

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
AAF STATION 101
APO 634

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 218

PERIOD: 0001 hours 4 December 1944 to 2400 hours 4 December 1944.

A. STATISTICS

	Missions	Disp.	Sorties	Atkg.	Tonnage	Claims	Losses				
							E/A	AA	N/E	OT	Tot.
Heavy Bomber Atks.	5	1191+	1158	1144	3276.2	0-0-0	0	1	0	42	43
Fighter Escort	15	940++	903	0	0	0-0-0 A 6-0-11G	0	0	0	27	27
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.	1	2	2	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Weather Recon.	4	45	44	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Air/Sea Rescue	5	16	16	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Operations	3	46	46	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	23	2240	2169	1144	3276.2	6-0-11G	0	1	0	69	70

+ Includes 20 spares, 7 used.

++ 72 additional fighters (2 P-38 Groups) dispatched by Ninth Air Force.

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

Twenty-seven combat wings (876 B-17s, 315 B-24s - 1191 a/c) dispatched against five M/Vs at Lassel, Soest, Biele, Clossen and Hagen in western Germany. 1144 a/c dropped 2006.2 tons CP and 467.4 tons IB on all assigned primaries. M/Vs at Friedberg and Coblenz, city of Biele and several u/v T/Gs. All bombing on IFF except Friedberg which was attacked visually by three groups. Weather: generally 10/10 cloud in target areas. No enemy air opposition. Claims: nil. Losses: 28 B-17s, 15 B-24s (at least 30 a/c believed landed safely in France).

SECRETFirst Force

Eleven combat wings (419 B-17s, 1st Division) dispatched against M/Ys at Kassel and Soest. 402 a/c dropped 979.1 tons GP and 194.3 tons IB on both assigned primaries and two u/i T/Os at 1223-1308 hours from 23,000-27,500 feet. Kassel bombed on H2X, Soest on Gee-H. Leaflets dropped on Kassel and Soest. Weather: 10/10 cloud in target area, Flak: nil to meager, inaccurate. Battle damage: 3 minor, 0 Major. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 23 B-17s to unknown causes (15 believed safe on continent).

Fighter Support: Six groups (318 P-51s, 75 P-47s - 393 a/c) dispatched. Up 0957-1027 hours, down 1445-1545 hours. 375 sorties. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 2 P-51s; 2 P-47s (1 to unknown causes, 3 believed safe on continent).

Details of bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacking</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>GP</u>	<u>IB</u>	
Kassel M/Y	194	212	511.3	102.5	Unobserved
Soest M/Y	225	188	462.8	90.8	Unobserved
<u>Other Targets</u>					
2 T/Os		2	5.0	1.0	Unobserved
Totals	419	402	979.1	194.3	

Second Force

Four combat wings (315 B-24s, 2nd Division) dispatched against Bebra M/Y. 299 a/c dropped 696.6 tons GP and 132.8 tons IB on assigned target and on M/Ys at Coblenz and Giessen at 1243-1350 hours from 21,000-25,000 feet. Bebra attacked on Gee-H, other targets on H2X. Leaflets dropped on Bebra and Coblenz. Weather: 10/10 cloud at Bebra, 8/10-10/10 at other targets. Flak: nil to meager, inaccurate at Bebra; moderate, inaccurate to accurate at Coblenz. Battle damage: 15 minor, 0 major. E/a opposition: nil. One jet a/c seen near Coblenz but no attack. Claims: nil. Losses: 15 B-24s believed safe on continent.

Fighter Support: Five groups (254 P-51s, 49 P-47s - 303 a/c) dispatched. Up 0954-1026 hours, down 1544-1830 hours. 290 sorties. E/a opposition: nil. One group strafed ground targets. A/F at Neuburg also strafed. Claims: nil, air: 6-0-11 ground (includes 2-0-8 jets). Losses: 21 P-47s (1 to unknown causes, 20 believed safe on continent).

Details of bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Target</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacking</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>GP</u>	<u>IB</u>	
Bebra M/Y	315	199	465.8	89.0	Unobserved

SECRET

<u>Other Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacking</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>GP</u>	<u>IB</u>	
Coblentz M/Y		78	178.5	33.8	Unobserved
Giessen M/Y		21	50.0	9.5	Unobserved
T/O		1	2.3	.5	Unobserved
Totals	315	299	696.6	132.8	

Third Force

Twelve combat wings (457 B-17s, 3rd Division) dispatched against M/Ys at Giessen and Mainz. 443 a/c dropped 1133.1 tons GP and 140.3 tons IB on both assigned targets, Friedburg M/Y, Fulda, barges on the Rhine and six u/i T/Os at 1250-1308 hours from 23,000-26,800 feet. Giessen bombed on Micro-H, Mainz and Fulda on H2X, Friedburg visually. Leaflets dropped on Mainz, Fulda and Friedburg. Weather: 8/10-10/10 cloud in target areas; large breaks over Friedburg. Flak: meager, inaccurate at Giessen; meager to moderate, accurate at Mainz. Battle damage: 88 minor, 18 major. E/a opposition: nil. A few scattered sightings of Me-163s at Friedburg and Giessen but no attacks. Claims: nil. Losses: 5 B-17s (1 to AA, 4 to unknown causes).

Fighter Support: Four groups (244 P-51s) dispatched. Up 1107-1144 hours, down 1540-1629 hours. 238 sorties. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 2 P-51s to unknown causes.

Details of bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Attacking</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>GP</u>	<u>IB</u>	
Giessen M/Y	228	62	153.8	29.5	Unobserved
Mainz M/Y	229	221	566.5	72.3	Poor
<u>Other Targets</u>					
Friedburg M/Y		119	314.3	22.0	Fair-Good
Fulda (city)		24	56.0	11.5	Unobserved
Barges on Rhine		11	26.5	5.0	Unobserved
V/I T/Os		6	16.0		Unobserved
Totals	457	443	1133.1	140.3	

2. Fighter Escort

Fifteen groups (816 P-51s, 124 P-47s-940 a/o) dispatched to support three heavy bomber forces attacking M/Ys in western Germany. Up 0954-1144 hours, down 1445-1830 hours. 903 sorties. Missions generally uneventful. No e/a opposition. One group strafed ground targets with claims of 3 locomotives, 3 freight cars, Destroyed, and 3 locomotives, 12 freight cars damaged. A/F at Neuburg also strafed. Claims: nil Air: 6-0-11, ground (includes 2-0-8 jets). Losses: 23 P-47s, 4 P-51s (4 a/c to unknown causes, 23 believed safe on continent).

SECRET

Two groups (72 P-38s) dispatched by Ninth Air Force to patrol Eisenach - Gottingen - Hamm - Paderborn area in support of Eighth Air Force bomber operations. One group recalled due to icing conditions. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 1 P-38 to flak.

3. Fighter Sweeps

Nil.

4. Fighter Bombing

Nil.

5. Photo Reconnaissance

2 P-5s dispatched on mapping in Cologne and Coblenz areas. Both successful in obtaining photos of targets. No losses.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

45 a/c (2 B-17s, 2 B-24s, 4 Mosquitoes, 37 P-51s) dispatched.

2 B-17s flow routine reconnaissance to and from the Azores.

2 B-24s flow heavy weather reconnaissance over the sea to NW of Land's End.

4 Mosquitoes flow light weather reconnaissance over Europe.

37 P-51s dispatched as weather scouts for heavy bomber forces, 36 completing uneventful mission. No losses.

7. Air/Sea Rescue

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

8. Special Operations

46 a/c dispatched as follows:

10 B-24s dispatched on RCM operations. 8 completed mission in support of AF, jamming from 0700-1200 hours. 2 completed mission in support of RAF, jamming from 1835-1955 hours. No losses.

22 a/c (14 P-51s, 6 P-47s, 1 B-24, 1 B-17) dispatched as airborne radio relays. All completed mission. No losses.

14 a/c (12 B-17s, 2 Mosquitoes) dispatched on screening operation for heavy bomber forces. 14 sorties. No losses.

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SECRETC. INTELLIGENCE1. Enemy Air Opposition

There was no airborne opposition to today's operations, and no sightings of enemy formations were reported by either bombers or fighters.

Although enemy bases in the northwest German plain (Plantlunne-Achmer area) were operational there is no indication that any e/a were sent south or southeast in reaction to strong forces of heavy bombers attacking multiple targets east and southeast of the Ruhr by FTF technique. While high and multiple layered cloud with very few breaks and scattered showers probably influenced the lack of opposition from e/a based in the general target areas, it is not clear why the s/e e/a from northwest Germany were not employed.

2. Flak

Soest - nil to meager, inaccurate
Kassel - meager, inaccurate
Mainz - meager to moderate, fairly accurate.
Giessen - meager, inaccurate.
Coblenz - meager, moderate, inaccurate to accurate.
Bebra - nil to meager, inaccurate

3. Observations

Nil.

4. Damage to Enemy InstallationsKassel M/Y - Unobserved Results

Cloud cover 8/10 to 10/10 density covered entire Kassel area, making impossible the plotting of all but a minute portion of bombs dropped. Through breaks it was possible to see the following: concentration of approximately 150 GP bombs in a slightly built-up area, 2500 yards northeast of Henschel and Sohn (Works I) and two miles north of center of Kassel. Through intense haze a part of a concentration bursting approximately 2000 yards east of Henschel and Sohn, and approximately one and one half miles north of center of Kassel in a slightly built up area.

Mainz M/Y - Poor Results

Photographs indicate that no bombs fell on or near the M/Y at Mainz. Five squadrons made a run between Weisbaden and Mainz but apparently all the bombs fell in open country north northeast of Mainz. Cloud cover prevents accurate assessment. A few bursts noted on or near the railroad tracks connecting Weisbaden and Mainz, but as near as can be determined the remainder of the bombs fell eight to ten miles east of Mainz in open and wooded country. One pattern of bombs fell on the village of Weisenau, about three miles southeast of Mainz.

SECRET

Friedburg M/Y - Fair to Good Results

Patterns from four squadrons blanketed the southeast half of the yard with about six hits on the goods depot and two hits on the locomotive depot. Twenty-five or more bursts on the sidings. Through lines were probably cut in two or three places. Balance of patterns in open fields mostly east of the yard.

All other targets - Unobserved Results

10/10 Cloud.

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

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SECRET

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

D/X/64

9 December 1944

SUBJECT : AA Report, 2nd Bombardment Division, No. FLO/2BD/439.

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

1. GENERAL : TARGET : (a) Bebra
(b) Koblenz (secondary target)
DATE : 4 December 1944
CONDITIONS : (a) 10/10th Cloud (b) 7/10th Cloud
ROUTE ORDERED : 51°14'N 02°55'E - 50°26'N 05°30'E -
50°13'N 06°17'E - 50°09'N 07°42'E -
50°35'N 08°00'E - 50°24'N 09°28'E -
Target - 51°00'N 09°28'E - 50°52'N 08°40'E
50°35'N 08°00'E - 50°09'N 07°42'E -
50°13'N 06°17'E - 51°14'N 02°55'E
ALTITUDE ORDERED : 22000 ft
AXIS OF ATTACK ORDERED: 20°
FORECAST WIND : 100 mph from 270°

2. NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS: This operation was carried out by GH methods. One Wing attacked Koblenz as a secondary target by means of H2X equipment. No Chaff Screening Force was used. The GH equipment failed at the primary target, and this caused the force to become disorganized.

3. FLAK: Meagre Heavy Flak was encountered on route at Zell (A), Limburg (B), Hillesheim (B) and Prum (B) (50°14'N 06°25'E). The Group which attacked Wetzlar encountered no Flak.

No Flak was encountered at Bebra.

Moderate, fairly, accurate predictor control and fixed barrage fire was encountered at Koblenz.

AAA OFFICER	
EXECUTIVE	
COMBAT	RM
FLIGHT	2
WHT	
A	

A. J. King
LT. COL., R.A.

SECRET

TARGET: BebraEffective
NUMBER OF GUNS, Possible 4

CW	GROUP	SORTIES	DAMAGED		A/C LOST				Axis Attack	Axis With- drawal	T.O.T.	Altitude
			Sli.	Ser.	Flak	E.A.	Acc.	Unkn				
96	467	36							345-350°	185°	1243	22500-23000 ft
96	458	18							310-330°	185°	1244	23000-23500
96	466	21							340-355°	185°	1246	24000-24500
14	392	18							345-350°	230°	1247	24500-25000
2	445	30							310-340°	275°	1248	23000-23500
2	389	24	1						330-340°	275°	1248	24000-24500
2	453	31							325-330°	275°	1249	22000-22500
14	491	17							305-320°	265°	1252	23500
14	44 *	24						1				23000
TOTALS:		219	1					1	305-350°	185- 275°	1243- 1252	22000-25000
Percentages:			.5%					.5%				

* Bombed Wetzlar as target of opportunity

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TARGET: KOBLENZ

EFFECTIVE NUMBER OF GUNS: 59

CW	GROUP	SORTIES	DAMAGED		A/C LOST				Axis Attack	Axis With- drawal	T.O.T.	Altitude
			Sli.	Ser.	Flak	E.A.	Acc.	Unkn				
20	448th	37	3	-	-	-	-	-	270°- 275°	195°	1345 - 1347	23000 - 23500 ft.
20	446th	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	260°	195°	1347	22500 - 23000 ft.
20	93rd	24	-	1	-	-	-	-	220°- 285°	195°	1348 - 1349	23000 - 23500 ft.
TOTALS:		81	3	1	-	-	-	-	220°- 285°	195°	1345 - 1349	22500 - 23500 ft.
Percentages:			3.7%	1.2%	-	-	-	-				

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

GROUP 458

DATE OF OPERATION 4 December 1944

DIVISION FIELD ORDER 535

ORDERED TARGET: Primary: Bebra M/Y
Secondary: Koblenz M/Y

SQUADRON	A/C Airborn		A/C SORT.	A/C NOT ATKG.	A/C ATKG.	TGT	NAME OF TARGET	NO. & TYPE BOMBS ON TARGET	LOST						TIME OF T.O.	AVG. TIME FLIGHT	COMMENTS
	TOTAL	LESS HOUSE 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	Bebra - M/Y	78 X 500 GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	0900	7:20	
A LL	10	10	10	0	10	PT	Bebra - M/Y	12 X 500M17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
						PT		100 X 500 GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
						PT		20 X 500M17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
						PT		2 X M47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTALS	18	18	18	0	18	PT	Bebra - M/Y	178 X 500 GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	0900	7:20	
						PT		32 X 500M17									
								2 X M47									

GROUP 458

DATE 4 December 1944

DIVISION FIELD ORDER 535

BOMB TYPE	EXPENDED					FUSES				AMMUNITION				PYROTECHNICS	
	INITIAL LOAD	ON TGT	JETT	UNACTD 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# M64	166	166	-	-	-	M 103	1/10	M101 A1	1/40	.50	API-T	2-1	1465	-	-
500# M64	12	12	-	-	-	M 124	6 @ 6Hr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
							6 @ 1Hr								
M47															
Skemarker	2	2	-	-	-	M 126	Inst	-	-	-	-	-	-	M-8 Grenade	8
CHB															
Skymarker	2	2	-	-	-	M100A1	1/10	M100A1	1/10	-	-	-	-	-	-
500# M17	32	32	-	-	-	M 138	35.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

FORMATION PLANLead Squadron - Lincoln Red #1

Hale-Williamson		2 BD Cont. J3 : 625K		2 BD Spare	
French	Scope	Nelson-Darelius	** Cook		
Z5 : 291E		CH : 765K			
L-21	8 AF Cont.	Dahm	L-21	506R 2BD Spar	
	Besten	Z5:570Y		Coode	
	RCM			Z5 : 059E	
	Z5 : 456D	D			
Skidmore	K-22	Fletcher			
Z5 : 6400		Z5 : 1791			

Low Left Squadron - Lincoln Red #2

Hansen-Quinn		2 BD Cont. J3 : 602E			
Haynes	Szarko	K-22	Dye		
7V : 502E 2BD Spare	7V : 179X	RCM	J3 : 7U		
Vehslage	Josephson	McCough			
7V : 316H	7V : 165L	RCM-2BD Spare	7V : 213P	8 AF Cont.	
	Grice	K-21	Spratt		
	7V : 110E		7V : 340N		

** Indicates ship contains following Long Delay Fuses:
 6X500# 1 hr Delay - 6X500# 6 hr Delay
 SPARE: 963T-7V-Hr #1
 407R-7V-39
 126L-Z5-6
 070K-Z5-2
 7400-J3-Hr : 3
 939G-J3-14

Assembly Pilot: 753rd - Lt McCarthy

Marshalling Chief: 753rd - Lt Ironkite

Order of Take Off

est	East	Order of Take Off	est	East
Ship	No. Ship	Runway	23	Ship No. Ship
11	625K	1	11	499U
	2	697Z	2	179X
	3	298E	3	215B
	4	456D	35	
	5	596R	14	
8	179P	6	15	340N Hr 1
	7	6400	16	
12	059T	8	17	
	9	578Y	18	
23	625K	10	19	

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
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	BESTEN	152	16			42-50456	456	D	Z5	15	DOROTHY KAY SPECIAL	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	COODE	152	7			42-110059	059	T	Z5	49	UNKNOWN 056	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	COOK	152	35			41-29596	596	R	Z5	72	HELL'S ANGEL'S	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	CRAVEN	152	10			42-95050	050	J	7V	59	GAS HOUSE MOUSE	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	DAHM	152	10			42-50578	578	Y	J3	20	SKY ROOM	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	DYER	152	8			42-50499	499	U	J3	21	COOKIE/OPEN POST	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	FLETCHER	152	1			42-51179	179	P	Z5	51	DUSTY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	FRENCH	152	30			44-40298	298	E	Z5	15	THE SHACK	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	GRICE	152	14			42-51110	110	M	7V	55	TOP O' THE MARK	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	HALE	152	7	WILLIAMSON	L1	42-95628	628	K+	J3	1	UNKNOWN 038	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	HANSEN	152	28	QUINN	L2	44-10602	602	P	J3	18	TEN GUN DOTTIE	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	HAYNES	152	14			42-50502	502	E	7V	16	LARRUPIN' LINDA	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	JOSEPHSON	152	12			42-95165	165	L	7V	48	COOKIE	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	KRONKITE	152	MSHL			--		--	--	--		MARSHALING CHIEF
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	McCARTHY	152	ASSY			41-28697	697	Z	Z5	A33	SPOTTED APE	ASSEMBLY CREW - 753
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	McGOUGH	152	16			42-51215	215	P	7V	14	UNKNOWN 024	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	NELSON	152	--	DARELIUS	D1	765	765	X	GH	--		NOT 458TH SHIP/PILOT
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	SKIDMORE	152	14			42-50640	640	O	Z5	16	BUGS BUNNY	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	SPRATT	152	1			41-29340	340	N	7V	55	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	SZARKO	152	1			42-95179	179	X	7V	63	HERE I GO AGAIN	
04-Dec-44	BEBRA	VEHSLAGE	152	14			42-95316	316	H	7V	59	PRINCESS PAT	