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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
AAF STATION 101  
APO 634

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 293

AAA OFFICER
EXECUTIVE
BOMBER
FIGHTER: <i>ARS</i>
<i>W/L</i>
<i>P/L</i>

PERIOD: 0001 hours 17 February to 2400 hours 17 February 1945

A. STATISTICS

	(b) <u>Total</u> <u>Sorties</u>	<u>Effective</u> <u>Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Claims</u>	<u>Losses</u>				<u>NYR</u>
					<u>E/A</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>OT</u>	<u>Tot.</u>	
Heavy Bomber Atks.	895	331	811.8	0-0-0	0	1	4	5	0
Fighter Escort (a)	167	151	0	0-0-0	0	0	1	1	2
Fighter Sweeps	0	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Fighter Bombing	0	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Photo Recon.	9	9	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Weather Recon.	21	21	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	1
Air/Sea Rescue	4	4	0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Operations	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0-0-0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	1107	517	811.8	0-0-0	0	1	5	6	3

(a) Groups based on Continent did not operate.

(b) According to USSTAF Regulations 80-5B, 20 January 1945, (1) "A 'sortie' is an aircraft airborne on a mission against the enemy (synonymous with terms: aircraft dispatched, aircraft airborne and aircraft taking off, previously used)"; (2) "An 'effective sortie' is a sortie which carries out the purpose of the mission". This applies to fighters and bombers. (See said regulations for further explanations.) In accordance with the above the terms "dispatched" and "attacking", formerly used, have been eliminated.

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

895 a/c (607 B-17s, 288 B-24s) from three Air Divisions sortied in three forces against synthetic oil plants in Germany. Due to adverse cloud conditions causing difficulties in assembly and a forecast of adverse base conditions upon return, the 1st and 2nd Air Divisions were recalled. The 3rd Air Division, having had no difficulties in assembly, continued in nine group formations (346 B-17s) against Frankfurt N/Y and Frankfurt/Hederheim VDM Casting Plant, targets of the alternate plan. 331 a/c dropped 811.8 tons

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GP on Frankfurt M/Y and several T/Os at 1153-1308 hours from 22,000-25,500 feet. Bombing on H2X with some visual assists. Leaflets dropped on Frankfurt and Hanau. Weather: 8/10-10/10 enroute; 5/10-8/10 over Frankfurt with tops at 6000 feet. Flak: meager to moderate, accurate. Battle Damage: 92 minor, 14 major, 1 Cat. "E". E/A Opposition: nil. Three Me-262s sighted - one in the Frankfurt area and two NE of Hanau; one Me-410 sighted SE of Coblenz. Claims: nil. Losses: 3 B-17s (1 to AA, 1 ditched, 1 to unknown causes) and 2 B-24s of the 2nd Air Division (1 ditched, 1 to unknown causes).

Details of attack as follows:

<u>Assigned Targets</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Effective Sorties</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Results</u>
Frankfurt M/Y ) Frankfurt/Hederheim ) VDM Casting Plant )	346	260 Not Attacked	641.6	Unobserved
<u>Other Targets</u>				
Geissen M/Y		45	109.1	Poor
Aschaffenburg		12	29.9	Fair-Good
Hanau		10	22.4	Fair
T/O's		4	8.8	Unobserved
Totals	346	331	811.8	

2. Fighter Escort

Three groups (167 P-51s) sortied in support of heavy bombers. Up 1009-1020 hours, down 1500-1520 hours. 151 effective sorties. E/A Opposition: nil. One u/i jet observed in the distance NE of Coblenz. Claims: nil. Losses: 1 a/c (unknown cause); 1 Cat. "E". MR: 2 a/c (believed safe on Continent). All groups strafed with ground claims as follows:

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Locomotives	22	1
Goods Wagons	10	137
Motor Transports	7	1
Oil Cars	5	0
Factory	0	1
Tractor	1	0
Observation Tower	0	1
Observation Balloon	1	0

3. Fighter Sweeps

Nil. Groups based on Continent did not operate.

4. Fighter Bombing

Nil

SECRET5. Photo Reconnaissance

9 a/c (5 F-5s, 3 P-51s and 1 Spitfire) sortied as follows:

- 3 a/c on D/A photos in Western and Northwestern Germany.
- 2 a/c on mapping missions over Northwest Germany.
- 1 a/c on mapping mission in Eastern Germany.
- 3 a/c as escort for PRU a/c.

all a/c effective; no losses.

## ADDENDUM TO INTOPS FOR 16 FEBRUARY:

Report received 2230 hours 17 February.

2 F-5s sortied on mapping missions over Southern Germany. Both effective; no losses.

4 P-51s as escort for PRU a/c. 3 effective sorties; no losses.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

21 a/c (3 B-17s, 6 Mosquitoes and 12 P-51s) sortied as follows:

- 1 B-17 completed routine weather flight over sea NW of Lands End.
- 1 B-17 completed a routine flight from the Azores.
- 1 B-17 completed a routine flight to the Azores.
- 6 Mosquitoes completed special weather reconnaissance over the U.K., Holland, Germany, Czechoslovakia, France and Belgium.
- 12 P-51s as weather scouts for bomber forces.

All effective; no losses.

7. Air/Sea Rescue

4 P-47s on search and patrol. All effective; no losses.

8. Special Operations

11 a/c (6 B-24s, 4 P-51s and 1 Mosquito) sortied as follows:

- 6 B-24s to form VHF screen, jamming from 0707-1000 hours. All effective.
- 4 P-51s as relay a/c. All effective.
- 1 Mosquito on a special operation was recalled before completing mission.

No losses.

C. INTELLIGENCE1. Enemy Air Opposition

Although a small number of jet a/c were airborne, weather conditions were such that it would probably have been difficult for s/e e/a to take off. Neither the fighters nor the bombers experienced any attacks. The bombers sighted 3 Me-262s and 1 Me-410 in the Frankfurt area and one fighter group sighted one u/i jet in the distance near Coblenz on withdrawal. It is probable that these a/c were on reconnaissance.

SECRET2. Flak

Frankfurt - meager to moderate, accurate, tracking and barrage.  
 Giessen - moderate, accurate, tracking.  
 Coblenz - meager, inaccurate, tracking.

3. Observations

Hana M/Y - about 100 freight cars in it.  
 Friedburg M/Y (5018N-0846E) - filled with rolling stock.  
 Moderate rail and road traffic immediately north and northeast of Frankfurt moving north and northeast.  
 A large number of barges reported on Rhine River at 5008N-0745E at 1231 hours.

4. Damage to Enemy InstallationsFrankfurt Marshalling Yard - Unobserved Results

Bombing by 21 squadrons carrying 500 and 250 lb. GP bombs. 10/10 cloud covered photos in the early part of the attack and part cloud covered in the latter part make interpretation difficult. 2 patterns are seen in the built-up part of the town of Offenbach, 3-1/2 miles east-southeast of the MPI. 5 squadron patterns are seen in the built-up area of Fechenheim, 3-7/10 miles east of the MPI., 2 of these patterns lying across the through line to the marshalling yard. 1 pattern is seen in the outskirts of the small village of Rumpenheim, 5 miles east of the MPI. The balance of the patterns are not seen but rough tracks plotted for five squadrons indicate they crossed the built-up area of Frankfurt and some disturbance visible through the clouds indicate bombs probably fell in the eastern part of the city.

Giessen Marshalling Yard - Poor Results

Bombing by 3 and part of another squadron carrying 500 and 250 lb. GP bombs. Of the squadrons bombing, only one came within a mile of the MPI. No bombs fell in the marshalling yards, but some damage was probably caused in the residential areas.

Hana - Fair Results

Hana Marshalling Yard was bombed by one squadron and part of another carrying 250 lb. GP bombs. One pattern was seen on the yard with possibly a third of the bombs inside the target area.

Aschaffenburg - Fair to Good Results

Scattered pattern of bursts, 1/2 to 1/3 of which fell in the built-up area of town, one direct and several near hits on the road bridge leading into the town across the river.

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

## 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
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	BECHTEL	REC	--			44-40273	273	T	J4	--	HOWLING BANSHEE	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	BLUM	REC	--	BRECKENRIDGE		42-50516	516	V	J3	--	STARDUST	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	BOWERS	REC	--	WILLIAMSON		44-48837	837	L	J3	--	UNKNOWN 041	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	BROWN, R	REC	--			42-50449	449	W	J4	--	HEAVENLY HIDEAWAY	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	CRAVEN	REC	--			42-51110	110	P	7V	--	TOP O' THE MARK	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	DUKE	REC	--			44-10491	491	I	Z5	--	THE IRON DUKE	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	EISERT	REC	--			44-10602	602	E	J4	--	TEN GUN DOTTIE	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	FLETCHER	REC	--			42-51199	199	A	Z5	--	UNKNOWN 023	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	FLOYD	REC	--	BLACK		42-50504	504	L	7V	--	UNKNOWN 019	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	HADDEN	REC	--			44-40277	277	P	J4	--	MISS USED	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	HATHORN	REC	--	SIMES		42-51743	743	F	J3	--	UNKNOWN 006	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	HESS	REC	--			42-95108	108	B	Z5	--	ENVY OF 'EM ALL II	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	HODGES	REC	--			44-40298	298	E	Z5	--	THE SHACK	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	HUNT	REC	--			42-95018	018	J	Z5	--	OLD DOC'S YACHT	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	JOSEPHSON	REC	--			42-51206	206	S	7V	--	THE PIED PIPER	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	LaJEUNESSE	REC	--			44-40285	285	H	J4	--	TABLE STUFF	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	LEHR	REC	--			42-51215	215	T	7V	--	UNKNOWN 024	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	McCORMICK	REC	--			44-40287	287	J	J4	--	BACHELOR'S BEDLAM	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	McCOY	REC	--			44-40134	134	R	J4	--	UNKNOWN 039	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	O'REGAN	REC	--			42-51270	270	A	7V	--	MY BUNNIE II	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	PERRY	REC	--			42-100425	425	O	7V	--	THE BIRD	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	POLLIARD	REC	--			42-50499	499	U	J3	--	COOKIE/OPEN POST	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	RHOADES	REC	--			41-29305	305	N	Z5	--	I'LL BE BACK/HYPOCHONDRIAC	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	SIEVERTSON	REC	--			42-51514	514	B	7V	--	BIG CHIEF LIL' BEAVER	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	SKIDMORE	REC	--			42-95120	120	M	Z5	--	HOOKEM COW / BETTY	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	SZARKO	REC	--			42-50502	502	E	7V	--	LARRUPIN' LINDA	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	TARPLEY	REC	--			42-110059	059	T	Z5	--	UNKNOWN 056	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	WARRELL	REC	--			44-40118	118	S	J4	--	WE'LL GET BY	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER
17-Feb-45	ASCHAFFENBURG M/Y	WILBURN	REC	--			41-28980	980	V	J4	--	UNKNOWN 009	RECALL - 5220N 0247E WEATHER