1944.

TARGET	GROUP	ALLOTTED TYPE	BOARDS	NO REPORTING		BOARDS		MISS-ING	RESULTS				DAMAGE		TOTAL	
				MAIL	LT.	OVER	TOP		DOWN	DOWN	DOWN	DOWN	DOWN	DOWN		
				NO.	NO.	NO.	NO.		DOWN	DOWN	DOWN	DOWN	DOWN	DOWN	DOWN	DOWN
LEWIS	8	Mag. IX	9	5	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17.3
		Mag. IV	16	14	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.8
			25	20	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
WALL	8	Mag. IV	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.9
																1.9
WALL			27	21	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
WALL	92	Well. X	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL			31	25	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

MAILING LIST: ACCOUNTS DOWN: DOWN:

10/11/50.
D-511. 2.

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

WOMBER COMWLD REPORT ON WIGHT OPERATIONS

11/12th. DECEMBER, 1943.

Duisburg: Met. Recco:

SUMMARY

1. Duisburg 14 Mk. I, 3 PFW/EPER Mk. II and 1 PFW/EPER-PW Mk. II OCEC Mosquitoes were detailed to attack the Vereinigte Stahlwerke at Hanbern. As on the 4/5th. December, 3 Channels were used with a special type of latching to reduce mutual interference. 8 Mk. I and all 4 Mk. II aircraft made successful controlled runs. 5 Mk. I aircraft experienced OCEC failure; 4 bombed the primary area on D.H., and the fifth jettisoned its bombs near Wesel. 2 of the failures were probably due to ground station errors, and one was caused by an unserviceable transmitter. The remaining aircraft abandoned its task over its base for technical reasons. All returned safely.
2. Met. Recco. 2 Mosquitoes carried out meteorological reconnaissance flights over Germany without incident.

WEATHER FORECAST

3. Midnight frontal positions:- (1) quasi-stationary front from Paris - N. of Vienna (2) occluded front W. of Ireland, moving very slowly eastwards.

Bases:- Much cumulus and stratocumulus with snow or sleet showers, especially near coast. Cloud base generally 1,000' or above, dropping in showers to 600'. Good breaks in strato-cumulus over Midlands and west country.

Germany:- Good clearances in cumulus and strato-cumulus over North Sea coast and Baltic coast. Much cloud of both types inland, N. of 50°N., with tops generally below 10,000'. Solid cloud to 8,000' in frontal zone, with layers above. Cloud at various levels in S. Severe icing over North Sea.

France:- Cumulus and strato-cumulus, tops 12,000', increasing southwards.

SORTIES

		<u>Duis-</u> <u>burg</u>	<u>Met.</u> <u>Recco.</u>
1.	(a) No. of aircraft despatched.....	18	2*
	(b) " " " reporting contact on primary area....	16	
	(c) " " " " " alternative area 1	1	
	(d) " " abortive sorties (tech. effect).....	1	
	(e) " " aircraft missing.....	0	0

* Both aircraft completed their mission.

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

4. Bases:- Fit all night.

Ruhr:- 5-7/10ths. strato-cumulus, tops 6,000'. Moderate visibility. Bright moonlight. 10/10ths. over North Sea en route.

ENEMY DEFENCES

6. Controlled fighters were heard in the Amsterdam/Eindhoven area, but one was active against hostiles. 2 were seen, one near Amsterdam and the other S.W. of Eindhoven. Neither was identified or intercepted our bombers. At Duisburg, searchlights operated through occasional gaps in the cloud, and some to intense "predicted" heavy flak was fired, not very accurately.

CASUALTIES

7. All our aircraft returned safely. 2 suffered minor damage from flak.

MEM/JT.
BC/S. 26342/1/CIS4,
3rd. February, 1944.

11/12th. 1024 2200 1944

TARGET	GROUP	AIRCRAFT TYPE	BOOMERS	% OF REPORTED ATTACK ON				% OF REPORTED BOOMERS		DIS- ING	LOSS				DAMAGE		RESULTS Tons of Bombs H.R.
				PRIM ARIES	SEC. ARIES	OVER- SATS	TOT OTR	FLAC	FIGHTER		MISC. IN FLIGHT	OTHER CLONES	ATTACK- ED	NOT ATTACK- ED			
DUISBURG	B	Moag-IX Moag-IV	10 3	10 0	- 1	- -	- 1	- -	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2. 13.6 .9	
WILHELMSTRASSE	B	Hean.	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL			12	12	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-		

* NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL

MEM/JT.
C.S.S.

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BOMBER COMBINED REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

12/15th DECEMBER, 1943.

Essen : Dusseldorf : Osnabruck : LeafletsSUMMARY

1. Essen. 20 OBOE Mosquitoes (16 Mk.I, 3 Mk.II FENWIPER and 1 Mk.II FOUNTAINPEN) were despatched against Krupps' works at Essen. 10 Mk.I, 2 FENWIPER and the FOUNTAINPEN aircraft made successfully controlled runs, and 5 other aircraft bombed the primary area on D.R., 4 because of distorted signals and one because the release signal came before its bomb-doors were open. One aircraft jettisoned over Dusseldorf; and one was lost.
2. Dusseldorf. 8 Mosquitoes, not equipped with precision devices, bombed Dusseldorf on D.R. from GEE fixes; a ninth returned early.
3. Osnabruck. One G-H Mosquito was sent to Osnabruck, but its signals faded and it bombed on D.R.
4. Leaflets. 3 Wellingtons dispersed leaflets over Northern-France; a fourth returned early.

WEATHER FORECAST

5. Bases:- 10/10ths strato-cumulus, base 1,500-2,000', locally 1,000'. Snow showers. Good or moderate visibility.

Continent:- 10/10ths cumulus and strat-cumulus over whole area, tops below 10,000'. Thin layers of medium cloud above.

SORTIES

	<u>Bombing</u>	<u>Leaflets</u>
6. (a) No. of aircraft despatched.....	30	4
b) No. of aircraft reporting attack on primary area...27.....	27	3
c) No. of aircraft reporting attack on alternative area.....	1	0
d) No. of abortive sorties (tech. defect).....	1	1
(e) No. of aircraft missing.....	1	0

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

7. Ruhr:- 10/10ths strato-cumulus, tops 3-6,000'. "Unlimited" visibility. Bright moonlight.

N. France:- 10/10ths low stratus, tops 3,000'.

ENEMY DEFENCES

No opposition was reported from Osnabruck and little from Dusseldorf, but intense flak was encountered over Essen in the form of a barrage between 20,000' and 32,000'. 22 controlled fighter sorties were heard, one of which was active against our aircraft in the Venlo/Eindhoven area.

CASUALTIES

One Mosquito was lost on Essen. There is no reason to believe that it was shot down by a fighter from II/50., on 15/12/43. 5 aircraft sustained minor flak damage.

/.....Appendix.

APPENDIX.

10. 4 U.S. Fortresses dispersed leaflets over Paris, Amiens and Orleans and Mosquito of 8 Group carried out a successful net. reconnaissance over Continent, all without incident.

MEM/101.
P/S. 26342/6/ORS4.
3rd February, 1944.

12/13th FEBRUARY, 1944.

TARGET	GROUP	AIRCRAFT TYPE	SERVING	A/C REPORTING		A/C NOT REPORTING		MIS-ING	MISSED				INTERVENTIONS		Tons of Bombs
				FRIN. JRS.	LES. JRS.	OVER E.T.	NOT OVER E.T.		FALL	PHOSPH.	INC. IN FLIGHT	OTHER CLASSES	APPROX. NO.	NOT APPROX. NO.	
BOMB	8	Moag-IX	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 12.5 1000 3.49
		Moag-IV	10	8	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BOMB TOTAL			20	18	1	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	
DUNKERQUE	8	Moag-IX	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2. 7.1
		Moag-IV	6	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
DUNKERQUE TOTAL			9	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CON. BOMB	8	Moag-IV	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2. .9
BOMBING TOTAL			30	27	1	1	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	
MAREKING	8	Moag	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
MAREKING	92	Ball III	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Ball II	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
MAREKING TOTAL			4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
MAREKING	U.S.A.C.	Fortress	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
TOTAL			34	30	1	1	1	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	

* NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL

92 Group to:- CHENGOWE; HERRS; GRUVILLE; STILLO;

Fortresses to:- PARIS; AMIENS; ORLEANS;

BCB/ST.
D.S.S.3.

BOMBER COMMAND REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

13/14th DECEMBER, 1943.

Dusseldorf : Bonn : Leaflets.SUMMARY

1. Dusseldorf. 7 OBOE Mosquitoes (2 Mk.I, 1 Mk.II FOUNTAIN PEN and 4 Mk.II FENWICKER) were despatched with 9 non-OBOE Mosquitoes against the Rheinmetall Bersig A.G. at Dusseldorf. One Mk.I., one FENWICKER and one FOUNTAIN-PEN aircraft were detailed to mark the target; the first-named made a successful run, the second reported good signals but may have bombed a few seconds early, and the third received distorted signals and brought its marker back. None of the other OBOE aircraft bombed according to plan, although 9 attacked the primary area on D.R. 6 non-OBOE aircraft bombed the red T.I., and one on I.C.A. All returned safely.

2. Bonn. 1 G-H Mosquito attacked the Vereinigte Leichtmetall Works at Bonn by means of its precision device without incident.

3. Leaflets. 25 Whitloys and Wellingtons dispersed leaflets over Northern and Central France without incident.

WEATHER FORECAST

4. Bases:- Little cloud. Smoke will cause visibility troubles in the evening, and radiation fog will become widespread by midnight.

Germany:- Extensive sheets of stratocumulus and stratus, based in many places below 600', with widespread mist or fog.

France:- Strato-cumulus, base below 1,000'.

SORTIES

	<u>Bombing</u>	<u>Leaflets</u>
a) No. of aircraft despatched.....	17	25
b) No. of aircraft reporting attack on primary area.....	13	25
c) No. of aircraft reporting attack on alt. area.....	1	
d) No. of abortive sorties (tech. defect).....	3	
e) No. of aircraft missing.....	0	0

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

6. Ruhr:- 8-10/10ths stratocumulus, tops 4-5,000'. Large breaks. Excellent visibility.

N. France:- 10/10ths stratocumulus, tops 4-5,000'.

ENEMY DEFENCES

7. No fighters were seen, and little flak was met.

CASUALTIES

8. All our aircraft returned safely. One was slightly hit by flak over Dusseldorf.

APPENDIX

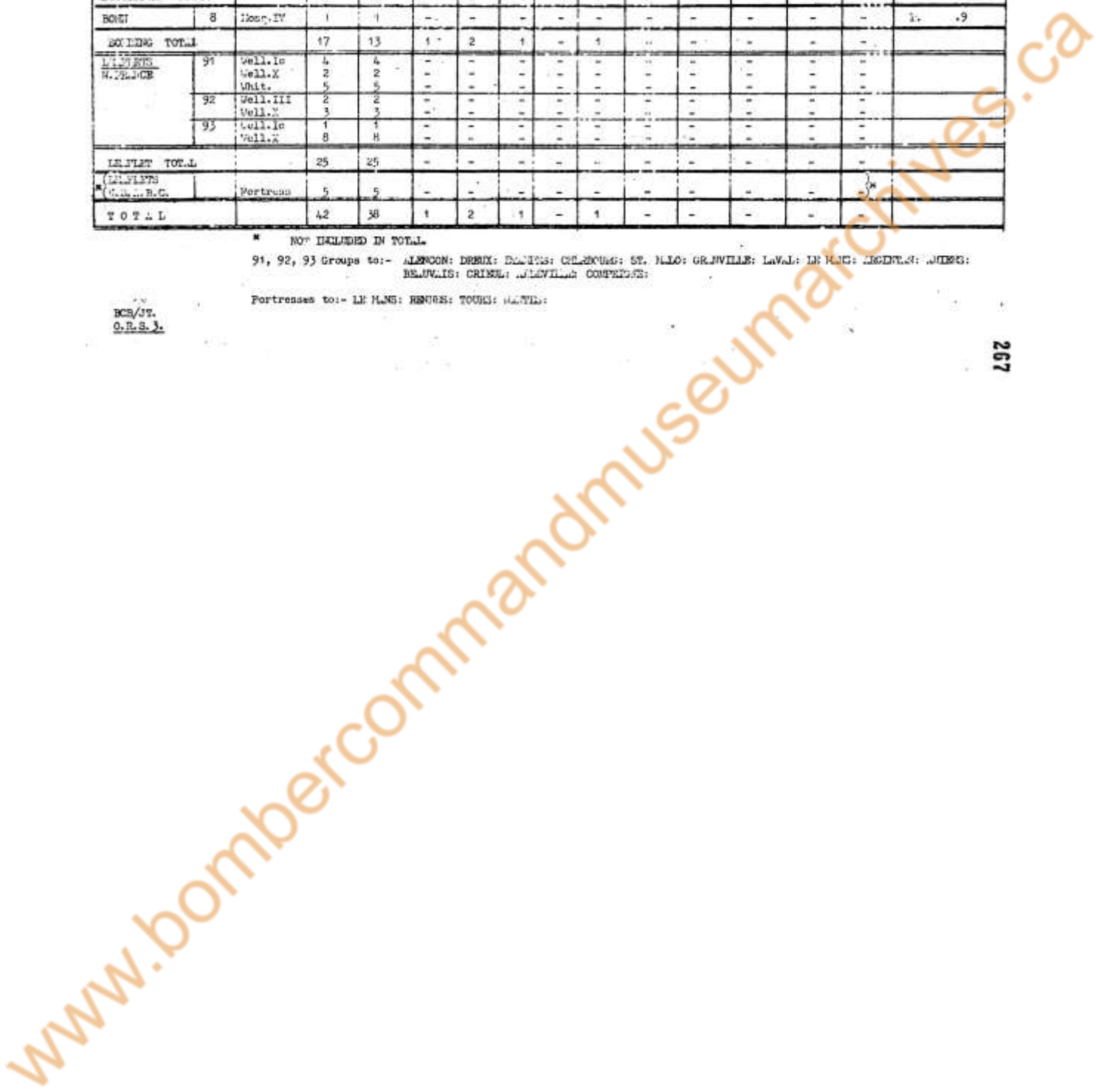
9. 5 U.S. Fortresses dispersed leaflets over L. Mans, Rennes, Tours and Nantes without incident.

XI/PVD.
F/S. 26342/6/ORS4.
3rd February, 1944.

TARGET	GROUP	MISC. PT TYPE	SOMETHING	%C EXERCISING ATTACK ON		DAMAGE SUSTAINED		PLACED IN	DAMAGE				DAMAGE		RESULTS		
				ARR.	ARR.	OVER S.T.	POT. OVER S.T.		PLACED	PLACED	MISC. IN FLIGHT	OTHER CLASSES	PLACED IN	POT. PLACED IN	Tons of Bombs	H.R.	
DUSSELDORF	8	Group-IX Group-IV	6 10	4 8	1 -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1.5 1.4	6.5 3.4
DUSSELDORF TOTAL			16	12	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-9
BOMI	8	Group-IV	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.	.9
BOMI TOTAL			17	13	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		
LEIPZIG H. FELDICE	91	Well. Ic Well. X Whit.	4 2 5	4 2 5	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -		
	92	Well. III Well. X	2 3	2 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -		
	93	Well. Ic Well. X	1 8	1 8	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -		
LEIPZIG TOTAL			25	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
LEIPZIG (G. R. S. S.)		Fortresses	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
TOTAL			42	38	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		

* NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL
 91, 92, 93 Groups to:- ALBANY; BIRMINGHAM; BIRMINGHAM; CLEVELAND; ST. LOUIS; GRANDVILLE; LAVAL; DE RANG; LEGENTON; JONES;
 BEAUVILLE; CRIMM; ALBANY COMPASS;
 Fortresses to:- LE HANG; BRUSH; TOOK; ALBANY;

BCS/ST.
 G.R.S.S.



BOMBER COMBINED REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS.

15/16th DECEMBER, 1944

Bochum : Leverkusen

SUMMARY

1. Bochum. 4 Mk.I OBOE Mosquitoes were despatched against the armaments works of Vereinigte Stahlwerke at Bochum. 2 attacked according to plan; one tracked satisfactorily, but released 5 seconds early, and one experienced technical failure and bombed on D.R. All returned safely.
2. Leverkusen. 4 Mk.I Mosquitoes were detailed to attack the chemical works of I.G. Farbenindustrie at Leverkusen. All received poor signals and bombed on D.R., 3 in the primary area and one over Cologne. All returned safely.

WEATHER FORECAST

3. Basos:- Widespread fog. Some basos may be fit S. of the Wash.
- Germany:- Much stratocumulus over N. coast and S. Germany. Much fog or low stratus in central areas.
- France:- Covered with low stratus or stratocumulus.

SCORES

4. (a) No. of aircraft despatched.....8
- (b) No. of aircraft reporting attack on primary area.....7
- (c) No. of aircraft reporting attack on alternative area.....1
- (d) No. of aircraft missing.....0

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

5. Ruhr:- No cloud. Moderate haze. Good visibility.

ENEMY DEFENCES

6. Slight to moderate heavy flak co-operated accurately with searchlights at both targets. No fighters were seen.

CASUALTIES

7. All aircraft returned safely. One received minor flak damage over Bochum.

8. APPENDIX

- 1 Mosquito carried out a ret. reconnaissance flight without incident.

S. NO.	GROUP	AIRCRAFT TYPE	BORRIES	✓/C READING		NEGATIVE READING		MIS-ING	DEFECTS				INTERPRETATION		RESULT Score of Borries H.D.	
				MADE	L.P.	OVER	NOT		PLUG	PISTON	VALVE	OTHER	PLUG-ED	NOT PLUG-ED		
				LOGS	LOGS	E.T.	OVER									
BOOMER	B	Boag. IV	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.7
		Boag. IV	3	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.9
BOOMER TOTAL			4	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
LEWIS & CLARK	B	Boag. IV	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.7
BOOMER TOTAL			8	7	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.9
WINGMAN	B	Boag.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL			8	7	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	

NOT EMPLOYED IN COL.

BCE/VI.
O.D.S. 3.

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BOMBER COMMAND REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

16/17th. DECEMBER, 1943.

BERLIN: ABBEVILLE: Duisburg: Minelaying: Serrate:

SUMMARY

1. Berlin 418 Lancasters and 5 Mosquitoes carried out a blind-bombing attack on Berlin through 10/10ths. cloud. The German wireless admitted considerable damage. 25 aircraft (2.1%) were lost, and fog at bases caused 27 more to crash on return. 5 enemy fighters were destroyed.
2. Abbeville 36 Mosquitoes, Stirlings and Lancasters bombed military in the Abbeville area without loss.
3. Duisburg 5 CBOE Mosquitoes attacked Duisburg without loss.
4. Minelaying 32 Stirlings and Wellingtons laid 113 mines off the Frisians and the French Atlantic ports. One was lost.
5. Serrate 4 Mosquitoes carried out offensive patrols without loss, damaging one enemy fighter.

WEATHER FORECAST

Bases:- 10/10ths. strato-cumulus at dusk, base 1,200-3,000', tops 3,000-3,500'. Slight icing near cloud base. Visibility 2-4 miles, except in group. These conditions will persist. In slow breaks up in East Anglia, visibility will quickly deteriorate to less than 2,000 yards.

Germany:- Much strato-cumulus between 08° and 11°E., and N. of 50°N. base 1,000'. Further E., fog and low stratus at 500'. Much low cloud in Berlin: thick fog at surface, no cloud between 1,500' and cirrus levels. Route to Berlin: cloud will break up towards shore coast, becoming patchy on Continent (base 800-1,500'); poor visibility over Holland and W. Germany, improving to 1-2 miles between 07° and 11°E. Widespread fog for return as far as W. coast of Denmark. 10/10ths. low cloud over North Sea.

France:- Well-broken strato-cumulus. Poor visibility.

Denmark:- Variable strato-cumulus. Fog patches.

Winds to Berlin:-	750mbs.	500mbs.	300mbs.
Bases - 04°E.	140°/20 m.p.h.	130°/30 m.p.h.	130°/35 m.p.h.
04°-08°E	120°/15 m.p.h.	120°/25 m.p.h.	140°/35 m.p.h.
08°-12°E	LV	090°/15 m.p.h.	090°/20 m.p.h.
12°-Berlin-Stettin	560°/10 m.p.h.	350°/20 m.p.h.	020°/30 m.p.h.
Stettin-54½°N. 11°E.	LV	020°/15 m.p.h.	020°/20 m.p.h.
54½°N. 11°E - 08°	LV	LV	LV
08°-04°E.	120°/15 m.p.h.	120°/25 m.p.h.	140°/40 m.p.h.
04°E - Bases	as out	as out	as out

..... ✓PLAN OF ATTACK.

PLAN OF ATTACK

7. Route Bases - 52°50'N. 03°30'E - 52°35'N. 04°40'E - 52°38'N. 52°38'N. - 12°20'E - BERLIN - 52°43'N. 14°00'E - 54°55'N. 11°43'E - 55°20'N. 09°38'E. 55°23'N. 08°25'E - 55°40'N. 07°00'E - bases.
8. Target Marking Primary blind markers of 136 Squadron and all blind markers (the former blindly, the latter either blindly or visually) to drop yellow T.I. at 52°38'N. 09°45'E. (17 miles N. of Hannover) and 12°20'E. (18 miles N.N.W. of Brandenburg) on the outward route; and at 12°20'E. (19 miles N.N.E. of Rostock) on the way back.
9. Method of Attack Primary blind markers were to mark the aiming-point with red T.I., also dropping release-point flares (red with green stars). Special blind markers were to mark the exact aiming-point with greens; in addition, these aircraft were each to drop 3 release-point flares. Secondary blind markers, attacking at intervals throughout the raid, were to keep the aiming-point marked with greens and release-point flares. Early backscramblers were to aim greens at the centre of all visible reds, with a 3 second overshoot. Later arrivals were to aim greens at the centre of greens, with an identical overshoot. (But if T.I. were obscured by cloud, these aircraft were to aim their markers and attack with the Supporters). Supporters were to bomb blindly if possible, otherwise aiming at the centre of reds, or at release-point flares on an exact heading of 100°N. Main Force aircraft were to aim at the centre of greens or, if these were obscured, at release point flares on the heading prescribed for Supporters.
10. Timing Zero hour: 2000 Duration of attack 1958-2000
- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary blind markers | 22 a/c at zero - 2 |
| Special " " | 5 a/c from zero to zero + 4 (1 per minute) |
| Secondary " " | 15 a/c from zero to zero + 12 (1 per minute) |
| | 2 at zero + 6 & zero + 8 |
| Backers-up | 14 a/c from zero to zero + 11 (1 per minute) |
| | 2 at zero & zero + 1 |
| Supporters | 35 a/c at zero - 2 |
| Main Force | 125 a/c from zero to zero + 4 |
| | 106 a/c from zero + 4 to zero + 8 |
| | 125 a/c from zero + 8 to zero + 12 |
| | 22 A.T.C. a/c spread evenly throughout |
11. Marker Loads
- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Primary blind markers: | 10 a/c: 1x4 flares + 4 red T.I. (2LB) |
| | 6 a/c: 1x4 flares + 4 red T.I. (2LB) + 4 T.I. (LB) |
| Special blind markers: | 5 a/c: 3x4 flares + 9 green T.I. (5LB) |
| Secondary blind markers: | 15 a/c: 1x4 flares + 4 green T.I. (2LB) + 4 yellow T.I. (LB) |
| Backers-up: | 14 a/c: 4 green T.I. (2LB) |
12. WINDOW WINDOW was to be dropped at the rate of one bundle per minute to 30 miles from the target; one bundle per half-minute within 30 miles of the target in both directions; and one bundle per minute for the rest of the homeward route.
13. Diversions 5 Mosquitoes were to drop bombs at zero - 8, after releasing WINDOW at the rate of 6 bundles per minute. 5 more aircraft were to fly S. from 52°38'N. 12°20'E., dropping WINDOW at the above-mentioned rate as far as 52°00'N. 12°20'E. (56 miles S.W. of Berlin), and then fly eastward dropping flares at 20-second intervals from 52°00'N. 13°00'E (38 miles S.W. of Berlin). A further 5 Mosquitoes were to bomb at zero + 40, zero + 45, zero + 55, and zero + 60.

RESULTS

(a)	No. of aircraft despatched.....	493
(b)	" " " reporting attack on primary area.....	427(86.8%)
(c)	" " " " alternative area.....	10(1.8%)
(d)	" " abortive sorties (tech.defect or manip.error....29) (crew failure..... 1) (late take-off..... 1)	31(6.3%)
(e)	" " aircraft missing.....	25(5.1%)

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

5. Bases:- Low cloud. Poor visibility, falling below one mile in 3 and 4 Groups after 0100, while fog became widespread. Few diversion areas were available.

Route:- Cloud cover of low strato-cumulus throughout the route, apart from some breaks over North Sea and Holland. Slight contrails at 20,000' in

Berlin:- 10/10ths. low strato-cumulus, tops 3-4,000'. Three quarters moon, rising at zero + 30. Good visibility above cloud. Contrails at 28,700'. Wind at 20,000'ft: 050-120°/15 m.p.h.

NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

6. All photographs showed 10/10ths. cloud.

NARRATIVE OF ATTACK

7. In the absence of photographic evidence, the course of the raid cannot be precisely detailed. The timing of the Pathfinder's was good. Their markers were concentrated and probably centred on roughly the right place or at any rate on the built-up area; but the bombing was a considerable to the E. and W. The German wireless admitted considerable damage.

DAY RECONNAISSANCE

8. Daylight photographs of Berlin were obtained on 20th and 21st. December for the first time since the initial winter raid of 18/19th. November. They revealed severe and widespread damage, resulting from 6 major raids delivered on 18/19th, 22/23rd, 23/24th and 26/27th. November, and 2/3rd and 16/17th. December, apart from Mosquito attacks. It is impossible to state how much damage was caused by any one raid, although most of the destruction in the Reinickendorf/ Jeger districts may be attributed to the attack of 26/27th. November, which night photographs showed to have been centred on that area. Relevant details were incorporated in Night Raid Report No. 470.

9. The largest area of devastation, covering 3 square miles, and resulting almost entirely from fire, stretched from the E. side of the central district of Berlin to Charlottenburg in the N.W. and to Wilmersdorf in the S.W. Severe damage was also caused in the important industrial districts of Reinickendorf and Spandau. In the Tiergarten district, whole island blocks were completely gutted, including the Swedish, Rumanian, Hungarian, Irish, Finnish and Portuguese Legations. The Great War Office building was partly demolished, the wing used as the Secret Service Headquarters of the 3 armed services being burnt out; and the main income tax offices were badly hit. Very important destruction was caused in the central area of Mitte, especially along the Wilhelmstrasse (Berlin's Whitehall), where Hitler's Chancellery, the British Embassy, the old Air Ministry building, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Ministry of Justice, the Foreign Office, the Treasury, the Ministry of Transport, the State Railway Directorate, the old President's Chancellery, the Gestapo Headquarters, the official residence of Hitler, the Forestry Office and the Prussia House were all hit. The top floor of Goebbels' house was burnt out, but repair here were already well advanced when the photographs were taken. Unter den Linden suffered less heavily. The French Embassy, the Ministry of Armaments and

.....munitions and much of the

Munitions and much of the Home Office were gutted, while damage was caused to the Army Records Office, the Ministry of Education, the State Library, the old Arsenal, the University and the University Hall. Part of the Tiergarten Kroll Opera House, where Reichstag meetings had been held since the 1933 fire, was damaged, and a block of buildings probably belonging to the Home Office was gutted. In Charlottenburg, 3 large buildings at the fair and exhibition grounds, converted for use as military stores, were seriously affected, no damage was caused to the short wave broadcasting station and part of the roof of the Deutschland Hall (which had itself already been destroyed) was destroyed. A number of colleges and institutes in this area, connected with the University, suffered fire damage.

20. The great industrial damage in the Reinickendorf/Tegel area has been described in a previous report; Rheinmetall Borsig A.G., Alkott W/T Assembly Works, Siemens Electrical Engineering works, A.E.G. iron foundry and turbine assembly works, Siemens cable works, Schering A.G. chemical factory and H. Apperate carburettor works, all of priority 1 or 1+, were all very seriously hit. Nearly 90 other factories throughout the city were damaged in varying degrees, together with many commercial premises.

21. Railway services suffered most heavily in the central area. The Lehrter and Potsdamer stations were gutted, and almost the entire group of railway buildings and warehouses at the Lehrter goods station, which forms the terminus of the Berlin-Hamburg line, was destroyed. The adjacent Spreewald station was similarly affected, with damage to the main customs house. Carriage sheds and warehouses in the Lehrter and Potsdamer sidings were destroyed, and the Stettiner and Priezenzer stations were badly damaged.

22. 4 gasworks (all priority 2) and two gas storage depots were damaged, gasholders (one at Kreuzberg and one at Schöneberg) being burnt out. The gasworks at Tegel is the largest in Berlin, and the coal and coke storage a retort house and 2 screening houses belonging to it were damaged. Public utilities were widely affected, including 7 waterworks and pumping stations, train depots, and the main central post offices. 5-6 barracks, several military stores and depots and the military academy and artillery school in H. Tiergarten were heavily hit, while in 25 battalions, 236 out of a total of 483 huts were destroyed.

23. Apart from the state and ministerial buildings already mentioned, numerous civil administrative buildings were gutted. Altogether, 1250 pieces of business and residential property in the fully built-up area were affected, 50-70% of the built-up area covered by these premises were devastated, and 60% of the buildings in the Tiergarten district alone were destroyed. Very substantial figures have also been given for Charlottenburg, Mitte, Schöneberg, Wedding, Wilmersdorf and Reinickendorf.

ALTERNATIVE TARGETS

24. 10 aircraft attacked alternative targets in the areas of Texel (3), Lüneburg, Hannover, Rostock, Sulingen, Rhine, Hagen and Wagnum.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

25.	Mk.	Despatched	ATTACHED		Miss-ing	Bombed Blindly	No. which dropped	
			H2S C.K.	H2S u/s.			R/P Flares	T.
Primary								
Blind markers	II	22	15	2	2	15	15	
Special								
Blind markers	III	5	5	-	-	4	3	
Secondary								
Blind markers	II	15	9	6	-	9	8	
Other								
Borties	II	113	65	31	7	12	-	

The timing of the blind markers and the serviceability of H2S were very good, and an excellent concentration of blind marker flares was maintained throughout the attack.

..... NEW DEVICES

NEW DEFENCES

16. Ground Defences Searchlights could neither penetrate nor illuminate the cloud. Heavy flak was moderately intense over Berlin, fired mostly in barrage form up to 24,000' and also concentrated on anti-air flares. Some crews thought that only part of the defences were active, in an attempt to conceal the full extent of the target area. Many rocket projectiles were seen, variously reported as having been fired from the air and from the ground. Little flak was encountered en route. Searchlights dipped to indicate the track of the bombers.

17. Fighters The outward route crossed the Dutch coast at IJmuiden and, apart from a slight right-hand turn after Stendal, led direct to the target. An unusual amount of fighter opposition was met on the way from the Dutch coast to 100E., resulting in at least 18 combats, including 7 attacks. The track of our force was accurately plotted by the running commentator, who ordered fighters to Lamberck at 1810, to Oldenburg at 1840 and to Hannover at 1914, after yellow counter-markers had been dropped W. of the last-named town. At 1955, 5 minutes before zero hour, all fighters were ordered to Berlin; at that time most of them were in the Brandenburg area, a few minutes flying time from the capital. 10 attacks were reported over the target, where single-engined fighters appeared for the first time on this night. Intense opposition was met on the homeward route, which lay across the Baltic and W. Germany. Fighter flares were dropped continuously from Egmond to Hannover, as well as in the approaches to the target.

18. 5 Lancasters claimed to have destroyed enemy aircraft: an FW. 190, a Ju. 88, and an unidentified twin-engined aircraft on the way out, and 2 Me. 109's over Berlin.

LOSSES

19. No. of aircraft missing.....	25 (5.1%)
" " " damaged (flak.....)	17
" " " (fighter.....)	5
" " " (crashed on return.....)	31
" " " (collided with British.....)	5
" " " (British incendiaries.....)	4
" " " (other causes.....)	2
	64

20 of the 25 losses can be accounted for. 10 bombers were shot down by fighters on the outward route (2 immediately on reaching the Dutch coast, 2 on the E. coast of the Zuyder Zee and 6 more before reaching Hannover), and 3 by flak over the target, one aircraft was destroyed by flak and one by a fighter, while 4 more were seen to collide and dive in flames. Another collision, involving the destruction of both the aircraft concerned, and a loss to fighter were observed on the way home near the turning point E. of Berlin. There is no evidence to account for the other 5 losses.

21. 27 aircraft crashed on return, owing to the unexpected development of fog at bases; and 4 others were involved in collisions over England. 31 were tracked beyond repair.

COUNTER-MEASURES

22. CORONA and AIR-PORT SIGINT were used to disrupt enemy communications, apparently with their usual success. A new counter-measure LIGHT-UP (later known as D. REBOARD) was employed for the first time. This consists of a jamming transmission made on the frequency of the Stuttgart VHF transmitter. From the enemy's strenuous efforts to overcome this obstacle, it would appear to have been successful; but returning crews reported that the original transmission could be heard through the jamming.

...../RECALL MILITARY TARGETS.

SPECIAL MILITARY TARGETSI. ANNEVILLE (Plixcourt)PLAN OF ATTACK

32. 3 CBOE Mosquitoes (1 Mk.I and 2 Mk.II) operating on Channels 3, 11 were to drop yellow warning markers 10 miles E. of the target, and then the aiming-point with green T.I. Primary marking was to be carried out by 2 Mk.I Mosquitoes on Channel 1 at zero - 2 and zero + 6. The angle of cut Channels 3, 11 and 12 is very small in this region (15°), so that the Mosquitos were to run in every three minutes from zero - 2, but were to release only if a satisfactory run had been obtained. All T.I. were to be so fused as to be on the ground. 9 Main Force aircraft, each carrying one 12,000lb. H.C. fitted with a No.44 pistol, were to attack the markers from between 12,000' and 15,000', using the S.E.S. Mk.IIa.

NARRATIVE OF ATTACK

33. One yellow T.I., seen by 7 Lancasters in approximately the right place was dropped by a Mk.I Mosquito on Channel 3. The other 2 route-markers fell and none of these 3 aircraft released greens. The first primary marker ran early, and its task was completed by a reserve, which attacked prematurely at zero - 5; its T.I. had gone out by the time the main force bombed at zero. The second T.I. was dropped at zero + 8, after what was described by the stations as a very good run, and has been plotted 330 yards/034^c from the aiming-point. This marker was accurately bombed by the main force. The night was cloudless but dark. Negligible opposition was encountered.

RESULTS

34. Photographs showed 4 craters in the target area and 5 more within 50 feet. No apparent damage was caused to the objective.

II. BRUWEL (Lilly-le-Bout-Blocher)PLAN OF ATTACK

35. The aiming-point was to be marked with red T.I. dropped by 3 Mk.I Mosquitoes on Channel 1. One Mk.I Mosquito on Channel 3 and 2 Mk.II on Channels 11 and 12 respectively, were to release green T.I. as secondary markers, which were likely to be less accurate than those dropped on Channel 1, and were to be ignored by the Main Force if reds were visible. These 5 Mosquitoes were to run in every 3 minutes from zero - 2, but were to release only after satisfactory runs. Main Force aircraft were to proceed to a point 20 miles S.W. of the target and thence make accurately timed runs on a heading of 050° H., so as to arrive over the target between zero and zero + 4, at between 12,000' and 15,000'. No attempt was to be made to identify the target visually.

NARRATIVE OF ATTACK

36. 2 primary markers attacked, one at zero + 1 (good run) and the other at zero + 14. The third, a reserve, was not required. 2 secondary markers attacked, one Mk.I on Channel 3 at zero + 2 (medium run), and one Mk.II on Channel 11 at zero + 2 (poor run); the remaining Mk.II on Channel 12 experienced a technical failure. 21 Stirlings bombed, between zero and zero + 12; at 17:17 aimed at the first salvo of reds, while 3 attacked greens.

RESULTS

37. Very slight damage was caused to the objective, owing to a large directional error. Photographic evidence showed that the first salvo of reds fell 450° at 060° from the aiming-point, while the greens were dropped 2 miles to the East. Of the 15 successful photographs returned by the main force, 10 were grouped around the T.I. at an average distance of 370 yards.

...../CASUALTIES.

C.S. LINES

38. All aircraft returned safely from both French targets, although one hit a tree while coming in to land, and another collided with one of the Berlin force. A third aircraft crash-landed, and 2 more were damaged while taking off. No injuries were sustained from emergency action.

DUISBURG

39. 6 OBOE Mk.I aircraft were despatched to Duisburg. 5 made successfully controlled runs, the sixth returning early with engine trouble. No incidents were reported.

MINELAYING

40. 35 Stirlings and Wellingtons were despatched to lay mines off the Prisons and the French Atlantic ports. 32 completed their task, laying a total of 113 mines. One returned early, one crashed shortly after take-off and one was lost without trace. One aircraft was wrecked on landing.

SERISE

41. 2 Mosquitoes and 2 Beaufighters of 100 Group carried out offensive patrols over enemy territory. One Mosquito attacked and claimed to have destroyed a No. 110. All returned safely.

RAIDERS

42. 4 U.S. Fortress dispersed leaflets without incident over Hannover, Brussels and Lille.

M.H.V.

20/C. 26342/3/0854,

10th. February, 1944.

16/17th. LAST OPS, 1943.

TARGET	GROUP	AIRCRAFT TYPE	SORTING	A/C RECORDED ATTACK ON				A/C SORTING		MISS-ING	DAMAGE				INTERCEPTIONS		RESULTS	
				PRIM. AREA	SEC. AREA	OVER R.T.	NOT OVER R.T.	PLANE	FIGHTER		MISC. IN FLIGHT	OTHER CLASSES	ATTACKED	NOT ATTACKED	Tons of Bombs	H. E.	Inc.	
BERLIN	PFF	Nonq-IX	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,902.1	827.5
		Nonq-IV	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22.7	19.2
		Lanc-III	56	50	1+2*	2	5	3	-	11+2	12B+1	3	-	-	-	-	11,45.3	40.1
	8 19.	Lanc-III	25	31	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Lanc-I	29	15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Lanc-III	135	117	4	2	10	8	1+1	3,3	4E	11B+3	2	4	-	-	-	Heavy Bombs
3	Lanc-III	25	22	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	509	
	Lanc-I	34	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	
	Lanc-III	131	117	1	-	5	8	3	2+1	-	-	6	10	-	-	-	20	
6	Lanc-III	40	33	2	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	
	Lanc-III	40	33	2	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	
BERLIN TOTAL			493	427	10	3	28	25	1,0+16	19+3,0	4B+1B+2,0+3	27B+1P	15	22	-	-	-	-
PFF			5	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 19.			5	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3			26	21	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5			4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5			5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BERLIN TOTAL			47	36	1	7	3	-	-	-	1,0+1	2B+1,0	-	-	-	-	-	-

* ALSO ATTACKED PRIMARY.

+ RESERVE A/C NOT REQUIRED.

...../over.

ECB/PT.
O. R. S. 3.

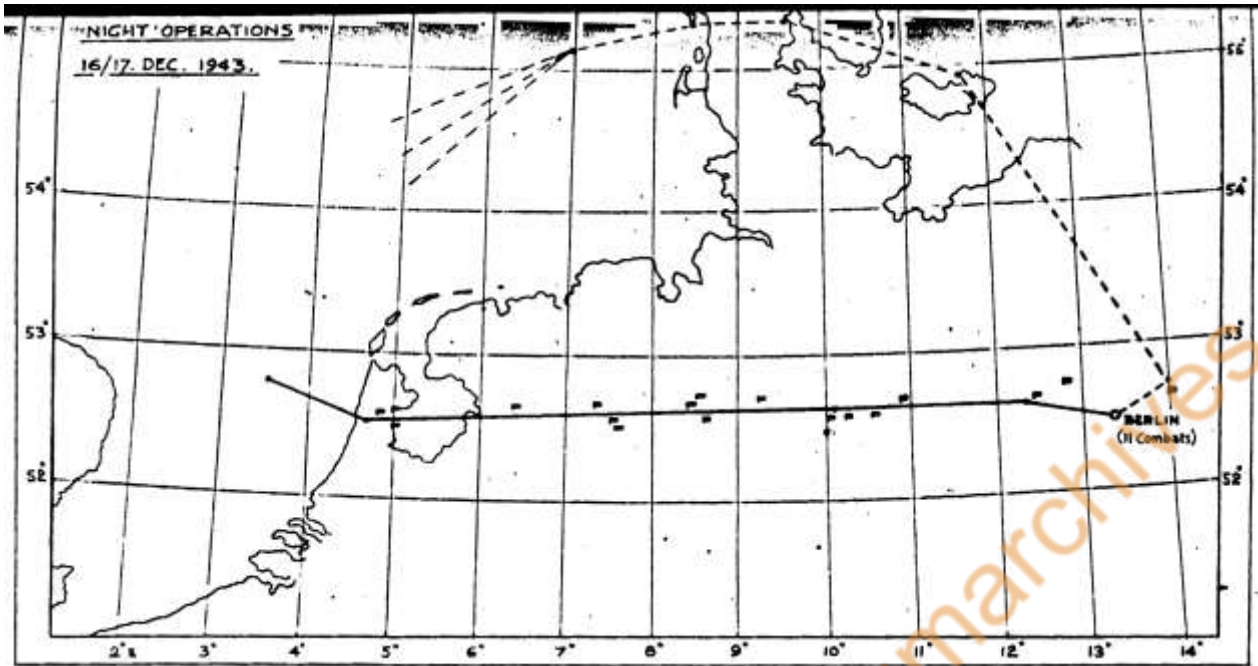
274

BERLIN: BERKINGHAM: DUNDEE: MINDLOWING
16/17th. LAST OPS, 1943. (Contd.)

TARGET	GROUP	AIRCRAFT TYPE	SORTING	A/C RECORDED ATTACK ON				A/C SORTING		MISS-ING	DAMAGE				INTERCEPTIONS		RESULTS	
				PRIM. AREA	SEC. AREA	OVER R.T.	NOT OVER R.T.	PLANE	FIGHTER		MISC. IN FLIGHT	OTHER CLASSES	ATTACKED	NOT ATTACKED	Tons of Bombs	H. E.		
TOTAL FROM PAGE 1			545	457	11+2*	10	32	25	1,0+16	18+3,0	4B+1B+3,0+4	27B+6B	15	22	-	-	-	-
DUNDEE			3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DUNDEE TOTAL			6	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BERKINGHAM TOTAL			551	472	11+2*	10	33	25	1,0+16	18+3,0	4B+1B+3,0+4	27B+6B	15	22	-	-	-	-
MINDLOWING			1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8 mins
DUNDEE			1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 mins
1. P. (Lanc)			1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12 mins
DUNDEE			1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15 mins
MINDLOWING			1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1B+1,0	-	-	-	-	-	18 mins
DUNDEE			1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1B	-	-	-	-	-	53 mins
MINDLOWING TOTAL			35	32	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	2B+1,0	-	-	-	-	-	113 mins
TOTAL			586	504	11+2*	10	35	26	1,0+16	18+3,0	4B+1B+3,0+4	29B+6B	15	22	-	-	-	-
DUNDEE			4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1. P. (Lanc)			2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DUNDEE			2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DUNDEE TOTAL			4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* ALSO ATTACKED PRIMARY

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BOMB PLOTS NOT AVAILABLE

BOMBER COMMAND REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

19/20th DECEMBER, 1943.

LeafletsSUMMARY

1. 6 Wellingtons dispersed leaflets over Northern and Central France without incident.

WEATHER FORECAST

2. Bases:- The situation is very unsettled with frequent fast-moving developments crossing bases from the Atlantic. Bases may be workable during the early part of the night, but must expect a sudden and unpredictable onset of rain and low cloud.

Continent:- Cloud to great heights over Low Countries and N. Germany, associated with a cold front. Further S., much very low stratus with variable layers of medium cloud above; poor visibility. Winds of 100 mph. in frontal zone, decreasing to 60 mph. in Middle Rhine.

RESULTS

3. (a) No. of aircraft despatched..... 6
 (b) No. of aircraft dropping leaflets in primary area..... 6
 (c) No. of aircraft missing..... 0

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

4. N. France:- 40/10ths cumulus to 10,000' over Channel, with isolated peaks to 25,000' in frontal zone. No cloud over Rennes, Orleans or Montargis.

ENEMY DEFENCES

5. No opposition was reported.

LOSSES

6. None.

REMARKS

7. 5 U.S. Fortresses dispersed leaflets over Central France without loss; and one Mosquito carried out a successful night reconnaissance flight.

MM/WV.
 EC/S. 26342/6/ORS4.
 13th February, 1944.

TEAM	GROUP	AIRCRAFT TYPE	BOUGHTS	A/C RECORDED				RECO-ING	RESULTS				RESULTS		
				STUCK ON		SQUAWKS			FLAME	PISTONS	ISC. IN FLIGHT	OTHER GAMES		PLACED	NOT PLACED
				WHEEL	JET	OVER R.T.	NOT OVER R.T.								
N. FRANCE	91	Coll. III Coll. X	3 3	3 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	
TOTAL			6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
(U.S. T.C.)		Porticus	5	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
(MET. RECO)	8	Heav. IV	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

* NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL.

91 Group to:- COLLINS: REITER: COLLETT:

Porticus to:- PARK: LIND: DRAYTON: OUEL: B:

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BOMBER COMMAND REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS.

20/21st DECEMBER 1943.

FRANKFURT: MANNHEIM: Liege: Leverkusen: Rheinhausen: Minelaying
Leaflets: Serrate.

Summary.

1. Frankfurt: 650 aircraft, mostly Lancasters and Liberators, went to Frankfurt. The blind-markers opened accurately, but were poorly supported by the bookers-up, and many of the main force were deceived by dummy P.I. No concentration was achieved and damage was scattered, although several factories in Offenbach were hit. Fighters were very active, and 40 bombers (6.2%) were lost.
2. Mannheim: A smaller force of Lancasters, led by Mosquitoes, carried out a diversionary attack against Mannheim; the bombing was concentrated, but centred outside the city. All returned safely.
3. Liege. A special operation was planned for Lancasters of 617 Squadron against the Liege armaments factory; but the target was found to be cloud-covered and the aircraft were ordered to return. One was lost.
4. Leverkusen - Rheinhausen. Mosquitoes attacked targets in the Ruhr without loss.
5. Minelaying. 21 Stirlings laid 122 mines off the Frisians; one returned early and one was lost.
6. Leaflets. 37 Whitleys and Wellingtons dispersed leaflets over Northern and Central France; one returned early.
7. Serrate. 2 Beaufighters were detailed on offensive patrols; one completed its task. Both returned safely.

WEATHER FORECAST.

8. Basos:- Fine, with very well broken cloud and good visibility. Scattered showers.

Germany:- Heavy convection cloud over North Sea (N. of 54°N) with tops above 20,000'. Cloud will become broken over N.W. German coast and decrease inland. Good clearances are expected, although there will be patches of medium and high cloud. Much cloud in S. Frankfurt; little or no cloud and few patches of medium and high cloud, risk of broken stratus-cumulus below 5,000'. Good visibility. En route cloud will break up rapidly around 05°E. Rain: less than 5/10ths broken residual convection cloud with patches of medium and high cloud.

France:- Well broken convection cloud. Heavy showers over W. coast with cloud tops at 15,000'.

Frisians:- Local showers. Cloud base 1,500' with large clearances.

Winds to Frankfurt:-

	<u>750 mbs.</u>	<u>500 mbs.</u>	<u>300 mbs.</u>
Basos - 02°E	280°/40-45 mph	280°/60 mph	290°/90 mph
02°E - 05°E	280°/40 mph	290°/55-60 mph	300°/90 mph
05°E - 08°E	290°/40 mph	300°/55-60 mph	300°/90 mph
Frankfurt	290°/30-35 mph	300°/45 mph	300°/80 mph

No appreciable change for return. Wind values for 300 mbs are somewhat uncertain, especially on 2nd and 3rd legs.

.../FRANKFURT.

FRANKFURT.PLAN OF ATTACK.

9. Route:- Southwold - 51°30'N. 04°40'E - 50°32'N. 05°10'E - 50°15'N. 07°30'E
 FRANKFURT - 50°05'N. 09°02'E - 50°30'N. 09°00'E - 50°32'N. 09°10'E - 51°30'N.
 04°40'E - 52°15'N. 03°00'E - Southwold.

10. Route-marking. Blind markers and breakers-up of 156 Squadron (including those going to Mannheim) were to drop red spot fires at 50°15'N. 07°30'E (about 10 miles S.S.W. of Coblenz) on the way out; and on the homeward route, blind markers and breakers-up of 35 Squadron were to drop red spot fires at 50°15'N. 07°35'E (about 10 miles N. of Coblenz.)

11. Method of Attack. Blind markers were to illuminate the aiming point with yellow T.I., each at the same time releasing a string of white flares; the first bundle 40 seconds before the T.I., and the remainder at 10-second intervals. Visual markers, guided by the yellows, were to mark the exact aiming-point with reds after positive visual identification, using white flares if necessary. If unable to identify visually, they were to hold their reds and aim greens at the centre of all visible yellows, with a 2-second overshoot. Early breakers-up were to aim greens at reds, or, if none were visible, at the centre of yellows; late arrivals were to aim greens at the centre of greens, with a 2-second overshoot. Supporters were to bomb on H2S if possible, otherwise at the centre of yellows. Main Force aircraft were to aim at reds during the early stages of the raid, and later at the centre of greens.

11. Timing. Zero Hour: 1935 hrs. Duration of Attack. 1929 - 1952.

Blind markers.	10 Hals. 13 Lanes. 3 Special Lanes.)	} at zero - 6.
Visual Markers.	1 Hal. 5 Lanes.)	
Breakers-up.	6 Hals. 18 Lanes.)	} from zero-2 to zero+18 (1 a/o per hour but 2 at zero-2, -1 and +8)
Supporters.	4 Hals. 29 Lanes.)	
Main Force.	100 Hals. from zero to zero + 3 138 Hals. from zero + 3 to zero + 7 96 Lanes. from zero + 7 to zero + 10 128 Lanes. from zero + 10 to zero + 14 96 Lanes. from zero + 14 to zero + 17.	
		17 A.B.C. aircraft throughout the attack.

12. Marker Loads.

Blind Markers:	4 Lanes:	6x4 white flares + 2 yellow T.I. (1 LB) + red spot fire.
	10 Hals:	} 6x4 white flares + 2 yellow T.I. (1 LB)
	12 Lanes.)	
Visual Markers:	1 Hal.	1x4 white flares + 10 red T.I. (5 LB) + 1 green T.I.
	5 Lanes.	1x4 white flares + 5 red T.I. (4 LB)
Breakers-up:	6 Hals.	} 4 green T.I. (2 LB) + 1 red spot fire.
	5 Lanes.)	
	13 Lanes.	4 green T.I. (2 LB).

4. WINDOW. WINDOW was to be dropped at the rate of one bundle per 2 minutes within 30 miles of the target; one bundle every half-minute within 30 miles of the target in both directions; and one bundle per minute for the rest of the day home.

5. Harassers. 4 Mosquitoes were to bomb after the attack had finished at zero + 40, +45, +50 and +55 aiming at fires.

6. Diversionary Attack. A force of Lancasters and Mosquitoes were to carry out a diversionary raid on Mannheim shortly before the main attack began.

SORTIES

6.	(a)	No. of aircraft despatched.....	650
	(b)	" " " reporting attack in primary area.....	535(82.3)
	(c)	" " " " " alternative area.....	21(3.2%)
	(d)	" " abortive sorties (tech.defect or man.error.....)	45
		{ crew failure.....	4
		{ fighter damage.....	3
		{ icing.....	2
			54(8.3%)
	(e)	" " aircraft missing.....	40(6.2%)

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

7. Bases:- Variable amounts of strato-cumulus above 2,000', generally well broken. Moderate to good visibility.

Route and Target:- Drifting banks of 4-8/10ths strato-cumulus, mainly broken, increasing at times to 10/10ths. Tops below 10,000', and probably not above 6,000'. Good visibility.

No moon.

Winds at 20,000': 280°/50 n.p.h. over Dutch coast, gradually veering and decreasing to 300°/40 n.p.h. over Frankfurt.

Surface wind at target:- S.W./10-15 n.p.h.

FLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE.

1.	No. of aircraft plotted in target area (ground detail.....)	6
	{ fire-tracks.....	13
		19
	No. of aircraft plotted off target area (ground detail.....)	40
	{ fire-tracks.....	180
		220
	No. of aircraft estimated to have bombed within target area (maximum.....)	43
	{ minimum.....	19
	{ probable	
	{ figure.....	37
	No. of aircraft estimated to have bombed within 3 miles of aiming-point..... (maximum.....)	166
	{ minimum.....	75
	{ probable	
	{ figure.....	144
	No. of aircraft reporting attack.....	535

NARRATIVE OF ATTACK

8. Apart from one primary marker which bombed 3 minutes early, the attack opened punctually with 8 salvos of yellows at zero - 6, followed by 4 more salvos, the last of which was dropped at zero + 3. Only 2 blind-markers were plotted, both several miles S.E. of the target, but there is evidence that several salvos fell on or near the aiming-point. The Visual markers, finding the target

obscured by cloud, held their reds; 3 of them each dropped a single green. The earliest beacons up released no markers for various reasons, so that during the important period from zero + 1 to zero + 6, no T.I. were burning except 3 solitary greens. Since so few greens were visible, over a question of the main force aimed at reds, most of which were certainly of enemy origin; for the majority of these aircraft have been plotted near the decoy site at Housenstern, 4½ miles S.E. of Frankfurt. During the later stages of the raid cloud thickened and few photographs recorded ground detail; it is possible that the bombing may have drifted back towards the target, but the scattered nature of the fire-tracks indicates that no real concentration was achieved.

DAY RECONNAISSANCE

20. Most of the damage resulting from this attack was caused in the Offenbach district, which lies in the S.E. of Frankfurt. In this area, the premises of 3 engineering firms, Mueller and Kurth, Heubecker A.G. and Ludwig Becker G.m.b.H. were all heavily hit, while farther S. considerable damage was caused to the chemical works of Westdeutsche Bleifarben. Several smaller factories were affected, together with public buildings and a good deal of business and residential property. In east Frankfurt, N. of the river Main, the scrap-metal factory of Adler Junier was partly demolished, and several warehouses were gutted. The engineering works of Mayfahrt in Nechenheim were hit and a group of storage sheds near the express goods station in the W. was devastated. Minor damage was caused to an oil receiving depot and the main gasworks.

ALTERNATIVE TARGETS

21. 21 aircraft attacked alternative targets. 11 of these joined the force visiting Mannheim and the other 10 bombed in the areas of Overflakko (3), Mainz, Wiesbaden, Wetzlar, Schwanau, Kastels, Wehrhald and Aerscht.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT.

	Mk.	Despatched	Attacked		Miss- ing.	Bombed blindly	No. which dropped flares
			H2S. O.K.	H23 U/S			
Blind Marker Illuminators	II	23	11	10	2	11	8
	III	3	3	-	-	3	3
Other Sorties	II	186	120	45	10	15	-

The timing of the Blind Marker Illuminators was good, though owing to high in-serviceability of the Mk.II equipment, only 11 flare sticks were dropped, and these seem to have been mostly to the S.W. of the town.

ENEMY DEFENCES

22. Ground Defences. At Frankfurt the heavy flak, which was at first predicted, quickly subsided into a moderate barrage, bursting at 17-20,000'. Searchlights were numerous but the cloud rendered them ineffective. They were used to illuminate the cloud base, and for track indicating. Large groups were reported towards the southern edges of the target and extending in a belt towards Mannheim. Little opposition was met on route, although the defences of Aachen, Coblenz, Liege, Rotterdam and Antwerp were seen in action.

24. Fighters. Fighter activity was intense and successful. 101 interceptions were reported, including 36 attacks and 36 other combats; roughly half of these occurring on the homeward race and rather more than a quarter on the way out. At least 80 controlled fighters were active, and aircraft from every fighter Geschwade were operating under the direction of the running commentary. Fighter flares, normally employed only in the neighbourhood of a suspected target, were seen at intervals all along the route. The running commentary began at 1752, soon after our aircraft had left the English coast,

plotted our aircraft accurately all the way to Frankfurt, mentioning other possible objectives Mannheim, Mainz, and Kuremburg. While our aircraft were in the Venlo area, fighters were gathering near Osnabruck, by the time the first aircraft were due over the target, 5 fighter squadrons had assembled between Cologne and Coblenz. 6 minutes later, when the Mannheim raid had been in progress for 13 minutes, the fighters were moved to a beacon near Frankfurt, 5 miles off the ordered route; and in 1955, just after the planned end of the main attack, all enemy aircraft were ordered to Mannheim.

It is unlikely that the main forces of free-lance fighters contacted our bombers much before the target was reached; but combats occurred uniformly along the route, commencing at 1819 just S. of Gilze-Rijen, where the Benito controlled aircraft probably first entered the bomber stream. The first combat in the target area took place at 1937, 13 minutes after the first bombers had fallen; at about this time, the free-lance fighters probably began to arrive in strength, and thereafter their efforts continued unabated until our bombers had flown over 100 miles on the return route, roughly as far as Coblenz. Fighter flares were dropped over the whole of this area. It is clear that enemy aircraft must have followed the bomber stream instead of proceeding to Mannheim as ordered. No claims of fighter destruction were made by returning crews.

CASUALTIES

No. of aircraft missing.....	40 (6,2,)
No. of aircraft damaged	{ flak.....10
	{ fighter.....16 }.....31
	{ non-enemy debris..... 5 }

4 aircraft were seen to go down to flak, 2 en route at Antwerp and Coblenz and 2 at Frankfurt. Nearly all the remaining losses were probably caused by fighters, although only 18 can be identified: 10 on the outward route, mostly in the St. Trend/Liege and Coblenz areas, 7 over the target and one on the way home. 2 bombers were seen to collide and go down near a marker on the return journey. 2 aircraft were wrecked beyond repair in this country; one by the explosion of its T.I. and the other by a landing accident.

MANHEIM

PLAN OF ATTACK.

Method of Attack. 27 Pathfinders and 30 aircraft of 1 Group were to carry out a diversionary attack on Mannheim, 13 minutes before the start of the main attack on Frankfurt. Blind markers were to drop reds blindly on the target-point, each releasing in addition one string of white flares (the first at 30 seconds before the T.I., and the rest at 10-second intervals.) Backers-up of 139 Squadron, acting as backers-up, were to aim greens at the tail of all visible T.I., keeping the attack going after the main force had landed. Main Force aircraft, guided by the reds, were to attempt to identify the target point visually; if unsuccessful, they were to aim at the centre reds. WINDOW was to be dropped as for the main attack.

<u>Timing.</u>	<u>Zero Hour: 1922.</u>	<u>Duration of Attack: 1921-1934.</u>
Blind Markers	17 Lancs. at zero - 1.	
Backers-up	10 Mosquito from zero to zero + 9 (one per minute)	
Main Force:	30 Lancs. at zero.	

/CORPUS.....

SORTIES

29. (a) No. of aircraft despatched.....54
 (b) No. of aircraft reporting attack on primary area.....51
 (c) " " " " " " alternative area.....1
 (d) No. of abortive sorties (technical defect.....2)
 (e) No. of aircraft missing.....0

WEATHER EXPERIENCED.

30. Mannheim:- 0-3/10ths transparent low stratus. Good visibility. No moon. Smoke screen.

NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE.

31. No. of aircraft plotted in target area (ground detail.....1)
 (fire tracks.....0)
 No. of aircraft plotted off target area (ground detail.....17)
 (fire-tracks.....9).....26
 No. of aircraft estimated to have bombed within target area.....2
 No. of aircraft estimated to have bombed within 3 miles of A/P.....7
 No. of aircraft reporting attack.....51

NARRATIVE OF ATTACK

32. 9 blind-markers dropped red T.I. and 11 illuminator flares, all within 1 minute of their prescribed time. 8 have been plotted by ground detail, all to the S.E. of the target; they thus overshoot down-wind like the Pathfinders attacking simultaneously at Frankfurt. None of the Main Force could visually identify the target, which was obscured by a smoke-screen, and nearly all of them bombed very accurately on the centre of the reds. The result was a good concentration of bombing central 4 1/2 miles S.E. of the aiming-point. The Mosquitoes kept green T.I. burning in the target area from zero + 3 to zero + 13.

DAY RECONNAISSANCE

33. Reconnaissance revealed no fresh damage in Mannheim or Ludwigshaven as the result of this attack.

ALTERNATIVE TARGETS.

34. One aircraft bombed Frankfurt.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT.

35. H2S.

	No.	DESPATCHED	ATTACHED		MISS- ING	BOMBED BLINDLY	NO. OF DROPPED FLARES
			H2S.	C.M. H2S. a/s			
BLIND MARKERS	II	15	11	3	-	11	11
	III	?	-	1	-	-	-
OTHER SORTIES	II	11	8	2	-	1	-

The accuracy of the blind marking was very poor, all the flares and red T.I.'s being dropped to the S.E. of the target, so that none of the Main Force were able to identify visually as had been planned.

/ENEMY DEFENCES.....

GROUND DEFENCES

Ground defences:- A continuous belt of searchlights was in action from the Rhine to Mannheim; but flek over the target was slight to moderate.

Fighters: Very few enemy aircraft were sighted over Mannheim. The fighters followed the same route as the Frankfurt force as far as Oebelnz and returned the same way. Their experiences with fighters were similar to those described in paragraphs 24 and 25.

RESULTS

No. of aircraft missing.....	1
No. of aircraft damaged (flek.....)	1
(fighter.....)	1
(other causes.....)	0
	2

There is no evidence of how or where the missing bomber came to grief or if it was probably lost to fighter.

LIÈGE.

8 Lancasters of 617 Squadron each carrying 1 x 12,000 lb. bomb, were despatched to attack the armaments factory at Liège, with 8 Mosquitoes to act as groundmarkers. The target was found to be covered with cloud, and after 4 Mosquitoes had dropped T.I. which disappeared from sight, the leader ordered his force to abandon the operation. One Lancaster dropped its bomb on the estimated position of the target. Negligible damage was reported; but one Lancaster was lost without trace.

LEVERKUSEN.

5 OBOE Mosquitoes (2 Mk.I., 2 Mk.II PENWIPER and 1 Mk.II FOUNTAIN-PEN) were detailed on a precision test against the IG Farbenindustrie works at Leverkusen. 1 Mk.I and 1 FOUNTAIN-PEN aircraft made successfully controlled runs. 1 Mk.I aircraft received no tracking signals, and the equipment of PENWIPER aircraft failed completely; both bombed in the Cologne area on the basis of GEE fixes. The remaining PENWIPER aircraft's precision device failed, and its bombs had to be jettisoned. All returned undamaged.

RHEINHAUSEN.

6 Mk.I. OBOE aircraft were despatched to Rheinhausen. 2 made successful runs and 2 received no release signals and bombed the primary area. One was covered over the target and jettisoned its load; the sixth abandoned its task over its base. All returned undamaged.

MULLAYING.

21 Stirlings laid 122 mines off the Frisians; one other returned early, and one was lost without trace.

LE FLERS.

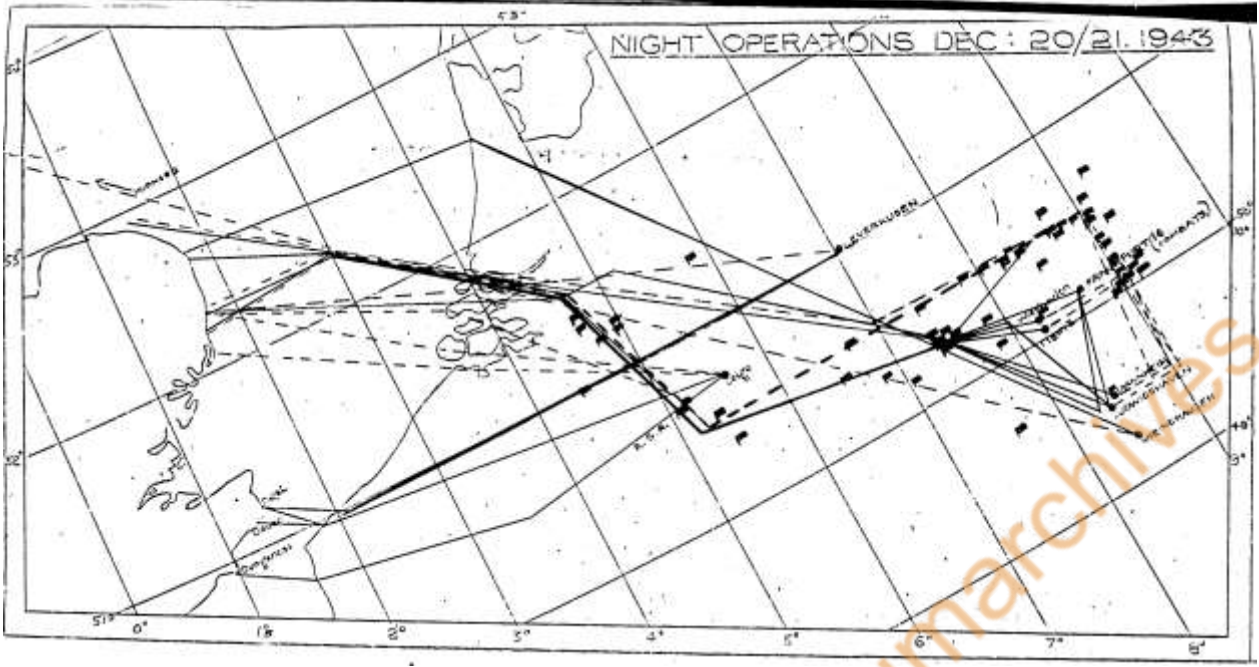
37 Whitleys and Wellingtons dispersed leaflets over Northern and Central France; one other returned early. 4 aircraft were hit by flek, but none was lost.

SERRATE.

2 Beaufighters of 100 Group were despatched on offensive patrols. One returned early; the other completed its mission without incident.

P.T.
25842/3/ORS-4.
February, 1944.

NIGHT OPERATIONS DEC: 20/21, 1943



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FINAL PLOT OF NIGHT

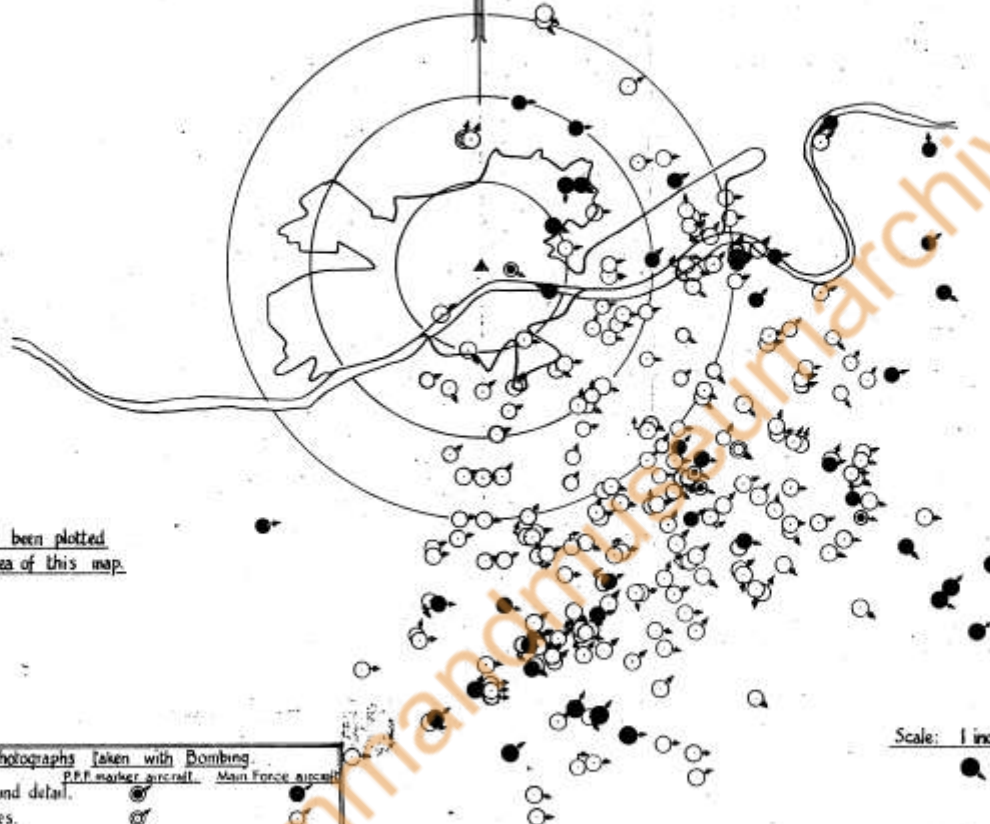
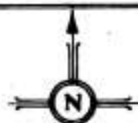
TAKEN 20/21ST DECEMBER. 1943.

PHOTOGRAPHS

TARGET FRANKFURT.

SECRET.

284



1 Aircraft has been plotted outside the area of this map.

Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile.

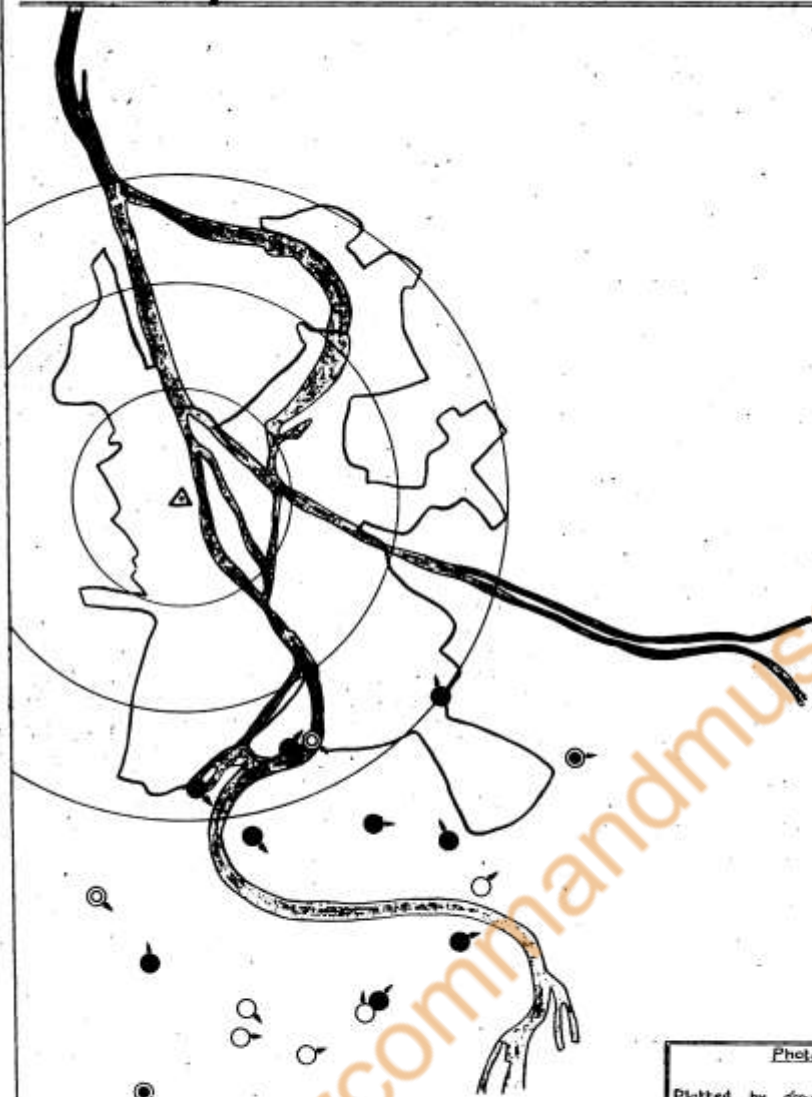
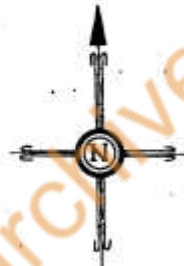
Photographs taken with Bombing		
	P.P.F. marker aircraft	Main Force aircraft
Plotted by ground detail.	⊙	●
Plotted by fires.	⊗	⊙
<u>Plotted</u>	<u>By ground detail.</u>	<u>By fires.</u>
Within target area.	6	13
Outside target area.	40	180
Unplotted.	40	130
Number of prints (with bombing) examined: 409		

ORS/BC. 22.C.
10-2-44. Traced by EJC
Ref. No. 491CK. 82

www.bombercommand.com/airphotoarchive.ca

FINAL PLOT OF NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHS 285
 TAKEN **20/21 DECEMBER 1943** TARGET: **MANNHEIM**

SECRET



3 ground detail plots and 1 fire plot have been plotted outside the area of this map

Photographs taken with Bombing		
	PFF marker aircraft	Man Force aircraft
Plotted by ground detail	●	●
Plotted by fires	○	○
Plotted	By ground detail	By fires
Within target area	1	-
Outside target area	17	9
Unplotted	3	-
Number of prints (with bombing) examined: - 30		

ORS/BC 3998
 17244 Trax J J
 Rel - C1498

Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile

www.bombingcommandmuseumarchives.ca

BOMBER COMMAND REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

21/22 DECEMBER, 1943.

Dusseldorf : Knapsack : Leaflets.

OPERATIONS

Dusseldorf 9 He.111 aircraft were despatched against the Mannesmann works. 4 made successfully controlled run; 5 aircraft bombed the primary area in D.R., because of the failure of their precision devices, and 2 returned early. One was lost.

Knapsack. 4 He.111 Mosquitos (2 P.1111 and 2 P.1112) were sent to attack the Goldenbergwerke power station. One P.1112 aircraft made a successfully controlled run; 2 crews found their sets out of order and bombed on A.R. (one in the Cologne area); and one returned early. None was lost.

Leaflets 4 Wellingtons dispersed leaflets over N. France without incident.

WEATHER FORECAST

Midnight frontal positions:- (1) occlusion from 60N. 06E. - 55N. 07E. - 41N. 05E. - 47N. 00 (2) cold from 59N. 01E. - 55N. 02E. - 52N. 00 - Brest.

Bases:- Heavy convection cloud along cold front, towering to great heights with high icing index. Heavy frontal cloud to great heights along occlusion. Broken convection cloud between the fronts; much layer cloud E. of occlusion, with broken strato-cumulus and good visibility further E.

Germany:- Heavy frontal cloud along occlusion; conditions in frontal zone will resemble those in correspondingly affected areas of England. Well broken strato-cumulus in S.

France:- Frontal conditions as above. Much layer cloud in S.

RESULTS

	<u>Emb</u> <u>ing</u>	<u>Leaf-</u> <u>lets</u>
(a) No. of aircraft despatched.....	13	4
(b) " " " reporting attack on primary area.....	9	4
(c) " " " reporting attack on alternative area....	1	0
(d) " " abortive sorties (tech. defect.....?) (sickness of crew.....1)	3	0
(e) " " aircraft missing.....	0	0

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

6. Ruhr:- 10/10ths. cloud to 20,000'. Heavy ground haze. Moderate visibility.

ENEMY DEFENCES

7. No fighters were seen. A little ineffective flak was met.

CASUALTIES

8. All aircraft returned undamaged.

C.H./J.T.
EC/S. 2634/6/ORS4,
1st. March, 1944.

21/22nd, DECEMBER, 1943.

TARGET	GROUP	LIGHT TYPE	BOITING	A/C REPORTING ATTACK ON		A/BORTIVE RESULTS		MISS-ING	DAMAGE				DIPPERPTIONS		STATISTICS		
				PREL. A/C.	ALT. A/C.	OVER E.T.	NOT OVER E.T.		FLAK	PROPAG.	HEAVY IN PRODU	FLAME CARBES	ATTACKED	NOT ATTACKED	Loss of Bombs	H. K.	
DUSSELDORF	8	Heav.IX	6	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.	3.0
		Heav.IV	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.	2.0
DUSSELDORF TOTAL			9	7	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
KOELN	817	Heav.IX	4	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.	1.0
KOELN TOTAL			4	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.	1.0
TOTAL			13	9	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
H. FRANCE		Heav.III	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
H. FRANCE		Heav.X	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL			4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL			17	13	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* (M.T. 10000)		8	Heav.IV	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL

BCE/DT.
O.R.S.S.

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BOMBER COMMAND REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

22/23rd. DECEMBER, 1943.

Ailly-le-haut-clocher: Preval: Frankfurt: Bonn: Minelaying: Leaflets:SUMMARY

1. Ailly-le-haut-clocher: Preval: 51 Stirlings, Lancasters, Halifaxes and Mosquitoes were despatched to attack military targets at Ailly-le-haut-clocher and Preval, in the Abbeville area. The former target was accurately ground-marked and bombed; but at Preval the main force could not see the T.I. and abandoned their task. No aircraft was lost.
2. Frankfurt: Bonn: Mosquitoes attacked Frankfurt on D.T. and Bonn on C-M, without loss.
3. Minelaying 14 aircraft, out of a force of 16, laid 52 mines off the French Channel and Atlantic ports. All returned safely.
4. Leaflets 20 aircraft dispersed leaflets over N. and Central France without loss; one returned early.

WEATHER FORECAST

5. Midnight frontal positions:- (1) 60N. 08 E. - 55 N. 12 E - 50 N. 12 E. - V. Alps. - S. of Bordeaux.

Bases:- Fit all night, with small amounts of residual convection cloud and moderate to good visibility.

Germany:- Heavy convection cloud to great heights over North Sea and to 20,000' in frontal zone. Well broken residual convection cloud W. of front, with good clearances. Much cloud in several layers to 20,000' E. of front. High icing index at all heights above freezing level. Frankfurt: patchy thin strato-cumulus, good visibility. Late in night, targets E. of 10 E. may be clear of heavy cloud, with small patches of layer cloud and moderate to good visibility.

France:- Well broken strato-cumulus and good visibility in N.V. Residual convection cloud in N.E., with a good chance of not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ cover. Good clearances in layer cloud in central areas. Frontal cloud in S. W. coast half-covered with strato-cumulus, tops 6,000', base 1,500-2,500'; good visibility.

ABBEVILLEPLAN OF ATTACK

6. Preval (a) Route left to discretion of squadron employed.

(b) Method of attack Mosquitoes were to drop yellow T.I. as preliminary warning markers about 10 miles/010° from the target, and then mark the exact aiming-point with red T.I. A reserve Mosquito was to drop green T.I. instead of reds at zero + 17, unless one of the other Mosquitoes failed, in which case it was to replace the unsuccessful aircraft.

.../(c) Timing.

Alternatively the T.I., which were fused to burst on impact, may have failed to function. The last explanation is the most likely; neither Mosquito observed any results after bombing.

PREVAL RECONNAISSANCE

1. Photographs obtained 2 days after the attack showed a large concentration of craters less than a mile to the N.E. of the target at Ailly, but only 23 in the target area, including a near miss on the north side and 5 hits on the boundary road to the S. NO reconnaissance of Preval was attempted.

RELATIVE TARGETS

1. 3 Lancasters detailed for Preval jettisoned their bombs live over France.

PREVAL EQUIPMENT

1. CEOF 3 aircraft made successfully controlled runs at Ailly; the fourth's precision device failed, and the aircraft brought back its T.I. 2 marked the target at Preval according to plan; one returned early with partial CEOF failure, and the fourth, a reserve, was not called.

DEFENCES

1. No fighters were encountered. One target was undefended, the other detected only by 2 light flak guns.

RESULTS

1. All aircraft returned undamaged from both targets.

FRANKFURT

1. 9 Mosquitoes, not fitted with precision devices, bombed Frankfurt on D.R. Intense heavy flak was encountered, but all aircraft returned undamaged.

BOEN

1. 2 G-H Mosquitoes were despatched against Boen. One attacked according to plan and the other returned early for technical reasons. Neither was damaged.

MEDANING

1. 14 Stirlings and Wellingtons laid 52 tons off Lorient, Cherbourg, Le Havre and La Pallice; 2 others abandoned their task. No casualties were sustained.

LEFLEYS

1. 21 Whitleys and Wellingtons were sent to disperse leaflets over N. and Central France. 20 completed their task. 2 fighters were seen but no combats developed. All aircraft returned safely, although 3 were damaged by flak.

U.S.B.C.

1. One Fortress bombed Knapsack, and 6 dispersed leaflets over N. France, all without incident.

10/57.
S. 263.2/1/ORS4,
and March, 1944.

T. UNIT	GROUP	TYPE	NUMBER	TOTAL ON		NO. OF		MIS- DUG	PLANK	PIGMENTS	TOTAL IN FLIGHT	OTHER GAMES	ATT. SE- RD	OUT- ST. OR- RD	TOTAL OF GAMES		
				PAID JOB	NOV. JOB	OVER E. T.	NOT OVER E. T.									H. X.	
BREVILLE	B	Long IX	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,135.1	
		Meag IX	6	4	-	1+1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2, 8.5*
	3	Hel. I.	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Stip. III	29	24	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Land. I	6	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Land. III	5	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BREVILLE TOTAL			51	32	3	10+1*	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BOUR	B	Long IX	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2, .7
		POP	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BOUR TOTAL			2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2, 6.0
BOUR TOTAL			9	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BOUR TOTAL			62	42	3	10+1*	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BREVILLE																	
1000	1	Well. X	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 mines	
ON	3	Stip. III	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12 mines	
IN	3	Stip. III	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 mines	
IN	3	Stip. III	7	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24 mines	
BREVILLE TOTAL			16	14	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52 mines	
LE JARDIN	91	Whit.	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	GEN. USE
		Well. X	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TO: AMES:
		Well. III	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CHARGE: 11. 21. 24.
		Well. X	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CHARGE: 11. 21. 24.
		Well. Ic	4	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91, 92, 93 - Gpt -
92	Well. Ic	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	PONTAINLEAU:	
	Well. III	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CONTRE: 11. 21. 24.	
93	Well. X	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	J. BROU: 11. 21. 24.	
	Well. X	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L. V. L. C. 11. 21. 24.	
LE JARDIN TOTAL			21	20	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	DO: 11. 21. 24.	
LE JARDIN TOTAL			99	76	3	10+1*	9	1+1.C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CH. 11. 21. 24.
LE JARDIN TOTAL			99	76	3	10+1*	9	1+1.C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CH. 11. 21. 24.

* NOT INCLUDED IN GRAND TOTAL. * REASON: (U) NOT REQUIRED. * ADJUSTED LIVER OVER BURM TRAILPORT.

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BOMBER COMMAND REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

23/24th. DECEMBER, 1943.

BERLIN: Aachen: Leipzig: Duisburg: Leaflets: Serrate:

Berlin 322 aircraft, mostly Lancasters, attacked Berlin for the seventh time within 5 weeks. The attack was scattered, chiefly because many of the "finders" precision devices failed before they reached the target. Fighters were diverted by a feint attack on Leipzig; we lost 15 bombers (4.0%). 2 fighters were destroyed, one by an intruder.

Aachen: Leipzig: Duisburg: Mosquitoes carried out a diversionary raid on Leipzig, and precision attacks against targets at Aachen and Duisburg, without loss.

Leaflets: 7 Wellingtons and Whitloys dispersed leaflets over N. France without loss.

Serrate 2 Beaufighters carried out offensive patrols; one destroyed a target. A third Beaufighter was lost.

WATER FORECAST

Midnight frontal positions:- (1) 50°N. 10°W. - 49°N. 05°W. - 47½°N. 01°W. - 45°N. - I.W. Spain.

Bases:- Variable amounts of layer cloud with moderate visibility. 8, 15 Groups may have to divert half their aircraft after midnight; N.W. England, Cornwall and Devon will remain fit.

Germany:- Convective cloud, tops 20,000' or above, over E. North Sea, fading inland. Residual amounts at Bremen and Hannover. Little cloud in central and S. Germany, apart from small patches of strato-cumulus. Berlin:- Chance of well broken cloud, but risk of 10/10ths. strato-cumulus. No rain tops above 10,000' on route overland.

France:- Much cloud, towering in N.W. to great heights.

Winds to Berlin:-

	<u>750ms.</u>	<u>500ms.</u>	<u>300ms.</u>
Bases to The Hague	310°/30-40 m.p.h.	300°/30-50 m.p.h.	300°/35-45 mph.
The Hague to Saarbrücken	270°/20-30 m.p.h.	270°/30 m.p.h.	280°/35 m.p.h.
Saarbrücken to Würzburg	240°/15 m.p.h.	240°/25 m.p.h.	260°/30 m.p.h.
Würzburg to Dresden	"	"	270°/30 m.p.h.
Dresden to Berlin	250°/15 m.p.h.	"	"
Berlin to Hannover	260°/25 m.p.h.	260°/35 m.p.h.	270°/40 m.p.h.
Hannover to The Hague	270°/25 m.p.h.	280°/35 m.p.h.	280°/40 m.p.h.
The Hague to bases	310°/35-45 m.p.h.	300°/40-50 m.p.h.	300°/40-55 mph.

...../BERLIN.

BERLINPLAN OF ATTACK

6. Route Bases - 52°20'N. 03°00'E - 50°30'N. 06°08'E - 50°33'N. 09°00'E - 50°50'N. 12°27'E - 52°05'N. 13°10'E - Berlin - 53°02'N. 13°27'E - 52°35'N. 09°43'E - 52°10'E. 03°00'E - Southwold - bases.

7. Route marking On the outward route, the Mosquitoes flying to Berlin were to drop red T.I. at 50°40'N. 05°52'E (13 miles S.W. of Aschom) and primary blind markers of 156 Squadron supported by all secondary blind markers were to drop yellow T.I. at 50°33'N. 09°40'E (near Fulda) and at 51°16'N. 12°40'E (13 miles E.S.E. of Leipzig). On the way back, yellow T.I. were to be dropped by the same aircraft at 52°35'N. 09°43'E (13 miles N. of Hannover).

8. Method of Attack Primary blind markers were to mark the aiming point blindly with red T.I. and release point flares (red with green stars). Secondary blind markers (of 83 Squadron) and secondary blind markers were to follow with green T.I. and flares. Early backers-up were to aim greens at the centre of reds, and later arrivals at the centre of earlier greens, overshooting in some instances by 2 seconds; if cloud rendered the T.I. invisible they were to aim their greens and bomb the flares on a heading of 015°M. Supporters, to whom it was to be stressed the importance of accurate timing, were to bomb blindly if possible, otherwise at the centre of reds or at release point flares. Main Force aircraft were to aim at the centre of greens or at release point flares.

8. Timing Zero Hour: 04.00 Duration of Attack: 0358-2

Primary blind markers	25 Lancs. at zero - 2
Special blind markers	4 Lancs. from zero to zero + 3 (one per
Secondary blind markers	5 Lancs.) from zero to zero + 11 (" "
	7 Hols.)
Backers-up:	16 Lancs. from zero to zero + 11 (one per
	but 3 at zero and at zero + 1).
Supporters:	23 Lancs. at zero - 2
Main Force:	101 Lancs. from zero to zero + 4
	101 Lancs. from zero + 4 to zero + 8
	100 Lancs. from zero + 8 to zero + 12
	18 A.B.C. aircraft throughout the attack.

Marker Loads

Primary blind markers: 6 red T.I. (3LB) + 1x4 flares (R/G stars)
(8 a/c were also to carry 3 routemarker yellow T.I. LB)

Special blind markers: 11 green T.I. (5LB) + 3x4 flares (R/G stars)

Secondary blind markers: 6 green T.I. (3LB) + 1x4 flares (R/G stars) + yellow T.I. (LB)

Backers-up: 6 green T.I. (3LB)

10. WINDOW was to be dropped at the usual rates, viz.: one bundle per minute to within 30 miles of the target; thence 2 bundles per minute to the target and back to the same point; and one bundle per minute for the rest of the way home.

11. Diversions 3 Mosquitoes were to deliver a feint attack on Leipzig, making timed runs from the yellow routemarkers at 51°16'N. 12°40'E and bombing as follows:- 3 at zero - 23 (red T.I.); 5 at zero - 22, -21, -20, -19, and -18 (green T.I.) 3 Mosquitoes were to attack Berlin at zero - 6, dropping low delay bombs and maximum WINDOW; 3 were to release spoof fighter flares between 52°30'N. 14°00'E and 51°53'N. 14°00'E at zero + 2; and 2 were to bomb after the main attack at zero + 35 and zero + 45.

...../SORTIES.

RESULTS

(a)	No. of aircraft despatched.....	379
(b)	" " " reporting attack on primary area.....	322(84.9%)
(c)	" " " reporting attack on alternative area.....	8(2.1%)
(d)	" " abortive sorties (tech.defect & manipulative error.....29)	34(9.0%)
	(sickness of crew..... 3)	
	(collided over England..... 2)	
(e)	" " aircraft missing.....	15(4.0%)

PER OBSERVATIONS

Bases:- Little cloud. Moderate visibility, with local deterioration of the number after midnight.

Routes:- 8-10/10ths. strato-cumulus, tops 8-12,000', with local breaks 5/10ths.

Berlin:- 8-10/10ths. Inver cloud at start of attack, decreasing later 5-5/10ths. Tops 5,000'. Moderate visibility.

Quarter moon rose at zero + 30 minutes.

Winds:- 290-300²/35-40 m.p.h. over Kent, gradually backing and decreasing to 5-26²/25 m.p.h. over Berlin. Return route: 290²/30-40 m.p.h. over N. Eng. becoming 270²/40-45 m.p.h. over Holland and 300-310²/30 m.p.h. over bases.

STATISTICAL STATISTICS

No. of aircraft plotted in target area.....	0
" " " " outside target area (ground detail..... 3)	
(fire-tracks.....62)...	70

There is no photographic evidence that any aircraft bombed in the target area or within 5 miles of the starting point.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

The photographic evidence is insufficient to enable the course of the raid to be plotted in detail, but the leading aircraft do have spread widely to the S. and W. Only 15% of the bombs were dropped flares or T.I. At first the T.I. were scattered, but later markers were more concentrated, and the raid merged into one large area, the size of which was visible for 100 miles.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

No photographic cover was not obtained until the third week in January, by which time 8 more major attacks had been delivered. A statement on damage then revealed will be issued in Night Raid Report No. 530.

ALTERNATIVE TARGETS

5 aircraft attacked alternative targets in the areas of Haanstede (2), Gronau, Osnabruck, Gronau, Osnabruck, Warden, and Hungen.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT18. H2SBerlin: Performance of H2S equipped aircraft.

	MK.	Des- patched	Attacked		Miss- in;	Bombed Blindly	No. which dropped	
			H2S O.K.	H2S w/s.			R/P Flares	T.I.
Primary Blind Markers	II	23	11	12	-	11	7	7
Special Blind Markers	III	5	4	1	-	4	2+	2
Secondary Blind Markers	II	11	6	3	-	5	3	3
Other Sorties	II	125	30	25	3	10	-	-

* 4 aircraft retained their markers because the indications on the P.P.I. tube did not check with E.T.A.

+ 2 aircraft retained their markers because they had been coned by searchlights on the run-in to the target.

The timing of the blind markers was good but, owing to the high rate of unserviceability of H2S, there was a scarcity of T.I.'s and R/P flares throughout most of the attack. One Mk.III aircraft has been plotted by means of a P.P.I. photograph 6 1/2 miles/110° from the centre of Berlin.

ENEMY DEFENCES

19. Ground Defences Many searchlights exposed at Berlin, but failed to penetrate the cloud. The heavy guns fired a slight to moderate barrage up to 13,500', with intense light flak up to 15,000'. An unusually large number of rockets was seen. Little flak was met en route, although the defences of Frankfurt, Leipzig, Osnabruck, and Ijmaiden were notably active.

20. Fighters The running commentator plotted our aircraft accurately almost from the time that they crossed the enemy coast, but successively mistook Frankfurt, Leipzig, Weimar and Auerbach to be the main objectives. Berlin was not recognised as the target until zero - 2. The most intense fighter opposition was met in three areas, the mouth of the Scheldt, between Aachen and N. of Frankfurt, and Berlin itself, although enemy aircraft did not reach the target in strength until the raid was well under way. They appeared to be experiencing severe trouble from weather conditions. One Me. 210 was destroyed by a 5 Group Lancaster and a Ju.38 by an intruding Beaufighter.

CASUALTIES

21. No. of aircraft missing.....15 (4.0%)
 " " " damaged { flak..... 16)
 { fighter..... 5)
 { British incendiaries..... 4)... 32
 { collision..... 2)
 { other causes..... 5

Most of the losses can be traced to fighters. 4 fell in combat on the way out, one over the mouth of the Scheldt, and 3 N. of Frankfurt; 3 over the target; and 2 on the way home, at Eingen and Egnon. Flak losses were observed at Aachen, Berlin (2) and Egnon (2).

2 Lancasters collided in mid-air soon after take-off, and were wrecked. A Halifax was destroyed in a landing accident.

Aachen

22. 12 OBOE Mosquitoes (7 Mk.I, 4 Mk.II PEWEEPER and 1 Mk.II MOUNTAIN-PEWEEPER) were despatched to drop routemarkers for the main Berlin force, and then to attack Aachen. 9 aircraft (7 Mk.I and 2 PEWEEPER) dropped routemarkers after successfully controlled runs; the other 3 abstained, because their precision devices had failed. 3 Mk.I and 1 PEWEEPER aircraft bombed Aachen according to plan; 2 bombed on OBOE, but experienced partial failure, resulting in faulty release; and the rest attacked the primary area on L.R. All returned undamaged.

LEIPZIG

23. 7 Mosquitoes carried out a diversionary attack against Leipzig according to plan (see paragraph 11). All returned safely.

DUISBURG

24. 9 Mk.I Mosquitoes were despatched against the Duisburg branch of Vereinigte Stahlwerke. 3 made successfully controlled runs, and 5 bombed the primary area on D.R. One returned early; none was lost.

LEAFLETS

25. 7 Wellingtons and Whitleys dispersed leaflets over allotted areas in N. France. One was attacked by an enemy aircraft, but escaped damage. All returned safely.

SIEGHE

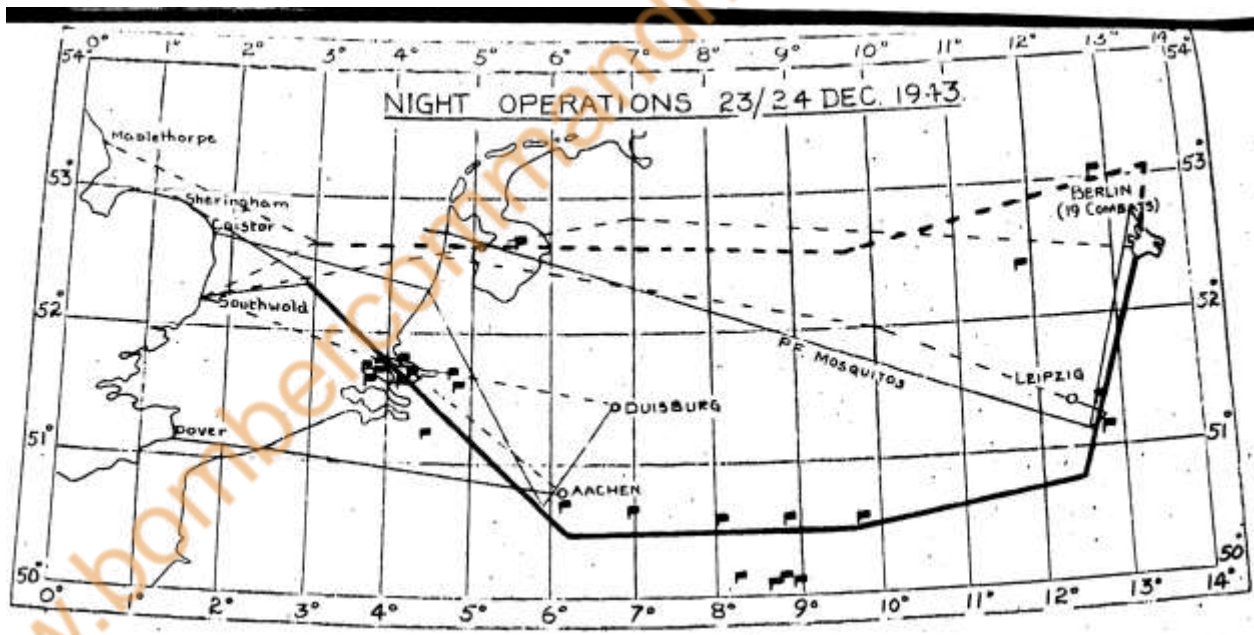
26. 3 Beaufighters of 100 Group were despatched on offensive patrols. 2 completed their mission; one claimed to have shot down a Ju.88 near Luren. The third Beaufighter was lost without trace.

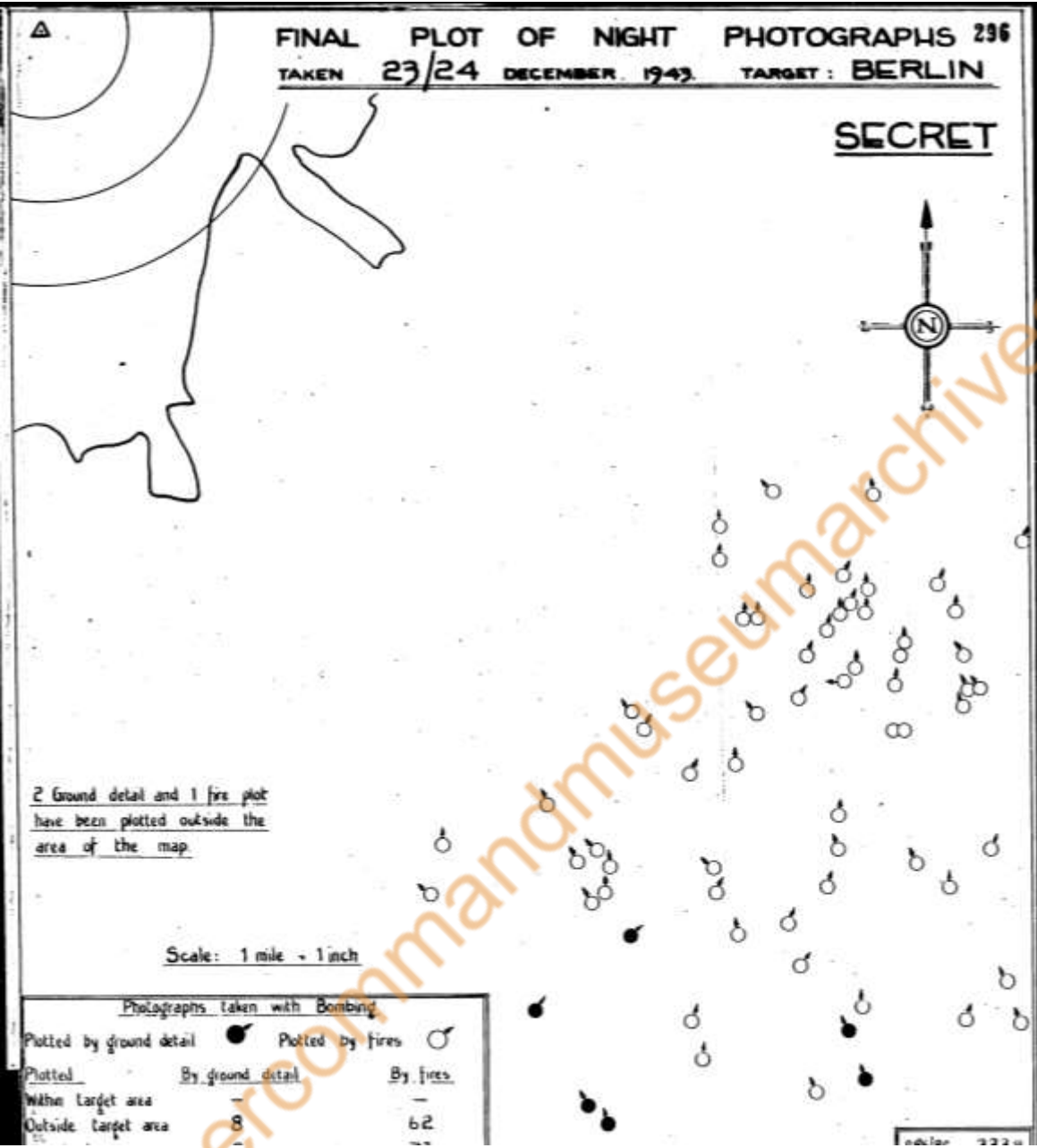
MM/WT.
EC/S. 26342/1/CRS4,
7th. March, 1943.

TARGET	GROUP	AIRCRAFT TYPE	SORTIES	A/C REPORTING ATTACK ON			A/C REPORTING COMBUSTION		FUEL DRO	DAMAGE				INSTRUCTIONS		RESULTS	
				PRIP. AREA	ALY. AREA	OVER E.T.	NOT OVER E.T.	FLAK		PIGMENT	MISC. IN FLIGHT	OTHER CAUSES	ATTACKED	NOT ATTACKED	Tons of Bombs	H.E.	Inc.
BERLIN	8	Hal. I.	7	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	PFF	Lanc. III	48	45	1	1	1	-	4+10	2+0	1+0+1	1E	5	1	-	P. 683.5	558.2
	8	Hoaq. IV	8	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M. 15.9	11.1
	M.F.	Lanc. III	30	27	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M. 26.4	19.8
	1	Lanc. I	21	15	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Heavy Bombs	
		Lanc. III	107	91	1	1	9	5	2	2+0	2E+1+0	1E+1+0	8	6	-	8000lb. 4000lb.	
																P. 4	274
																M. -	5
																M. -	11
BERLIN TOTAL			379	322	8	7	27	15	4+10	5+0	2E+2+0	1E+1E+0	26	22	-	-	-
LEIPZIG			12	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LEIPZIG TOTAL			12	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DUISBURG			8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DUISBURG TOTAL			8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BOBING TOTAL			407	349	8	7	28	15	4+10	5+0	2E+2+0	1E+1E+0	26	22	-	-	-
LEIPZIG N. DISTANCE			93	93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LEIPZIG N. DISTANCE TOTAL			93	93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DUISBURG			8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DUISBURG TOTAL			8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL			414	356	8	7	28	15	4+10	5+0	2E+2+0	1E+1E+0	27	22	-	-	-

ICE/JT
08.8.3.

* NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL





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BOMBER CONTROL REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS.

24/25th. DECEMBER, 1943.

Mine-layingSUMMARY

1. 30 Halifaxes laid 91 mines off the Frisians; 5 other aircraft returned early. No losses were sustained.

WEATHER FORECAST

2. Bases:- Fog may become widespread by midnight. Bases will generally be fit for early take-off, but visibility in 3, 8, 5 and 100 Groups will fall below 1,500 yards soon after dusk. Elsewhere, visibility will mainly be 1,500-3,000 yards until 2200; thereafter, it will deteriorate everywhere except in 6 Group to 1,000-1,500 yards by 0200.

Germany:- Much strato-cumulus, well broken in Central Germany. Fog will become widespread after midnight.

France:- Well broken strato-cumulus. Abbeville: probably 5/10ths., with 2-4,000 yards visibility. Risk of fog patches off W. coast.

SORTIES

3.	(a)	No. of aircraft despatched.....	35
	(b)	" " " laying mines in primary area.....	30
	(c)	" " abortive sorties (tech.defect).....	5
	(d)	" " aircraft missing.....	0
	(e)	" " mines laid.....	91

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

4. Frisians:- Variable amounts of thin stratus, 6-10/10ths., tops 5,000'. Fair visibility. No moon.

ENEMY DEFENCES

5. 6 single-engined fighters were seen over the W. Frisians, including 2 FW. 190's and 2 Me. 109's. No interceptions were attempted. Little flak was encountered.

CASUALTIES

6. All aircraft returned undamaged.

MEM/JT.
IC/S. 26342/6/CRS4,
6th. March, 1944.

TARGET	GROUP	SLEEPER TYPE	BOMBING	NO RESPONSE		AGGRESSIVE		MIS- DIR.	LOSSES				INTERCEPTIONS		RESULTS	
				PRD. JRN.	ALP. JRN.	OVER K.T.	NOT OVER B.V.		FLAK	PIGMENT	MISC. D. M.D.BIT	OTHER CLONES	WRECK- ED	NOT ATTACK- ED		
FRISING	A	Hal. I.	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18 mins
		Hal. III	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 mins
	B	Hal. II&V	8	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27 mins
		Hal. I.	12	10	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	40 mins
TOTAL			35	30	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2		91 mins

* Including 67 = 1,000lb. mines.

DCP/PT.
C.F.S.3.

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BOMBER COMBINED REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

28/29th. MARCH, 1944.

Duisburg: Dusseldorf: Cologne: Leaflets:SUMMARY

1. Duisburg 10 Mosquitoes were dispatched against the Vereinigte Stahlwerke at Duisburg, including 5 Mk. I C-47 aircraft to act as markers. 3 of the latter made successfully controlled runs, and dropped red T.I., which were bombed by the other 7 aircraft. All returned safely.
2. Dusseldorf 9 Mosquitoes, including 3 Mk. II C-47 aircraft (1 PENWIPER and 2 FOUNTAIN-PEN) were sent against the Rheinmetall Lorisig A.G. at Dusseldorf. The PENWIPER aircraft made a successfully controlled run, and dropped T.I.; the FOUNTAIN-PEN aircraft experienced OROV failure, and bailed on D.R. All of the other Mosquitoes except one which returned early bombed the T.I. All returned undamaged.
3. Cologne 1 G-H Mosquito bombed Cologne according to plan.
4. Leaflets 11 Wellingtons dispersed leaflets successfully over N. France.

WEATHER FORECAST

5. Bases:- Fog will become general by midnight. Variable cloud.

Continent:- Widespread strato-cumulus, base varying between 600' and 2,000'. Tops generally 5,000', but 10,000' in area of a feeble front (midnight position: 57 N. 02½ E. - Hamburg - Berlin - 52 N. 20 E.). Moderate to poor visibility S. of front; moderate to good to the N.

SORTIES

		Bomb- ing	Leaf- lets
6.	(a) No. of aircraft dispatched.....	20	11
	(b) " " reporting attack on primary target.....	19	11
	(c) " " abortive sorties (tech. defect).....	1	0
	(d) " " aircraft missing.....	0	0

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

7. Bases:- Hazy, with much mist and local fog in lines and E. of East Anglia, soon after dusk. Visibility improved after midnight, and most bases had more than 2,000 yards for rest of night. Tower's dawn, cloud fell below 1,000' in extreme S.

Ruhr:- 8-10/10ths. strato-cumulus, tops 5,000'.

EVENT DEFENCES

8. Little flak was encountered, although one Mosquito was hit over Duisburg. 2 Wellingtons dispersing leaflets over N. France were attacked by unidentified aircraft but neither was damaged. No other fighter activity was reported.

C.SULTRIES

9. No aircraft was lost; but one Wellington was damaged beyond repair by machine-gun fire from what was thought to be another Wellington.

MEM/JT.

BC/S. 26342/6/ORS4,
6th. March, 1944.

TARGET	GROUP	MERCANTILE TYPE	SUBTYPE	% REPORTING		% REPORTING		MISS- ING	DAMAGE		INTERCEPTIONS		RESULTS		
				PRIME RE.	LT. RE.	OVER R.T.	NOT OVER R.T.		PLAN	PREPARED	MISC. IN FORMITY	OTHER GAMES	APPROX- ED	NOT APPROX- ED	Tons of Bombs
DUSSELDORF	8	Mong. IX Mong. IV	4	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6.5
			6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.3
DUSSELDORF TOTAL			10	10	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
DUSSELDORF	8	Mong. IX Mong. IV	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.1
			6	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.3
DUSSELDORF TOTAL			9	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
COLOGNE	8	Mong. IV	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	
ROHMING TOTAL			20	19	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
LEIPZIG P. PRATICE	91	Woll. Ia. Woll. III Woll. III Woll. X	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
			1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
			3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	2	-	
LEIPZIG TOTAL			11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	2	-	
TOTAL			31	30	-	-	-	-	1	-	11	-	2	-	

91 Group to:- RE. IV. IS: CREWIL: AMERS: AMERS: L. PLANS:
92 Group to:- CREWIL:

HCB/JT.
D.R.S. 3.

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BOMBER COMBINED REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

29/30th. DECEMBER, 1944.

BERLIN: Dusseldorf: Leverkusen: Bristillerie: Leipzig: Magdeburg:

MINELAYING: Leaflets: Serrate: Met. Recco:

SUMMARY

1. Berlin 712 Lancasters and Halifaxes were despatched to Berlin. A concentrated attack was delivered through 10/10ths. cloud. Diversionary attacks on Magdeburg and Leipzig deceived the fighter controllers, and only 18 bombers (2.8%) were lost.
2. Dusseldorf etc: Mosquitoes carried out diversionary raids on Magdeburg and Leipzig, and precision attacks against targets at Aachen, Dusseldorf, Leverkusen and Bristillerie without loss.
3. Minelaying 14 Stirlings out of a force of 28, laid 65 mines off the Frisians and the French Atlantic ports. All returned safely.
4. Leaflets: Serrate: Met. Recco: 4 Wellingtons dispersed leaflets over N. France, 2 Beaufighters completed offensive patrols; and one Mosquito carried out Met. Recco flight - all without loss.

WEATHER FORECAST

5. Midnight frontal positions: (1) cold front 56° E. - 52½° N. 15 E. - Ruhr - Thames - S.W. Bire. (2) cold front 57° E. - 54½° N. 10 E - Yarmouth - Central Wales.

Bases:- 10/10ths. strato-cumulus N. of front 1: light rain or drizzle along front 2, with cloud tops below 10,000'. Broken strato-cumulus between fronts, base 1,500'-2,000'. Clearness N. of front 2. Moderate to good visibility.

Germany:- Broken strato-cumulus between fronts, base 1,500', tops 3,000'. Strato-cumulus below 10,000' along front 1; 10/10ths. further S., base mainly below 1,000', with poor visibility and local fog. Berlin: 10/10ths stratus or strato-cumulus, tops not above 4,000'; poor visibility. Similar conditions throughout the route.

France:- Much strato-cumulus at 1,000', broken over W. coast. Fog patches.

Winds to Berlin:-	10,000'	20,000'	30,000'
Bases-05°E	290°/50-50 m.p.h.	250°/65-70 mph.	290°/75-85 mph.
05-08½°E	290°/50 m.p.h.	285°/60 mph.	280°/65 mph.
08½-12°E	285°/50 m.p.h.	250°/55 mph.	275°/60 mph.
Berlin	285°/50 m.p.h.	275°/55-55 mph.	270°/60-75 mph.
13-08½°E	285°/50 m.p.h.	270°/70 mph.	270°/80 mph.
08½-05°E	290°/60 mph.	285°/70 mph.	280°/85 mph.
05°E - Bases	290°/65 m.p.h.	290°/75 mph.	290°/85 mph.

...../BERLIN.

B.F.P.PLAN OF ATTACK

6. Route 53°20'N. 04°00'E - 50°30'N. 03°20'E - 51°37'N. 12°20'E - BERLIN
- 53°02'N. 13°27'E - 53°00'N. 11°45'E. 52°45'N. 08°30'E - 53°20'N. 04°00'E.

7. Routemarking Yellow T.I. were to be dropped at the following points on route to the target:

52°30'N. 08°20'E (18 miles N.E. of Osnabruck)
52°09'N. 09°57'E (16 miles S.W. of Hannover)
51°37'N. 12°20'E (16 miles N. of Leipzig)

and at 53°00'N. 11°45'E (Wittenberg) on the way home.

8. Method of Attack The usual mixed WINDY and PARADE technique was to be used. 15 primary blind markers were to mark the release point with flare (red/green stars), and the aiming-point with red T.I.; at zero - 2 on H2S. The marking was to be maintained with green T.I. and WINDY flares by 3 special blind markers and 19 secondary blind markers, bombing on H2S between zero and zero + 18. 20 backers-up were to aim greens at the centre of reds, or if late at the centre of greens, with a 2-second overshoot. If no T.I. were visible, they were to retain their greens and drop their bombs blindly, or aim at the centre of flares. 40 supporters were to bomb on the same principle at zero - 2. The main force (about 600 aircraft) were to attack in 5 waves between zero and zero + 18, aiming at the centre of all WINDY flares on a heading of 035°M; or if conditions were sufficiently clear, at the centre of greens.

9. Timing Zero hour: 2000 Duration of Attack: 1958-2018

Primary blind markers:	25 bombs at zero - 2
Special blind markers:	3 bombs at zero, zero + 1, and zero + 2.
Secondary blind markers:	19 bombs from zero to zero + 18 (one per 9 H.M.S.)
Backers-up	20 bombs from zero to zero + 18 (one per 9 H.M.S.) but 2 at zero
Supporters	40 bombs at zero - 2
Main Force	32 bombs; (119 1/3 from zero to zero + 4 (117 1/3 from zero + 1 to zero + 8 (113 1/3 from zero + 7 to zero + 11 (119 1/3 from zero + 11 to zero + 15 (111 1/3 from zero + 14 to zero + 18

10. Marker Loads

Primary blind markers: 124 flares (3/4 stars) + 6 red T.I. (3LB) + 1 yellow T.I. (1B)
Special blind markers: 434 flares (3/4 stars) + 8 green T.I. (4LB)
Secondary blind markers: 124 flares (") + 6 green T.I. (3LB) + 2 yellow T.I. (1B)
Backers-up: 6 green T.I.

11. WINDOW WINDOW was to be dropped at the rate of one bundle per minute to a point 40 miles from the target; one bundle every half minute to Berlin and back for the same distance; and one bundle every minute for the rest of the way home.

12. Diversions 3 Mosquitoes were to drop red and green T.I. on Magdeburg between zero - 31 and zero - 23; and 5 Mosquitoes were to do likewise at 20 between zero - 20 and zero - 17. 3 Mosquitoes were to drop 500lb. G.P. bombs on Berlin at zero - 5, after dropping 6 bundles of WINDOW per minute for the last 20 miles of the route.

...../SCKLBS.

STATISTICS

(a) No. of aircraft despatched.....	712
(b) " " " reporting attack on primary area.....	636 (89.3%)
(c) " " " " " alternative area.....	13 (1.8%)
(d) " " abortive sorties (tech. defect or manip. error..41)	45 (6.0%)
	(crew failure..... 2)
	(flak..... 1)
	(late take-off..... 1)
(e) " " aircraft missing.....	18 (2.5%)

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

Bases:- Fit all night.

Route:- 10/10ths. layer cloud over Continent; well broken over North

Berlin:- 10/10ths. layer cloud, tops not above 2,000'. Occasional
drizzle below cloud. New moon, setting at about zero hour.

Winds at 18-20,000': 290°/45-50 m.p.h. in E., increasing to 300-310°/
55 m.p.h. beyond 03°E., and decreasing again towards Berlin to 320°/45-50 mph.

NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

15. No photographs showed ground detail.

NARRATIVE OF ATTACK

16. The lack of photographic evidence makes it impossible to reconstruct the raid in detail. Most crews reported that the flares were well concentrated, although spreading up and down wind. The other aircraft were generally about 3 minutes late, since the wind was more northerly than had been expected, and many crews failed to allow for this on the last leg of the run-in. Sacke rose to 16,000' and the glow of fires could be seen for 200 miles.

DAY RECONNAISSANCE

17. Satisfactory cover of Berlin was not obtained until the middle of February by which time 7 more major attacks had been delivered against the German capital. In the absence of night photographic evidence, no estimate can be made of the amount of damage caused in the attack under review. A full statement of the results of the 9 raids carried out between 23/24th. December and 15/16th. February will be published in Night Raid Report No. 530.

ALTERNATIVE TARGETS

18. 15 aircraft bombed alternative targets in the areas of Texel (3), Minden (2), Den Helder, Neuenhaus, Ierschelling, Potsdam, Pitterfeld, Hoogeveen, Bassum, and Seddin.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

19. H2S

	Mk.	Des- patched	Attacked		Miss- ing	Bombed Blindly	No. which dropped	
			H2S C.T.	H2S u/s.			R/P Flares	TI's
Primary blind markers	II	24	12	10	-	11	13	11
Special blind markers	III	4	2	-	-	2	2	2
Secondary blind markers	II	13	13	1	1	11	10	10
Other Sorties	II	200	132	46	5	11	-	-

..... The majority of the Primary

The majority of the Primary Blind Markers were about 4 minutes late, a reasonably good concentration of skymarker flares was maintained from Z + 2 to Z + 13. One Mk.III aircraft took a photograph of the P.P.I. which has been plotted 2½ miles S.S.W. of the centre of Berlin.

FLAK DEFENCES

20. Ground defences Sporadic heavy flak was encountered over Berlin, in barrage form; it was seen bursting near the P.P.I. markers with light flak hosepiping round them as they drifted down to the cloud tops at about 15,000'. Some rocket flak and scarecrow flares were also observed in the target area. Only one aircraft is known to have been lost to the target guns. En route, accurately predicted heavy flak was met at several points, especially on the leg from 20 miles N. of Leipzig, and on the northern leg out.

21. Fighters The diversionary attacks on Magdeburg and Leipzig succeeded in holding the main fighter force back from Berlin until the attack was almost over; and bad weather on the ground may have restricted the number of aircraft able to take off. The German wireless spoke of "great difficulty caused by weather conditions." Nevertheless 15 interceptions were reported, including 12 attacks. Three-quarters of these occurred along the outward route; 13 interceptions between the Zuyder Zee and Min in, none for the next 100 miles, and then a great many in the area of a route marker N. of Leipzig. 10 contacts took place here, resulting in 6 losses. The fighters were first ordered to Magdeburg; and few were seen over the target, where they did not arrive in force until zero + 15. Little opposition was reported on the homeward route until coastal defence belt of Holland was reached, where controlled fighters achieved some success. A 4 Group Halifax destroyed a Ju.88 shortly after leaving the target.

CASUALTIES

22.	No. of aircraft missing.....	13
	" " " damaged (flak.....)	14
	" " " (fighter.....)	3
	" " " (non-military action.....)	17
		104

10 of the 13 losses may be attributed to fighters and 5 to flak; the cause of the other 3 is unknown. Aircraft fell to the ground defences at Leipzig, Bamberg, Bitterfeld, Terschelling and Tschel. 6 were lost to fighters on the outward route, in the areas of Toppel, Transnick and Bamberg/Leipzig (4); 4 on the way home to controlled fighters operating from Holland. The rate of loss is very low for Berlin.

2 returning aircraft were irreparably damaged by fighter.

DUSSELDORF

23. 6 Mk.II Mosquitoes (3 FIVEPEN and 3 FOURPEN) were despatched against the Rheinmetall Bersig I.G. at Düsseldorf. 1 FIVEPEN and 1 FOURPEN made successfully controlled runs; the other 4 aircraft failed on D.R., because of failure of their precision devices. All returned undamaged.

LEVERKUSEN

24. 3 Mk.I Mosquitoes were detailed to bomb the chemical works of I.G. Farbenindustrie at Leverkusen. 1 bombed on GEC and the others on D.R. All returned safely.

LEIPZIG

25. 5 Mosquitoes carried out a diversionary attack against Leipzig, according to plan. All returned undamaged.

...../BRISTOLLENIE.

BRISTOLLEIGH

4 P.I Mosquitoes were sent to attack a constructional works at
 distillerie on the Cherbourg peninsula. - 3 made successfully controlled runs;
 the fourth received no release signal, and jettisoned its load. All returned
 safely.

MAGDEBURG

8 Mosquitoes carried out a diversionary attack against Magdeburg without
 loss.

WIBELMING

28 Stirlings were detailed to lay mines off the Prussians and the French
 Atlantic ports. 14 completed their task, laying 65 mines. All the target
 areas were covered with 10/10ths. cloud and the other 14 aircraft failed to
 identify their objectives. All returned safely.

WELLINGTONS

4 Wellingtons dispersed leaflets over Paris without incident.

SEXTONS

2 Beaufighters of 100 Group completed offensive patrols without sighting
 any hostile aircraft.

MOSQUITO

1 Mosquito completed a net. reconnaissance flight without incident.

IP/JT.

C/S. 263.2/1/CXSL,
 12. March, 1944.

TARGET	GROUP	AIRCRAFT TYPE	SORTIES	A/C REPORTING ATTACK ON		A/C REPORTING SORTIES		MISSED	RESULTS				RESULTS				
				PRD. AREA	LT. AREA	OVER E.T.	NOT OVER E.T.		FLAK	FLAMER	DISC. IN FLIGHT	OTHER CAUSES	DOWNED	NOT DOWNED	Form of Bombs	H.E.	Inc.
BERLIN	8	Hal. L.	10	8	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. 1012.9	1175.3
		Hal. III	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26.8	12.7
	PPP	Lang. III	54	45	4	-	5	-	5+5.0	-	2	-	-	-	-	26.2	40.1
		Lang. IV	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	heavy Bombs	4000
	8	Hal. L.	8	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Lang. III	29	28	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	Lang. I	17	14	1	-	2	-	2+1.0	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	3	4
		Lang. III	119	109	-	-	5	5	7+1.0	-	1.0+1	-	-	1	6	10	-
	3	Lang. II	36	34	-	-	1	1	2	11	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
		Hal. L.	92	80	2	-	1	6	3	14+1.0	-	1.0+5	1.0	-	-	1	-
	4	Hal. IIAV	34	25	1	-	2	5	1	3+3.0	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
		Hal. III	15	14	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
5	Lang. I	42	40	-	-	1	1	3	11+1.0	-	1.0	-	3	3	-	-	
	Lang. III	121	118	-	-	2	2	1	10+2.0	-	1.0	-	1	4	-	-	
6	Hal. IIAV	23	17	1	-	3	2	1+1.0	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	
	Hal. L.	67	56	2	-	1	6	2	8+1.0	-	1.0	-	2	6	-	-	
		Lang. II	39	35	-	-	3	1	7	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	
BERLIN TOTAL			712	636	13	4	41	16	10+13.0	+6.0	22+1.0	7.0+9	1.0	12	33	-	-
DUNSBURG	8	Lang. IV	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. 1.3 (HR)	3.6	
LEVERKUSEN	8	Lang. IX	3	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	P. .9	1.8	
LEIPZIG	8	Lang. IV	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. 2.2	-	
CONST. WORKS	8	Lang. IV	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. 2.7	-	
MAGDEBURG	8	Lang. IV	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Lang. IX	1	1	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
MAGDEBURG TOTAL			8	8	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

BERLIN: DUNSBURG: LEVERKUSEN: LEIPZIG: CONSTRUCTION WORKS 49,350. 01.38v.

MAGDEBURG: Miscellaneous Bombs: Results: Net. Reco:

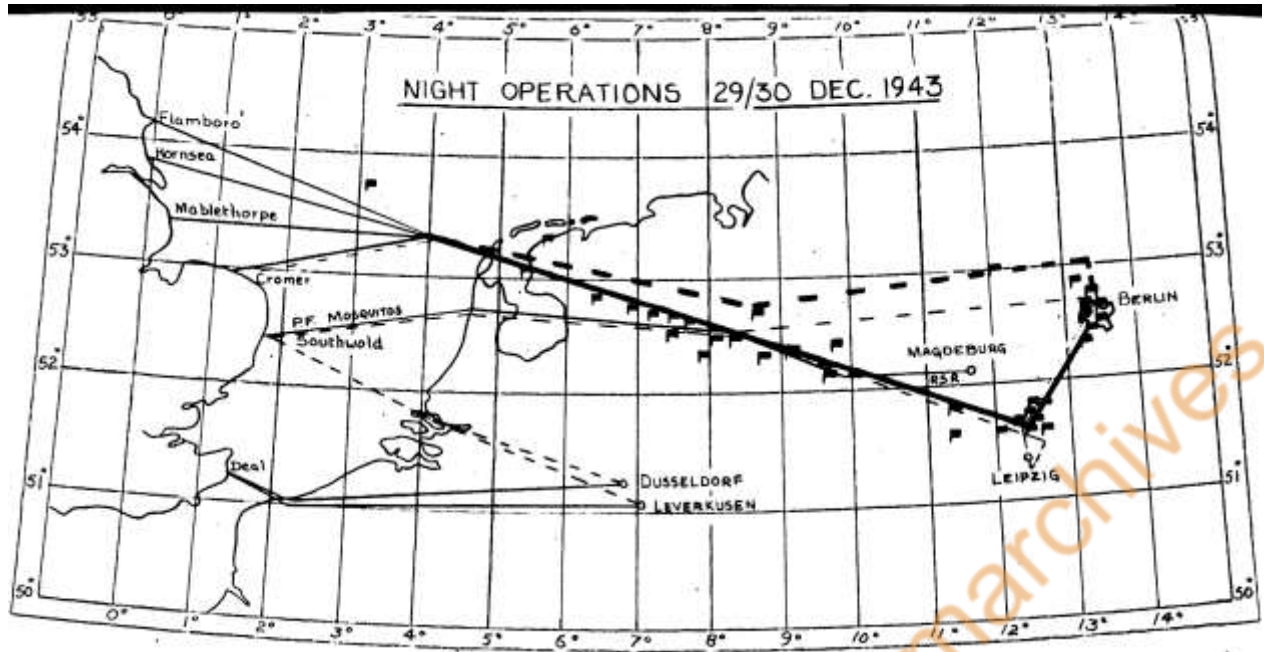
29/2040. Lang. 203. 1943. (CONTD.)

TARGET	GROUP	AIRCRAFT TYPE	SORTIES	A/C REPORTING ATTACK ON		A/C REPORTING SORTIES		MISSED	RESULTS				RESULTS			
				PRD. AREA	LT. AREA	OVER E.T.	NOT OVER E.T.		FLAK	FLAMER	DISC. IN FLIGHT	OTHER CAUSES		DOWNED	NOT DOWNED	
BERLIN TOTAL			738	661	13	5	41	16	11+13.0	+6.0	22+1.0	7.0+9	1.0	12	33	-
MINGEL. YCD	3	Star. III	8	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14 mins
GIRTON	3	Star. III	12	3	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 mins
PHISI. E	3	Star. III	8	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41 mins
MINGEL. YCD TOTAL			28	14	-	-	10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	65 mins
LEIPZIG	92	Well. X	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAGDEBURG	100	Beaufighter	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* (Net. Reco)	8	Lang. IV	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL			770	679	13	9	51	16	12+13.0	+7.0	23+1.0	7.0+9	1.0	12	33	-

* NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL.

BOB/JT.
D.R.S.3.

www.bombingcommander.com/aircraftives.ca



BOMB PLOT NOT AVAILABLE

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

BOMBER COMMAND REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS

30/31st. DECEMBER, 1943.

Flixecourt: Bristillerie: Cologne: Duisburg: Bochum: Minelaying: Leaflets: etc.

SUMMARY

Flixecourt 4 OBOE Mosquitoes and 10 Lancasters were sent to the military construction at Flixecourt, near Abbeville. An accurate groundmarking attack was delivered; but the target escaped damage.

Bristillerie: Duisburg: Bochum: 13 OBOE Mosquitoes were variously dispatched against targets at Bristillerie, Duisburg and Bochum.

Cologne: One G-H Mosquito was sent to Cologne, with 9 Mosquitoes to act as back-up. 8 attacked the target.

Minelaying: 26 Stirlings and Wellingtons laid 97 mines off the Dutch coast and the French Channel and Atlantic ports.

Leaflets: 26 Whitleys and Wellingtons, out of a force of 23, dispersed leaflets over Northern and Central France.

U.S.I.C.: Met. Recon: 5 Fortresses dispersed leaflets over N. France and the Low Countries; and one Mosquito carried out a successful met. recon flight.

No aircraft was lost on this night.

FATHER FORECAST

Midnight frontal positions:- (1) self over Alps to 50 N. 20 E, then S. Eward.

Beams:- Generally fine apart from coastal districts and Norfolk, which will have wintry showers from the North Sea. Inland, good clearances in convection cloud, with good visibility.

Germany:- Convection cloud to great heights over E. North Sea, penetrating into N. Germany at least to the edge of high ground. Broken strato-cumulus in middle Rhine, with upper surface below 5,000'.

France:- Well broken strato-cumulus in N., with good clearances in N.E.; large amounts in S., base below 1,000' with poor visibility. Pas de Calais: good chance of clear skies. Le Havre and Cherbourg: probably less than 5/10ths. Dutch coast: solid sheet of strato-cumulus at 1,000' will break up during the night, but it is difficult to say when. Bordeaux should be clear by midnight.

Dutch coast:- 6-9/10ths. cumulus and cumulo-nimbus, base 2,000', falling to 1,000' in frequent wintry showers; freezing level about 1,000'.

Flixecourt

PLAN OF ATTACK

3 Mosquitoes on Channel 1, OBOE Mk. I, were each to drop yellow route-markers 10 miles N. of the target, and then mark the exact aiming-point with a single T.I. containing 3 red candles and fused to cascade at 5,000'. One Mosquito was to accompany them as a reserve. The main force of Lancasters, equipped with S.I.E.S. Mk. IIa and loaded with 4 x 12,000 H.C. with a D.C. fuse, were to attack one of the red candles. Zero hour was 1345 and Mosquitoes were

...../to run in every ten minutes

to run in every ten minutes from zero - 2, releasing only after satisfied runs. The main force were instructed to take special care in recording times and headings, and extra photographic arrangements were made to give opportunity of plotting the markers.

18
22
26
28

SORTIES

- 9. (a) No. of aircraft despatched.....
- (b) " " reporting attack on primary area.....
- (c) " " abortive sorties (technical defect).....
- (d) " " aircraft missing.....

15
17

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

10. Plixecourt:- 2-4/10ths. cloud, tops 8-15,000'; good visibility. No moon. 70 m.p.h. wind at bombing height (13,000').

2
3

NARRATIVE OF ATTACK

11. One Mosquito failed for technical reasons, but the reserve replaced and markers went down on good runs at zero - 3, - 11 and +12. All 10 Mosquitoes reached the target, but one was unable to release its bombs; of the other nine aimed at the first marker and 4 at the second.

2

RESULTS

12. Both the T.I. were definitely plotted by night photographs, the first 280 yards short and the other 350 yards over; the latter was the first T.I. overshoot in 4 attacks. Tracking errors were small. Day cover obtained 31st. December revealed 8 new craters, 4 grouped around each T.I., and all one within 120 yards of the marker at which they were aimed. Owing to the marking error, no bombs fell within the target area, and the military construction escaped damage.

FLY DEFENCES

13. No fighters were seen. Very slight heavy flak was met from the target area but no searchlights exposed.

C.S. SORTIES

14. All aircraft returned undamaged.

PRECISION

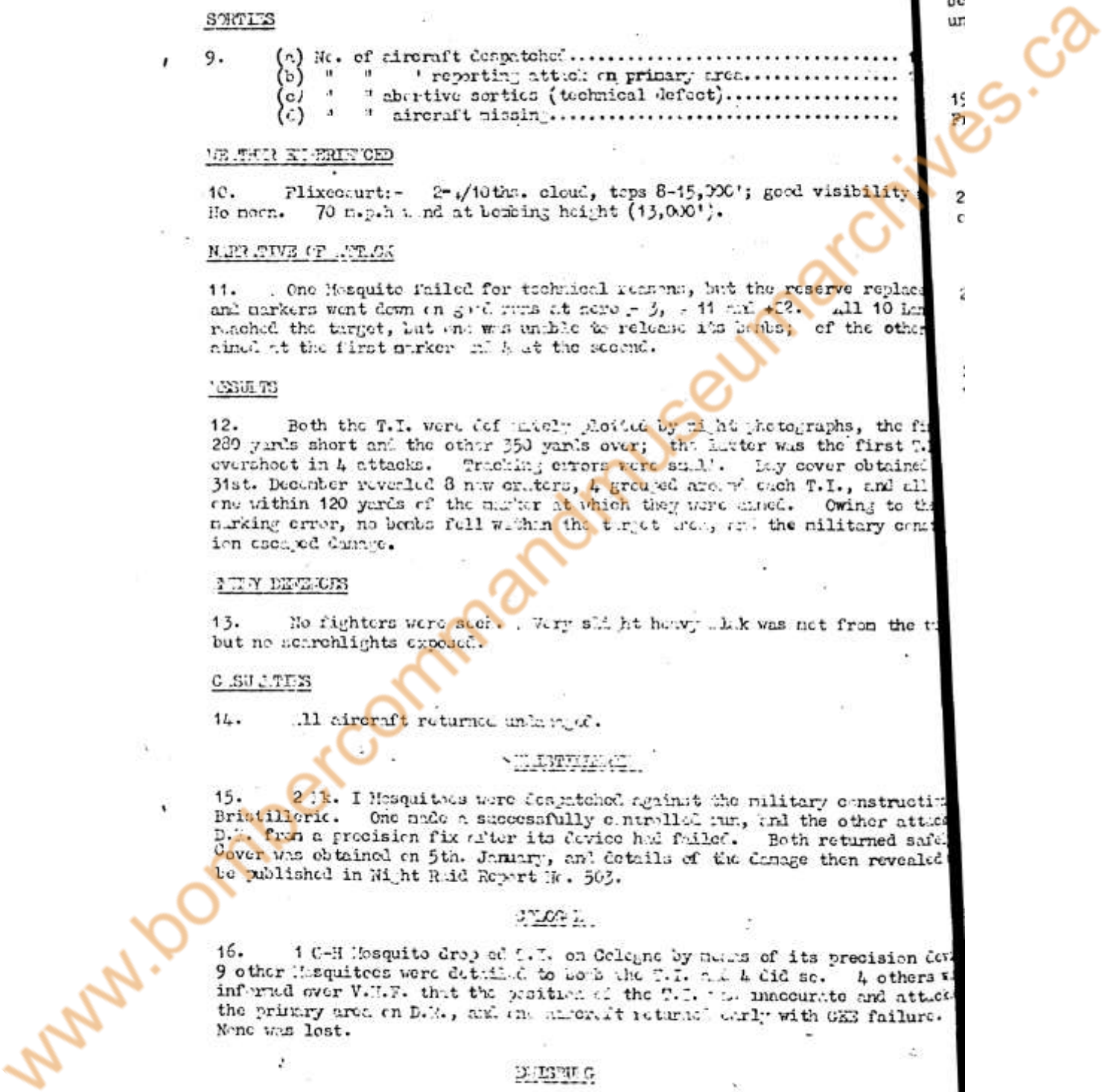
15. 2 Mk. I Mosquitoes were despatched against the military construction at Bristolleric. One made a successfully controlled run, and the other attacked D.R. from a precision fix after its device had failed. Both returned safely. Cover was obtained on 5th. January, and details of the damage then revealed. See published in Night Raid Report No. 503.

GENERAL

16. 1 G-H Mosquito dropped T.I. on Cologne by means of its precision cover. 9 other Mosquitoes were detailed to bomb the T.I. and 4 did so. 4 others informed over V.H.F. that the position of the T.I. was inaccurate and attacked the primary area on D.R., and one aircraft returned early with GEX failure. None was lost.

DEFENSE

17. 8 Mk. I OBOE Mosquitoes were despatched against Vereinigte Stahlwerke at Halborn. 2 made successfully controlled runs; 5 experienced OBOE failure, bombed on D.R. (one 15-20 miles S. of the primary); and one abandoned its task because of the failure of its directional gyro. Intense flak was met, but all aircraft returned undamaged.



3.

BOCHUM

18. 3 Mk. I OBOE Mosquitoes were sent against Bochumer Verein A.G. One made a successfully controlled run; the others abandoned their task, one because of OBOE failure and one on account of engine trouble. All returned undamaged.

MINE LAYING

19. 26 Stirlings and Wellingtons laid 97 mines off the Dutch coast and the French Channel and Atlantic Ports without loss.

LEAFLETS

20. 26 Whitleys and Wellingtons, out of a force of 23, dispersed leaflets over Northern and Central France. All returned safely.

RET. BUCC.

21. 1 Mosquito completed a net. recon flight without incident.

U.S.P.C.

22. 5 Fortresses dispersed leaflets over N. France and the Low Countries without loss.

HEM/JT.
EC/S. 26342/1/ORS4,
22nd. March, 1944.

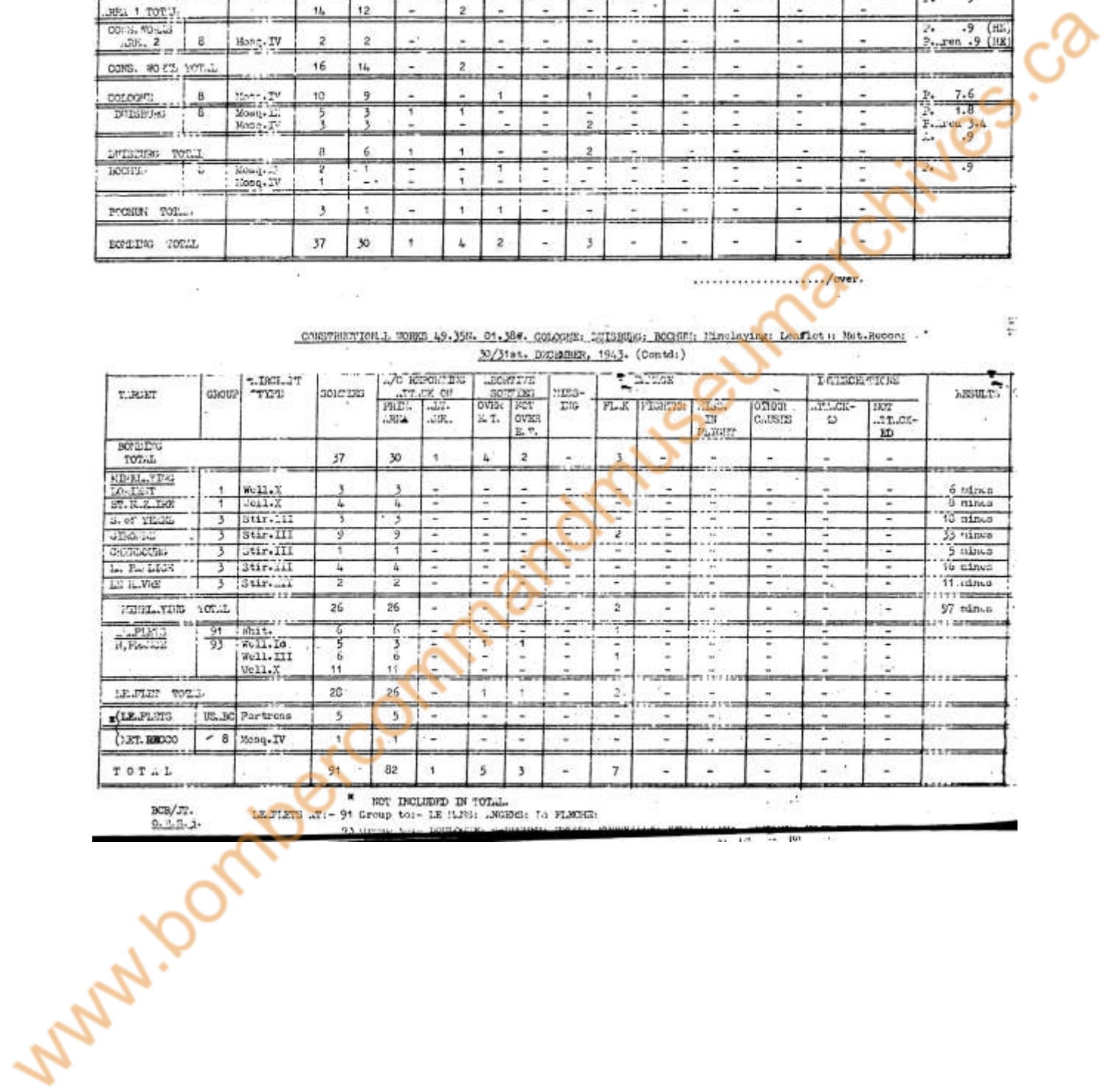
TARGET	GROUP	INCIDENT TYPE	SOURCES	W/O REPORTING STOCK OF		POSITIVE SOURCES		MIS-ING	ACTION				INTERCEPTIONS		RESULTS	
				FIELD AREA	ALT. AREA	OVER E.T.	NOT OVER E.T.		FLK	PIGMENT	MISC. IN PAYMENT	OTHER CAUSES	STOCK-ED	NOT STOCK-ED		
CONS. WORKS JUL. 1.	B	Moq. IV	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	H.E.	
		Luna-I	8	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. 18.2	
		Luna-III	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Heavy Bomb 12000
JUL 1 TOTAL			14	12	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. 9		
CONS. WORKS JUL. 2	B	Moq. IV	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. .9 (HS) P. ren .9 (HS)	
CONS. WORKS TOTAL			16	14	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
COLOGNE	B	Moq. IV	10	9	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	P. 7.6	
DISBURG	B	Moq. II	5	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. 1.8	
		Moq. IV	3	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. ren 3.4 P. .9
DISBURG TOTAL			8	6	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-		
ROCHEL	B	Moq. II	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. .9
		Moq. IV	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
ROCHEL TOTAL			3	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
ROCKEN TOTAL			3	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
BODING TOTAL			37	30	1	4	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-		

.....over.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS 49,350. Of 38% COLOGNE; DISBURG; ROCHEL; HANNOVER; LEUFLET; MET. RECON.
30/31st. DECEMBER, 1943. (Contd.)

TARGET	GROUP	INCIDENT TYPE	SOURCES	W/O REPORTING STOCK OF		POSITIVE SOURCES		MIS-ING	ACTION				INTERCEPTIONS		RESULTS
				FIELD AREA	ALT. AREA	OVER E.T.	NOT OVER E.T.		FLK	PIGMENT	MISC. IN PAYMENT	OTHER CAUSES	STOCK-ED	NOT STOCK-ED	
BODING TOTAL			37	30	1	4	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	
MEMPHIS	1	Well. X	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 mins
ST. R. E. ESE	1	Well. X	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8 mins
S. of VEGE	3	Star. III	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 mins
JENGO	3	Star. III	9	9	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	35 mins
CHOCOCHE	3	Star. III	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 mins
L. P. LICK	3	Star. III	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16 mins
LE H. VEG	3	Star. III	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11 mins
MEMPHIS TOTAL			26	26	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	97 mins
LEUFLET	91	Whit.	6	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
	H. P. E. ESE	Well. Ie	5	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Well. III	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
		Well. X	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
LEUFLET TOTAL			28	26	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-		
(LEUFLET	US. DC	Partrens	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
(MET. RECON	B	Moq. IV	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL			91	82	1	5	3	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	

NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL.
 HCB/JT. LEUFLET AT - 91 Group tot - LEUFLET; JENGO; LEUFLET; MET. RECON.
 S. R. E. ESE. 24 mins tot - DISBURG; ROCHEL; HANNOVER; LEUFLET; MET. RECON.



BOMBER COMMAND REPORT ON NIGHT OPERATIONS31st. DECEMBER, 1943/1st. JANUARY, 1944.Mine layingSUMMARY

- 2 Stirlings laid 12 mines off the Dutch coast without incident.

WEATHER FORECAST

- Midnight frontal positions:- (1) icebergs from S.W. Norway - Wash.

Bases:- Variable conditions, with mist and low stratus after midnight, and 1-2,000 yards visibility. Low front with cross bases from the N.W., causing visibility to become very bad for considerable periods. Subsequent improvement is uncertain.

Germany:- Variable strato-cumulus, tops below 10,000' in N., and below 8,000' in S. Moderate visibility. Frankfurt: probably little strato-cumulus, with patches of medium cloud above, and moderate to good visibility. Risk of large amounts of cloud. Conditions will deteriorate towards dawn.

France:- Variable strato-cumulus, base 3,000'. Moderate visibility.

SORTIES

- | | | | |
|----|-----|---|----|
| 3. | (a) | No. of aircraft despatched..... | 2 |
| | (b) | " " " laying mines in primary area..... | 2 |
| | (c) | " " " missing..... | 0 |
| | (d) | " " mines laid..... | 12 |

WEATHER EXPERIENCED

- Dutch coast:- Cloud base 900-1,000'. Poor visibility.

ENEMY DEFENCES

- No opposition was reported.

CASUALTIES

- None.

MM/JT.
BC/S. 26342/6/ORS4,
6th. March, 1944.

RECORD
1st/1st. S. Sq. 1944

TARGET	GROUP	INCIDENT TYPE	BOATERS	CORRECTING TRACK ON		BOATERS POSITIVE		MIS-ING	DAMAGE				INTERCATIONS		RESULTS
				WIND	ALT.	OVER E. Y.	ON		FLIGHT	CANON	RECORD	ACT			
TRAIL	5	1st. S. Sq.	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12 mins

RCB/RE
 C. S. S.

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca