

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
A/F SECTION 101
AFC 634

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 209

PERIOD: 0001 hours 25 November 1944 to 2400 hours 25 November 1944.

A. STATISTICS

	Missions	Disp.	Sorties	Atkg.	Tonnage	Claims	E/A	Losses			Totals
								AA	N/E	OT	
Heavy Bomber Atks.	3	1037(a)	952	934	2556.7	0-0-0	0	13	2	51(c)	66
Fighter Escort	25	930(b)	845	0	0	0-0-0A 9-0-8G	0	2	1	15(d)	18
Fighter Sweeps	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Fighter Bombing	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Photo Recon.	3	3	3	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Weather Recon.	4	44	37	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	2	2
Air/Sea Rescue	1	8	8	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Operations	4	38	38	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	40	2060	1883	934	2556.7	0-0-0A 9-0-8G	0	15	3	69	87

(a) 19 spares, 9 used.

(b) 4 additional groups (137 a/c) dispatched by 9th and 19th T/C.

(c) majority believed landed in friendly territory.

(d) 13 believed landed in friendly territory.

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY1. Bomber Attacks.

24 combat wings (766 B-17s, 271 B-24s - 1037 a/c) dispatched in three forces against Merseburg Leuna Synthetic Oil Plant and Bingen M/Y. 934 a/c dropped 2556.7 tons GP, IB and frags on both assigned targets and several T/Os. All bombing on PFF. Weather generally 10/10 in target areas. E/a opposition limited to single attack by two Me-109s on straggling B-17. Claims: nil. Losses: 66 a/c (5 B-24s, 61 B-17s of which majority are believed landed in friendly territory).

First Force

Ten combat wings (388 B-17s, 3rd Division) dispatched against Merseburg Leuna Synthetic Oil Plant. 320 a/c dropped 888.8 tons GP and 32.8 tons frags on assigned target and five T/Os at 1125-1156 hours from 24,500-29,000 feet. All bombing on H2X. Leaflets dropped on Merseburg. Weather: 8/10-10/10 in target area. Flak: intense, accurate. Battle damage: 104 minor, 33 major. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 57 B-17s (13 to AA,

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one crash-landed in U.K., 43 to unknown causes - majority believed landed in friendly territory).

Fighter Support: Eleven groups (370 P-51s) dispatched. Up 0912-1003 hours, down 1449-1535 hours. 336 sorties. E/a opposition: nil. Five Me-109s sighted 40 miles NE of Frankfurt disappeared in clouds before they could be engaged; 3 JU-88s sighted south of Essen; one possible jet a/c in vicinity of Fulda. Strafed A/F NW of Hirschburg and transportation facilities in Meiningen-Marburg-Giesen areas. Claims: 2-0-0 ground. Losses: 6 P-51s (one to AA, 2 to causes unknown, 3 believed safe on continent).

Details of bomber attacks as follows:

Assigned Targets	Dispatched	Attacking	Tonnage		Results
			GP	Frag	
Merseburg Leuna Synthetic Oil	388	315	875.5	32.8	Unobserved
5 T/Os	—	5	13.3	—	Unobserved
Totals	388	320	888.8	32.8	

Second Force

Ten combat wings (378 B-17s, 1st Division) dispatched against Merseburg Leuna Synthetic Oil Plant. 360 a/c dropped 888 tons GP and 4.8 tons IB on assigned target and four T/Os at 1127-1215 hours from 23,500-28,000 feet. All bombing on H2X. Leaflets dropped on Merseburg. Weather: 10/10 cloud in target area. Flak: moderate to intense, inaccurate. Battle damage: 40 minor, 10 major. E/a opposition: 2 Me-109s attacked a straggling B-17 in Coblenz-Frankfurt area but was driven off by escort. Claims: nil. Losses: 4 B-17s (2 crash-landed, 2 to unknown causes).

Fighter Support: Twelve groups (430 P-51s) dispatched. Up 0943-1015 hours, down 1502-1600 hours. 380 sorties. E/a opposition: nil. Jumped 3 Me-109s 12 miles north of Frankfurt but lost them in flak. Sighted 3 jet a/c east of Merseburg; one jet a/c in Singen area; one jet a/c east of Hersfeld; one FW-190 south of Liège - no combats. Strafed A/Fs at Zwickau, Fulda, Ettingshausen and miscellaneous ground targets. Claims: 7-0-8 ground. Losses: 12 P-51s (one category "E", one to AA, 10 believed safe on Continent).

Details of bomber attacks as follows:

Assigned Targets	Dispatched	Attacking	Tonnage		Results
			GP	IB	
Merseburg Leuna Synthetic Oil	378	356	878	4.8	Unobserved
4 T/Os	—	4	10	—	Unobserved
Totals	378	360	888	4.8	

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Four combat wings (271 B-24s, 2nd Division) dispatched against Bingen M/Y. 254 a/c dropped 680 tons GP and 62.3 tons IB on assigned primary at 1214-1224 hours from 21,000-25,000 feet. All bombing on Gee-H. Leaflets dropped on Bingen. Weather: 4/10-10/10 over Continent and in target area. Flak: meager, inaccurate in target area. Battle damage: 43 minor. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 5 B-24s to unknown causes.

Fighter Support: Two groups (130 P-47s) dispatched. Up 1017-1025 hours, down 1440-1450 hours. 129 sorties. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: nil.

Details of bomber attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Target</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacking</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>GP</u>	<u>IB</u>	
Bingen M/Y	271	254	680	62.3	Unobserved-Fair

2. Fighter Escort

25 groups (800 P-51s, 130 P-47s - 930 a/c) dispatched to support three bomber forces attacking targets at Merseburg and Bingen. Up 0943-1017 hours, down 1440-1600 hours. 845 sorties. 9 Me-109s sighted in Frankfurt area, 3 JU-88s near Essen and several scattered sightings of jet a/c over wide area but no combats. Claims: 9-0-8 ground. Losses: 18 P-51s (2 to AA, one category "E", 2 causes unknown, 13 believed safe on continent).

Eight groups strafed A/Fs and miscellaneous ground targets with claims as follows:

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Locomotives	34	11
Goods Cars	11	18
RR Cars	2	26
Motor Vehicles	0	14
Passenger cars	0	7
Trucks	2	0
Trailer	1	0
Switch house	0	1

Four groups of 9th and 19th TAC (105 P-38s, 32 P-51s) dispatched on patrol and area support for 8th Air Force bombers. 137 sorties. No e/a opposition. No claims. One P-38 lost to AA.

3. Fighter Sweeps

Nil

4. Fighter Bombing

Nil

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5. Photo Reconnaissance

Three F-5s dispatched to obtain activity photos of Lorient and St. Nazaire and for D/A photos of Bergerac-Angouleme. All a/c obtained photos. No losses.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

44 a/c (3 B-17s, one B-24, 5 Mosquitoes, 35 P-51s) dispatched. Two B-17s completed routine weather flights over the Atlantic. One B-24 and one B-17 completed flights to the Azores and from the Azores respectively. Five Mosquitoes completed special weather flights over the Atlantic to 5000N-1200W, over England, France and central and eastern Germany. 35 P-51s dispatched as scouts for heavy bomber forces. 28 sorties. 2 P-51s NYR.

7. Air/Sea Rescue

8 P-47s dispatched on routine patrol. All a/c completed mission. No losses.

8. Special Operations

38 a/c dispatched as follows:

23 a/c (18 P-51s, 4 P-47s, one B-17) dispatched as airborne radio relays. All a/c completed mission. No losses.

6 B-17s dispatched as screening force for bombers. Six sorties. One B-17 NYR (believed safe on continent).

6 B-24s dispatched on RCM patrol. All completed mission jamming from 0700-1000 hours. No losses.

3 B-24s dispatched on RCM patrol in support of RAF operation. All completed mission jamming from 1830-2040 hours. No losses.

C. INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Air Opposition

Heavy cumulus cloud from 2000 to 10/15,000 feet over northern and central Germany effectively grounded the Luftwaffe.

Escorting fighters report sighting 9 Me-109s in the Frankfurt area and approximately nine jet a/c scattered over a wide area of central Germany. 2 Me-109s attacked a straggling B-17 in the Frankfurt area, but evaded when 3 P-51s attacked. Jet a/c made no attempt to attack.

2. Flak

Merseburg	-	moderate to intense, accurate to inaccurate.
Bingen	-	meager, inaccurate.
Coblentz	-	moderate, accurate.
Halle	-	heavy, intense, inaccurate.

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Weimar - heavy, intense, inaccurate.
Frankfurt - heavy, meager, inaccurate.
Cologne - heavy, meager, inaccurate.
Leipzig - heavy, intense, accurate.
Wiesbaden - heavy, meager, inaccurate.
Hanau - light, intense.

3. Observations

Nil.

4. Damage to Enemy Installations

Bingen M/Y - Unobserved to Fair Results

Majority of bursts fell from one mile to one and a half miles NE of target. Few small bursts seen at the eastern end of the M/Y and also a few bursts within the city. One squadron dropped its bombs near the town of Kirn which is approximately 20 miles south of the primary target. Results here are also unobserved to fair.

Merseburg Leuna Synthetic Oil Plant - Unobserved, probably Poor Results.

Heavy cloud cover prevents complete assessment. Bombs noted fell from 1½ to 8 miles away from the target in NW, N and NE direction. Only damage probable is from a few strikes in the edge of Merseburg and a small village.

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

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HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
Office of Assistant Chief of Staff A-2
AAF 147 APO 558

D-X-63

28 November 1944

373.91

SUBJECT: AA Report, 2d Bombardment Division, No. FLO/2BD/430.

TO : Director of Intelligence, Headquarters Eighth Air Force, AAF 101,
APO 634, Attention: AA Officer.

1. GENERAL: TARGET : Bingen
DATE : 25 November 1944
CONDITIONS : 6 - 10/10th cloud
ROUTE ORDERED : Beachy Head, 5025N-0030E, 5021N-0133E,
5012N-0452E, 4931N-0625E, Target, 5010N-
0750E, 5016N-0616E, 5114N-0255E, Southwold.
ALTITUDE ORDERED : 21,000 ft.
AXIS OF ATTACK ORDERED: 55°
FORECAST WIND : 60 mph from 270°

2. NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS: This mission was carried out by 10 Groups, and bombing was done by means of GH equipment.

3. FLAK: Enroute to target meagre inaccurate flak was encountered in the vicinity of the battle line. On the way from the target meagre to moderate fairly accurate flak was encountered at Koblenz (A). The 467th Group, after target, was north of course and encountered intense accurate flak near Bonn. Fire was both "seen" and "unseen" of continuous following type. Two-thirds of battle damage received on this mission was in this Group, and it is apparent that practically all battle damage was received when crews were north of their course on return from target. At the target nil to meagre inaccurate flak was encountered, both "seen" and "unseen". This was continuous following type.

4. There were several scarecrows in the target area, and imitation smoke markers and rockets were seen between the IP and the target. No A/C were lost on this mission.

c.c.: AC of S, A-2, 1st and 3rd Bomb Divisions,
Attn: AA Officers
M.I.15, War Office, Whitehall, London

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Major AC

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TARGET: BINGEN

EFFECTIVE
NUMBER OF GUNS: 8

CW	GROUP	SORTIES	DAMAGED		A/C LOST				Axis Attack	Axis With- drawal	T.O.T.	Altitude
			Sli.	Ser.	Flak	E.A.	Acc.	Unkn				
2	453	33	3	-	-	-	-	-	50-45°	337°	1215	22,300
2	445	33	1	-	-	-	-	-	50-45°	337°	1215	21,250
14	392	18	1	-	-	-	-	-	40-50°	342°	1218	22,000
14	44	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	30-45°	342°	1219	23,700
14	491	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	30-45°	342°	1219	24,200-25,000
20	93	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	50°	21°	1219	23,500
96	467	27	12	-	-	-	-	-	40-50°	09°	1220-21	20,600-22,000
20	446	38	1	-	-	-	-	-	35-40°	21°	1221	21,000
20	448	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	45-55°	21°	1223	23,600
●	458	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	50-55°	09°	1223	22,500-23,800
TOTALS:		268	18	-	-	-	-	-	30-55°	342°-21°	1215-1223	21,000-23,800
percentages:			6.71									

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25 Nov 44

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

GROUP 458

DATE OF OPERATION 25 November 1944

DIVISION FIELD ORDER 528

ORDERED TARGET: Primary: Bingen - M/Y

Secondary:

SQUADRON	A/C Airborn		A/C SORT.	A/C NOT ATKG.	A/C ATKG.	TGT	NAME OF TARGET	NO. & TYPE BOBS ON TARGET	IRCS LOST						TIME OF T.O.	AVG. TIME FLIGHT	COMMENTS
	TOTAL	LESS NUSE SPARE							TO- TAL	FLAK	FLAK & E/A	E/A	ACC	UN- KN.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
A L	8	8	8	0	8	PT	Bingen - M/Y	76 X 500 GP	1	-	-	-	1*	-	0822	6:36	1 A/C Bombed with 392nd
A LL	10	10	10	0	10	PT	Bingen - M/Y	14 X 500 M17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
A HR	10	10	8	2	8	PT	Bingen - M/Y	96 X 500 GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
						PT		18 X 500 M17									
						PT	Bingen - M/Y	75 X 500 GP	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 A/C Bombed with 446th
						PT		14 X 500 M17									
TOTALS	28	28	26	2	26	PT PT	Bingen - M/Y	247 X 500 GP 46 X 500 M17	1	-	-	-	1*	-	0822	6:36	

GROUP 458

DATE 25 November 1944

DIVISION FIELD ORDER 528

BOB TYPE	EXPENDED					FUSES				AMMUNITION				PYROTECHNICS	
	INITIAL LOAD	ON TGT	JETT	UNARMED FOR	RETD	NOSE FUSE	NOSE DELAY	TAIL FUSE	TAIL DELAY	CALIBER	LINKAGE	LINKAGE RATIO	AMOUNT EXPEND.	TYPE	AMOUNT EXPEND.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
500 GP	268	247	-	-	21	M103	1/10	M101 A1	1/40	.50	API-T	2-1	180	-	
500 M17	50	46	-	-	4	M127	34.2	-	-						
CHB - Skymarker	6	6	-	-	-	M100 A1	1/10	M100 A1	1/10						

FORMATION PLANLead Squadron

Brumby-Hensler
 J3 : 610D
 Evans Scope Jones-Breeding 2 BD Spare
 J3 : 5750 GH : 503L Helfrecht
 L-22 D Z5 : 059T 2 I
 RCM Pesten Swartz Hess
 Z5 : 366H 8 AF Cont. Z5 : 183U Z5 : 596
 Canady 6 Dahm K-21
 Z5 : 6400 Z5 : 456D
 K-21

Low Left Squadron

Lockridge-Claggott
 RCM-2BD Spare 2 BD Cont J3 : 939G
 Sullivan Vehslage Hat
 7V : 179T 7V : 316H J3 : 499U
 Lehr K-21 McGough Glass K-22
 7V : 963T 7V : 050J RCM-2BD Spare 7V : 567G 8 AF Cont.
 Grice Craven
 7V : 110M D 7V : 475D
 K-21 Crever K-20
 7V : 407R

High Right Squadron

Matzo-Darelius
 8 AF Cont. J3 : 954A
 Tracy Floyd Kenyon
 J4 : 283I 2BD Cont. J3 : 546Q J4 : 141U
 Fuson K-22 Healy Eidelbery
 J4 : 201N 2BD Spare J4 : 449W J4 : 287C
 Scaly K-21 Hadden K-21
 J4 : 281Q D J4 : 980V
 Buchtel
 J4 : 285H

SPARES:

352K-7V-R/W 35
 1183-J4- 36
 070K-25- 3

Weather A/C:

Simpson-752nd--:134R-J4
 Stoesser- " --:120M-Z

Order of Take Off

West	Runway	23	East
Disp	Ship	No.	Ship
17	610D	1	
13	5750	2	
1	366H	3	
7	059T	4	
6	456D	5	
5	6400	6	
3	596H	7	
12	183U	8	
R/W 35	939G	9	
14	499U	10	
R/W 35	954A	11	
17	740Q	12	
		13	
R/W 35	567G	14	316H
"	179X	15	
		16	475D
"	110M	16	
"	050J	18	
"	963T	19	
		20	407R
		21	283I
		22	201N
		23	141U
		24	980V
		25	281Q
		26	287J
		27	449W
		28	285H
			Hgr 1
			40
			42
			40
			43
			45
			49
			Hgr 4
			51

458th Pilots and Aircraft as listed on Formation Plans

Date	Target	Pilot	458th Msn	Pilot Msn	Cmd Pilot	Ld	Serial	Last 3	RCL	Sqdn	A/C Msn	A/C Name	Comments
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	BECHTEL	149	11			44-40285	285	H	J4	44	TABLE STUFF	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	BESTEN	149	15			42-100366	366	H	Z5	61	MIZPAH	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	BRUMBY	149	20	HENSLER	L1	42-95610	610	D+	J3	5	UNKNOWN 037	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	CANADY	149	17			42-50640	640	O	Z5	14	BUGS BUNNY	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	CRAVEN	149	9			44-40475	475	D	7V	13	JOLLY ROGER	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	CRAVER	149	4			42-100407	407	R	7V	57	LITTLE LAMBSY DIVEY	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	DAHM	149	9			42-50456	456	D	Z5	13	DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	EIDELSBURG	149	6			44-40287	287	J	J4	24	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	EVANS	149	23			42-50575	575	O	J3	11	UNKNOWN 020	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	FLOYD	149	19			42-50740	740	Q	J3	9	OUR BURMA	576Z TYPED OVER
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	FUSON	149	30			44-40201	201	N	J4	30	SILVER CHIEF	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	GLASS	149	18			41-29567	567	G	7V	5	MY BUNNIE / BAMBI	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	GRICE	149	12			42-51110	110	M	7V	53	TOP O' THE MARK	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	HADDEN	149	ABT			41-28980	980	V	J4	--	UNKNOWN 009	ABORT - #2 ENG DROP IN OIL PRES
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	HATHORN	149	10			42-50499	499	U	J3	20	COOKIE/OPEN POST	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	HEALY	149	9			42-50449	449	W	J4	18	HEAVENLY HIDEAWAY	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	HELFRECHT	149	15			42-110059	059	T	Z5	47	UNKNOWN 056	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	HESS	149	15			41-29596	596	R	Z5	70	HELL'S ANGEL'S	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	JONES	149	--	BREEDING	D1	503	503	L	GH	--		NOT 458TH SHIP/PILOT
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	KENYON	149	25			42-110141	141	U	J4	26	BREEZY LADY / MARIE / SUPERMAN	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	LEHR	149	17			41-28963	963	T	7V	11	UNKNOWN 007	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	LOCKRIDGE	149	22	CLAGGETT	L2	42-51939	939	A+	J3	7	UNKNOWN 028	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	MATZE	149	23	DARELIUS	L1	42-50954	954	A+	J3	7	UNKNOWN 021	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	McGOUGH	149	15			42-95050	050	J	7V	57	GAS HOUSE MOUSE	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	SEALY	149	ABT			44-40281	281	Q	J4	--	A DOG'S LIFE	ABORT - #1 ENG OIL LEAK
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	SIMPSON	149	WTHR			44-40134	134	R	J4	--	UNKNOWN 039	WEATHER SHIP
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	STOESSER	149	WTHR			42-95120	120	M	Z5	--	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	WEATHER SHIP
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	SULLIVAN, E	149	18			42-95179	179	X	7V	61	HERE I GO AGAIN	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	SWARTZ	149	11			42-95183	183	U	Z5	58	BRINEY MARLIN	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	TRACY	149	29			44-40283	283	I	J4	21	LASSIE COME HOME	
25-Nov-44	BINGEN	VEHSLAGE	149	12			42-95316	316	H	7V	57	PRINCESS PAT	