

MISSION 647 • 25 SEPTEMBER 1944 • KOBLENZ

Eighth Air Force Daily Operations Summary.

MISSION	DATE	TARGET	DOCUMENT
647	25 Sep 1944	Koblenz	5 pages • 8 AF

WHAT THIS DOCUMENT IS

Every evening Eighth Air Force headquarters compiled what all three bomb divisions had done, plus the fighters and the weather reconnaissance. The result is a multi-page summary: tables of aircraft, tonnage, claims, and short narratives.

A single group mission is one thread in that larger day — oil, rail yards, tactical targets, sometimes all at once.

This document is that wider sky. Continuations run on for several sheets. Label 1st and 3rd Division numbers as Eighth Air Force, not as the 93rd.

HOW TO READ IT

- 01 **Find the 2nd Division thread.** Koblenz, B-24s, PFF — then stop before you copy Frankfurt onto Hardwick.
- 02 **Tables first.** Aircraft, attacking, tonnage, claims are in the grids.
- 03 **Weather is the day.** 10/10 over Germany here explains unobserved results on every group sheet.
- 04 **Later pages are other jobs.** Recce, truckin, night RCM, weather scouts are 8 AF, not the 93rd.

THIS REPORT

Eighth Air Force rollup of the whole day: three bomb divisions, fighters, and weather reconnaissance.

The 93rd is one thread — 35 B-24s on Koblenz, all PFF, results unobserved under 10/10 cloud. 1st Division went to Frankfurt; 3rd to Ludwigshafen.



Scan for the full mission record

Crew loading lists, aircraft, losses and sources for Mission 647, at hardwickskies.com.

hardwickskies.com/mission/mission-647-1944-09-25

S E C R E T
HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
AAF STATION 101
APO 634

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 148

PERIOD: 0001 hours 25 September to 2400 hours 25 September 1944

A. STATISTICS

	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Disp.</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Atkg.</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Claims</u>	<u>E/A</u>	<u>Losses</u>				<u>Total</u>
								<u>AA</u>	<u>N/E</u>	<u>OT</u>		
Heavy Bomber Atks.	6	1306+	1244	1115	3090.75	0-0-0	0	5	0	2		7
Fighter Escort	14	622	567	0	0	0-0-2G	0	1	0	2		3
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	1	1	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0		0
Weather Recon.	10	19	18	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	1		1
Air/Sea Rescue	8	8	8	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0		0
Special Operations	31	202	202	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0		0
Totals	70	2158	2040	1115	3090.75	0-0-2G	0	6	0	5		11

+ 22 spares, 16 used

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

27 combat wings (978 B-17s, 328 B-24s - 1306 a/c) dispatched in three forces to attack two M/Ys at Frankfurt, two M/Ys at Coblenz, a M/Y and a synthetic oil plant at Ludwigshafen. 1115 a/c dropped 3090.75 tons (2696.75 ton GP, 394 tons I.B.) at 1024 - 1156 hours from 20,000 - 28,540 feet. All bombing by PFF. Results unobserved in all cases. Malfunctioning of PFF equipment, possibly due to wind changes and other weather conditions, caused some formations to bomb T/Os. Leaflets dropped in Ludwigshafen area, on and near Coblenz, and at Frankfurt. Weather 10/10 cloud over all targets. Flak: moderate to intense, generally accurate at Ludwigshafen, meager to moderate and inaccurate over other target areas. E/a opposition: one Me-410 sighted in Ludwigshafen area, 2 Me-410s in Coblenz area, and several contrails believed to be made by Me-163s. No attacks. Battle Damage: 119 minor, 22 major. Claims: nil. Losses: 7 a/c (5 B-17s to flak, 1 B-17 and 1 B-24 to unknown causes).

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First Force

12 combat wings (534 B-17s) dispatched against Ludwigshafen M/Y and Ludwigshafen/Oppau synthetic oil plant. 446 B-17s dropped 1170 tons G.P. and 91.5 tons I.B. on primaries and three T/Os from 24,000 - 26,000 feet at 1024-1105 hours. Leaflets dropped in Ludwigshafen area. All combat wings bombed PFF. Results unobserved. Malfunctioning of PFF equipment, possibly due to wind changes, electrical storm or clouds, caused some formations to bomb T/Os. Weather: 10/10 cloud over continent and targets. Flak: moderate to intense and generally accurate over target area. Battle Damage: 71 minor, 15 major. E/a opposition: one Me-410 sighted in Ludwigshafen area. Four single contrail thought to be made by four Me-163s, sighted in Arlon and Trier areas. No attacks. Claims: nil. Losses: three B-17s to flak.

Fighter Support: Five groups (216 P-51s dispatched. Up 0825 - 0855 hours, down 1230 - 1335 hours. 200 sorties. Escort uneventful. Claims: nil. Losses: nil.

+(Includes one group Ninth Air Force fighters).

Details of bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u> <u>B-17s</u>	<u>Attacking</u> <u>B-17s</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>		<u>Results</u>
			<u>G.P.</u>	<u>I.B.</u>	
Ludwigshafen/Oppau) Ludwigshafen M/Y)	534	400	1062.0	71.5	Unobserved
<u>Other Targets</u>					
3 u/i T/Os	_____	<u>46</u>	<u>108.0</u>	<u>20.0</u>	
Totals	534	446	1170.0	91.5	

Second Force

12 combat wings (444 B-17s) dispatched against Frankfurt-am-Main M/Y and Frankfurt/Ost M/Y. 412 a/c dropped 941.75 tons GP, 214 tons I.B. on the central industrial area of Frankfurt and two T/Os from 25,000-28,450 feet at 1029-1101 hours. Leaflets dropped on Frankfurt. All combat wings bombed on PFF. Results unobserved. Weather: 10/10 cloud between Rhine and target. Dense, non-persistent contrails from 26,000-28,000 feet in target area. Flak: meager to moderate and inaccurate. Battle Damage: 35 minor, 6 major. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: three a/c (two B-17s to flak, one B-17 to unknown causes).

Fighter Support: Five groups (192 P-51s, 35 P-38s - 227 a/c) dispatched. Up 0828-0850 hours, down 1320-1403 hours. 210 sorties. Escort uneventful. Claims: nil. Losses: 2 P-51s (one to flak, one to unknown causes).

Details of Bomber attacks as follows:

S E C R E T

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u> <u>B-17s</u>	<u>Attacking</u> <u>B-17s</u>	<u>Tons</u> <u>G.P.</u> <u>I.B.</u>	<u>Results</u>
Frankfurt Central industrial area (secondary)	444	410	935.75 214.0	Unobserved

Other Targets

U/I T/Os	_____	2	6.0	Unobserved
Totals	444	412	941.75 214.0	

Third Force

Three combat wings (328 B-24s) dispatched against two M/Ys at Coblenz. 257 a/c dropped 585 tons G.P., 88.5 tons I.B. - total 673.5 tons on primaries from 20,000 - 23,500 feet at 1148 - 1156 hours. Leaflets dropped on Coblenz and 10 to 15 miles southwest of city. All bombing on PFF with unobserved results. Weather: generally 10/10 at target. Flak: moderate and inaccurate. Battle Damage: 13 minor, 1 major. E/a opposition: two Me-410s observed in target area. No attacks. Claims: nil. Losses: one B-24 to unknown causes.

Fighter Support: four groups+ (92 P-51s, 48 P-47s, 39 P-38s - 179 a/c) dispatched. Up 1005 - 1008 hours, down 1350 - 1505 hours. 157 sorties. One group strafed north and east of Ruhr, including Bad Lippspringe A/F. Claims: 0-0-2 t/e ground. Losses: one P-51 to unknown reasons.

+(Includes one group Ninth Air Force fighters.)

Details of Bomber attacks as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Dispatched</u> <u>B-24s</u>	<u>Attacking</u> <u>B-24s</u>	<u>Tonnage</u> <u>G.P.</u> <u>I.B.</u>	<u>Results</u>
Coblenz/Mosel M/Y)	328	257	585.0 88.5	Unobserved
Coblenz/Rhein M/Y)	_____	_____	_____	
Totals	328	257	585.0 88.5	

2. Fighter Escort

14 groups+ (500 P-51s, 48 P-47s, 74 P-38s - 622 a/c) dispatched to support heavy bombers attacking targets in Germany. Up 0825-1008 hours, down 1230 - 1505 hours. 567 sorties. One group strafed north and east of Ruhr, including Bad Lippspringe A/F. Claims: 0-0-2 t/e ground. Losses: three P-51s (one to flak, two to unknown causes). No e/a opposition.

+(Includes two groups Ninth Air Force fighters under operational control of the Eighth Air Force.)

Strafing claims include: four trucks destroyed, five locomotives and three goods wagons damaged.

3. Fighter Sweeps

Nil.

4. Fighter Bombing

Nil.

5. Photo Reconnaissance

One F-5 dispatched. Obtained photos of area west of Nijmegen. A/c returned safely.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

19 a/c dispatched (four B-24s, five Mosquitoes and ten P-51s). Two B-24s flew routine flights to Azores area. Two B-24s flew routine flights into Atlantic northwest of England. One Mosquito flew special flight to central England area. One Mosquito flew special flight to Brest Peninsula area. One Mosquito flew special flight to north France, Belgium and Holland. One Mosquito dispatched to the same area failed to return. One Mosquito dispatched as a scout for 2nd Bomb Division aborted at 5210N-0150E due to mechanical difficulties. Ten P-51s dispatched as scouts for 1st Division. All completed mission. No observations. Results: 17 a/c successful, 1 a/c aborted, and 1 a/c missing.

7. Air/Sea Rescue

Eight P-47s dispatched. No incidents reported. All a/c returned safely.

8. Special Operations

202 a/c dispatched as follows:

Three B-24s dispatched on RCM mission, jamming between 1930-2115 hours. No losses.

23 a/c (two P-38s, one B-17, 18 P-51s and two P-47s) dispatched as radio relays. No losses.

176 B-24s dispatched on "Truckin" mission. A/c delivered 290,517 gallons of gasoline to four depots in France. 82 a/c remained overnight, the balance (94 a/c) returned to bases. No losses.

C. INTELLIGENCE1. Enemy Air Opposition

Today's large scale heavy bomber operations over the Rhineland were completely unopposed by the Luftwaffe. Sightings of only three e/a were definitely reported; one Me-410 in the Ludwigshafen area at 1023 hours, and two Me-410s in the Coblenz area at 1150 hours. E/a made no attempt to attack. In addition, combat crews of the first force reported sighting four single contrails thought to be made by four Me-163s at 1132 and 1137 hours in the vicinity of Trier and Arlon.

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Supporting fighters reported no e/a sightings in the air.

2. Flak

Coblentz - moderate, inaccurate.

Frankfurt - meager to moderate, inaccurate.

Weisbaden - meager, inaccurate.

Ludwigshafen - moderate to intense, generally accurate.

Mainz - intense, accurate.

Rudesheim - intense, accurate.

3. Observations

25-30 u/i a/c with in-line engines and square wing tips on southeast end of A/F believed to be Bad Lippspringe. Approximately 20 t/e e/a, mostly Ju-88s and He-177s, in woods north and west of A/F.

4. Damage to Enemy Installations

No damage assessment due to 10/10 cloud over targets.

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

S E C R E T

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