



# Headquarters U.S. VIII Fighter Command 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force U.S.A.A.F.

## Narratives of Operations

1942-45

The Narratives of Operations of Headquarters U.S. VIII Fighter Command, of the Eighth Air Force, U.S.A.A.F., were one of the many typed reports issued in the wake of bomber-support and fighter missions, flown by the Command from bases in Great Britain, over the period 1943 to 1945. Other typed reports concerning the missions of the Eighth Air Force included Daily Intelligence Operations Summaries, Reports on Operations, and Digests issued by the Headquarters and its subsidiary Commands, Combat Wings, and Groups.

The Narratives of Headquarters U.S. VIII Fighter Command were swiftly issued by the General-Commanding following an operation to a wide distribution of parties, ranging from government, diplomatic and military. The security level was not high, so the Narratives came under the *Confidential, Destroy or File* listing. They were therefore reports fresh from the operations, of interest, but read with the proviso that subsequent reports would corrected or amended. They were therefore deemed not to be employed for records purposes. In this series of Narratives issued on the web, the Editor has corrected and amended the reported Pilot Casualties and Combat Claims of the Narratives with sources from published lists. The Pilot Casualties are drawn from data provided by the eminent historian and author, Roger Freeman. The Combat Claims, which the Narratives list are often inaccurate, so they are corrected with data drawn from many sources, including the works of Kent D. Miller. The Narratives themselves can be perused in various organizations, the Editor consulting the fascinating Missions Folders of the Eighth Air Force held by the Public Records Office, at Kew, London, under the Air 40 Files, for these purposes. To his regret he notes that the first of the series, from March to June 1943, are missing. Also, for some unaccountable reason, the Headquarters state that no Narratives were issued over the crucial period 6<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> June 1944. Hopefully, they make interesting reading. The Glossary of Terms are issued at the end of this document.

### Headquarters U.S. VIII Fighter Command Narratives of Operations Intelligence Summary # 190

U.S. VIII FC F.O. 346 & 347 - 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force F.O. 669 & 670  
VIII FC F.O. 323 - 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force F.O. 618

**22 May 1944**

~~Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups~~ **Part I: Heavy-Bomber Attacks on Crossbow Target**  
~~Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups~~ **Part II: Heavy-Bomber Attack on KIEL**  
~~Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups~~ **Part II: Fighter-Bomber Attacks on Liège & Hasselt Bridges**

#### **Part I**

Statistics of U.S. Fighter Groups:

<b>Fighter-Support Tasks:</b>	<b>Fighter-Support</b>
VIII FC Missions by 3 Groups:	3
P-51 Fighter Sorties: -	133
P-51 Mustangs Lost: -	0
P-51 Cat.E or damaged Cat.B: -	0
Personnel Casualties MiA: -	0
Combat Claims (Air): -	0-0-0
Combat Claims (Ground): -	0-0-0
Enemy Aircraft Seen (air): -	0
Bombers seen Down: -	0

#### **1. Summary of Fighter-Escort**

96 B-24s of 2<sup>nd</sup> BD: Siracourt 'Noball' military installation The 359<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group made landfall-in Cayeux at 10.51 hours. Vectored to Les Andelys, to Compiègne, around Paris, to Dreux, thence to Rouen and Fécamp. Landfall-out Fécamp at 12.40 hours. The


361<sup>st</sup> Fighter Group made landfall-in Dunkirk at 10.55 ~~hrs-hours~~, proceeded to Valenciennes. Vectored to area between St. Quentin and Lille. Then rendezvoused with B-24s to the west of Lille at 11.45 hours. Landfall-out with bombers at Nieuport at 12.05 hours. The 339<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group rendezvoused in mid-Channel at 11.09 ~~hrs-hours~~, proceeded through the target back to the English coast. Enemy Opposition: nil. Flak: nil. Observations: nil. Ground Strafing: nil.

Points of Interest: nil.

## 2. Bomber Report


Two Combat-Wings (96 B-24s) were dispatched to attack St. Pol-Siracourt, a military installation in the Pas-de-Calais area. Ninety-four (94) B-24s dropped 336.5 tons G.P. bombs on the assigned target with the aid of P.F.F. equipment. Bombing results were unobserved. Flak was meagre and inaccurate. No bombers were lost.

### a. Type 16 G.C.I. Area-Support

 VIII FC 359<sup>th</sup> FG 47 P-51 Mustang 10.04-13.49 F.O. 346 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty Les Andelys-Paris


(A) 359<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Swanson leading (B) 47 P-51s, up 10.04 down 13.49 hours (C) 3 abortive sorties (D) Field order # 346 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Cayeux-sur-Mer at 10.51 ~~hrs-hours~~, at 20,000 feet. A few minutes later *Snackbar* began vectoring via Les Andelys to Compiègne, around Paris, to Dreux, to Rouen and finally to Fécamp, where the re-call was given and we made landfall-out at Fécamp at 12.40 ~~hrs-hours~~, 17,000 feet. No enemy aircraft or bombers seen.

### b. Type 16 G.C.I. Area & Withdrawal-Support

 VIII FC 361<sup>st</sup> FG 44 P-51 Mustang 10.21-12.49 F.O. 346 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty St. Quentin-Lille

(A) 361<sup>st</sup> Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Kruzel leading (B) 44 P-51s, up 10.21 down 12.49 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 346 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Dunkirk at 10.55 ~~hrs-hours~~, at 23,000 feet, and arrived near Valenciennes at 11.09 hours. *Ginfizz* vectored the Group to area between St. Quentin and Lille, and as no enemy aircraft were reported or seen, *Ginfizz* directed Group to provide withdrawal-support to third force of B-24s. Rendezvoused with last four squadrons. B-24 were in the vicinity west of Lille, at approximately 11.45 ~~hrs-hours~~, and we crossed-out with them between 11.50 and 12.05~~hrs-~~, over Nieuport at 22,000 feet.

### c. Close-Escort

 VIII FC 339<sup>th</sup> FG 48 P-51 Mustang 10.25-12.45 F.O. 346 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty Pas-de-Calais

(A) 339<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Major Scruggs leading (B) 48 P-51s, up 10.25 down 12.45 hours (C) 1 abortive sortie (D) Field Order # 346 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Berck-sur-Mer at 11.16 ~~hrs-hours~~, at 25,000 feet. Rendezvoused with bombers of 2<sup>nd</sup> Bomb. Division in mid-Channel at 11.09 ~~hrs-hours~~, at 23,000 feet. Escorted around target on-course until reaching Orfordness. Landfall-out Dunkirk at 11.50 ~~hrs-hours~~, at 23,000 feet. Flak, heavy, meagre and in-accurate over target. R/T normal.

## Headquarters U.S. VIII Fighter Command

### Narratives of Operations

Intelligence Summary # 190

U.S. VIII FC F.O. 346 & 347 - 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force F.O. 669 & 670

VIII FC F.O. 323 - 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force F.O. 618

**22 May 1944**

~~Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups~~ **Part I: Heavy-Bomber Attacks on Crossbow Target**

~~Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups~~ **Part II: Heavy-Bomber Attack on KIEL**

~~Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups~~ **Part II: Fighter-Bomber Attacks on Liège & Hasselt Bridges**

## Part II

Statistics of U.S. Fighter Groups-

### Fighter-Support Tasks: Fighter-Support

VIII FC Missions by 9 Groups: 9

P-47 Fighter Sorties: - 85

P-38 Fighter Sorties: - 126

P-51 Fighter Sorties: - 167

Total: - 378

P-47 Thunderbolt Lost: - 3

P-38 Lightning Lost: - 3

P-51 Mustang Lost: - 1

P-51 Mustangs Lost: - 7

P-47 Cat.E or damaged Cat.B: -	1
P-38 Cat.E or damaged Cat.B: -	1
P-51 Cat.E or damaged Cat.B: -	0
Personnel Casualties MiA: -	6
Combat Claims (Air): -	22-4-8
Combat Claims (Ground): -	0-0-0
Enemy Aircraft Seen (air): -	200±
Bombers seen Down: -	5

Miscellaneous Ground-Targets: 16 locos damaged, 8 of which were claimed by pilots as destroyed), 16 barges, 1 rail-road station, 1 Jeep & trailer damaged.

## 1. Summary of Fighter-Escort

The 20<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group rendezvoused with bombers at 12.30 ~~hrs-hours~~, made landfall-in west of Bredstedt at 12.40 ~~hrs-hours~~, through to the target, out Meldorf at 13.21 ~~hrs-hours~~ with first box of bombers. Returned and escorted second box out at 13.33 hours. 364<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group rendezvoused at 12.05 ~~hrs-hours~~, 50 miles north of Ameland Island. Escorted middle three Combat-Wings to 65 miles west of Husum at 13.57 hours. 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group rendezvoused at 54° 30' North - 08° 10' East (20 miles due east of Amrun Is.) at 12.46 ~~hrs-hours~~, with two Combat-Wings of B-17s. Escorted through target to north of Neumünster. One squadrons remaining with bombers to 54° 25' North - 07° 20' East (80 miles north of Schiermonnikoog Is.) at 14.10 hours. 355<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group rendezvoused over North Sea at 12.10 ~~hrs-hours~~, making landfall-in Bredstedt at 12.40 ~~hrs-hours~~, through the target, and landfall-out St. Peter's Ording at 13.40 hours. 357<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group rendezvoused north-west of Heligoland at 12.40 ~~hrs-hours~~, made landfall-in Amrun Island at 12.56 ~~hrs-hours~~, through target and landfall-out Treschen at 13.45 hours. Left bombers at 14.10 hours. 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group made landfall-in Alkmaar, 11.43 hours. Swept Bremen-Hamburg area. Rendezvoused with the First and Second Air Task Forces when in the vicinity of Kiel at 13.00 hours. Two squadrons escorted the bombers to the west of Heide at 13.40 hours. One squadron swept to south of Lübeck area to engage enemy aircraft ~~4-feet~~. 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group swept Bremen and Hannover, and the Paderborn-Einbech-Brunswick areas. The 356<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group swept Dümmer Lake-Steinhuder Lake and the Bremen-Hannover areas. 352<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group swept Hannover-Brunswick-Hamburg-Bremen-Osnabrück areas until 11.15 hours. The 361<sup>st</sup> 'B' 'B' Fighter Group, on A.S.R. patrol, four aircraft rendezvoused with four B-17s of 3<sup>rd</sup> Bomb. Division at 11.30 ~~hrs-hours~~, off Cromer. Escorted to assigned area. Withdrawal at 13.30 hours. The 359<sup>th</sup> 'B' 'B' Fighter Group, on A.S.R. patrol, reached Cromer at 11.22 ~~hrs-hours~~, but bombers could not be seen or contacted. Found bombers at 13.15 ~~hrs-hours~~, escorted till 13.45 hours.

Enemy Opposition: The 355<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group encountered 40-50 single-engined enemy fighters south-west of Rendsburg, between 20,000 and 28,000 feet, at 13.00 hours. At the same time 15 Me 109s, flying at 32,000 to 38,000 feet, were seen. Engaged with claims of 0-1-1. The 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, 336<sup>th</sup> Squadron, engaged 10 Me 109s for claims of 2-1-0. One section of 334<sup>th</sup> Squadron sighted 30+ FW 190s north of Hamburg. Another section attacked three Me 109s for the loss of one P-51. The 357<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group observed 20 Me 109s, 15 miles south of target. These dived from altitude to the deck without attacking bombers. The 20<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group was *bounced* by seven FW 190s when north-west of the target, resulting in claims of 1-0-0 for the loss of a P-38. Fifty-plus Me 109s were seen south of target. The 356<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group saw one Me 110 in the Bremen area at 12.35 ~~hrs-hours~~, but lost it in clouds. The 364<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group engaged 100-plus FW 190s and Me 109s in the Kiel area, resulting in claims of 4-1-3 for the loss of two P-38s. The 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group engaged 20 FW 190s at 13.15 ~~hrs-hours~~ in the vicinity of Neumünster with claims of 3-0-2 resulting. No loss. The 20<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group also took part in this combat. The 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group engaged approximately 50 enemy fighters when east of Bremen, over Höperhöfen airdrome. Claims 12-1-2 for loss of two P-47s. One P-47 later ditched in Channel, pilot rescued by A.S.R. Observations: five freighters anchored in Ijmuiden harbour. Fifteen to 20 large boats, some destroyers, among the Frisian Islands, heading north. FW 190s in the vicinity of Neumünster were painted a soft-blue, blending with the sky. Twelve cargo-ships took evasive action in harbour during bomb-run. Bomb results appeared good. Many fires and explosions. Several Me 109s had pointed-wings like Spitfires. Large airdrome east of Hamburg with approximately 10 FW 200s on runways. Rockets fired at bombers at Bredstedt. Six-ship convoy, including escort-vessel of 10,000 tons (cruiser lines) sighted at 54° 50' North - 10° 10' East, heading north-west at 13.15 hours. Smoke to 10,000 feet as the result of bombing. Fifteen to ten ships, believed motor-vessels, seen headed north-west near Scharnhorn Island. Bombing excellent. Destroyer seen in Kiel harbour. One large and 10 small motor-vessels sighted near Wangerooge Island. Four large camouflaged hangars on Höperhöfen airdrome. Heavy barge-traffic east and west of Ems-Weser Canal. Flak: Heavy. intense. accurate at Kiel. Heavy-Flak from Frisian Islands. Moderate and accurate at Kiel. Ground Strafing: Locomotive claims are 8-0-8. Sixteen barges damaged east of Bremen. One rail-road station damaged. One Jeep and trailer damaged.

### Points of Interest:


- (1) Evidence is that the Luftwaffe attempted the largest concentration ever in this area. This was un-successful because two separate groups of 50 enemy fighters each were intercepted before arriving at the probable concentration-point (Kiel) by our widely sweeping Fighter Groups. 100 additional enemy fighters were sighted over Kiel.
- (2) Enemy were distinctly un-aggressive in the continuous presence of our large fighter-escort and bombers in good close-formation.
- (3) Enemy had usual very high-flying Top-Cover, which was also un-aggressive in spite of the advantage of position.
- (4) Weather was reasonably favourable for enemy operations. All targets east of Longitude 11° East and south of Latitude 54° North could only have been attacked with P.F.F. equipment.

## 2. Bomber Report

Seven Combat-Wings, 342 B-17s including 18 P.F.F. aircraft, were dispatched to attack the city of Kiel. Two hundred and eighty-nine B-17s dropped a total of 289.5 tons G.P. and 333.5 tons of I.B. bombs between 12.50 and 13.05 ~~hrs-hours~~ from 22,000 to 26,000 feet. In addition five B-17s bombed a target-of-opportunity in the Kiel area dropping 12.5 tons G.P. with un-observed results. Results on the Primary-Target were generally fair. In addition, 1,760,000 leaflets were dropped in the Kiel area. Neither wave of the force attacking


Kiel reported any attacks from enemy fighters. Flak at Kiel was reported moderate to intense and accurate. Five bombers were lost, for the A.A., and one to reasons unknown.

a. Close-Escort: Kiel

 VIII FC 20<sup>th</sup> FG 50 P-38 Lightning 11.00-15.30 F.O. 346 1 - 0 - 0 FW 190 1 Cat.E H-BS: Kiel

(A) 20<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Rau leading (B) 50 P-38s, up 11.00 down 15.30 hours (C) 6 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 346 (E) 1 P-38 Cat.E lost to E/A (F) 1 P-38 Cat.E, reason unknown (G) Capt. William K. Coon, 77<sup>th</sup> Squadron, missing (H) Claims 1-0-0 S.E. (air) (I) Rendezvoused with seven Combat-Wings of B-17s, flying in good formation, 12.30, as briefed, at 26,000 feet. Landfall-in west of Bredstedt at 12.40, ~~hrs~~ at 27,000 feet. Target at 12.55, at 25,000 feet. Withdrew at 14.00, when 40 miles due west of German coast at 24,000 feet. Seven FW 190s *bounced* two flights of the Group when 5 miles north-west of the target: the claim scored, and the probable loss incurred in this encounter. Fifty-plus single-engined aircraft, mostly Me 109s, seen south of the target at 35,000 feet. Several of these made diving-passes at bombers. Group Leader reports other Fighter Groups escorting these Task Forces in the proper positions on-schedule. Two bombers seen to explode in Target-Area, no chutes. One bomber down near Meldorf, nine chutes. Bombing results excellent. Destroyer seen in Kiel harbour. One large and 10 small motor-vessels sighted near Wangerooge Island. R/T good.

—	Cat.E 22.05.44	Capt. William K. Coon: PoW	20 <sup>th</sup> FG	77 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	P-38 J-15: 43-28270	FW 190 N.W. Kiel
—	Cat.E 22.05.44	Pilot wanting	20 <sup>th</sup> FG	-	P-38 J-10: 42-68117	Mech: base
■	Claim 22.05.44	Maj. R.F. Gustke	20 <sup>th</sup> FG	77 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190 N.W. Kiel


 VIII FC 364<sup>th</sup> FG 43 P-38 Lightning 10.54-15.35 F.O. 346 4 - 1 - 3 FW 190 2 Cat.E H-BS: Kiel

(A) 364<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Major Lowell leading (B) 43 P-38s, up 10.54 down 15.35 hours (C) 3 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 346 (E) 2 P-38s Cat.E lost due E/A: 1 Cat.AC due enemy-action (F) nil (G) Lt. Milton S. Damron and Lt. Howard V. Kirkpatrick, 384<sup>th</sup> squadron, missing (H) Claims 4-1-3 S.E. (air) (I) On route in *Big Friends* reported they were 28 minutes late. Group made rendezvous early when 50 miles north of Ameland Island at 12.05, at 22,000 feet. Escorted middle-three Combat-Wings to enemy coast at Bredstedt at 12.46 ~~hrs-hours~~, 24,000 feet. Landfall-out Blauort at 13.38~~hrs~~, at 20,000 feet. Left bombers 65 miles west of Husum at 13.57, at 20,000 feet. In the vicinity of the target two large formations of 100-plus FW 190s and Me 109s were engaged in combat resulting in the claims and losses. Enemy fighters *bounced* us from above, evasive action taken by P-38s by turning inside the enemy aircraft. ~~ft~~. Believed this Group kept these two formations of enemy fighters from attacking bombers. B-17 seen to spin-in over target, three chutes observed. Lieutenant Kirkpatrick last seen in the vicinity of Kiel at 18,000 feet, while in a *Lufberry* with left engine on-fire, after having been hit by an enemy fighter. Lieutenant Damron last seen going into a dive from 10,000 feet chasing a FW 190. Moderate accurate Flak encountered, over target. Other P-38s and P-51s seen in area. Fifteen to 10 large ships, some destroyers, observed among Friesian Islands, heading north.

—	Cat.E 22.05.44	2/Lt. Milton S. Damron: PoW	364 <sup>th</sup> FG	384 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	P-38 J-10: 42-68125	FW 190 ↓ Kiel
—	Cat.E 22.05.44	1/Lt. Howard V. Kirkpatrick "Y"	364 <sup>th</sup> FG	384 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	P-38 J-15: 43-28470 5Y-M	Cmbt: Kiel

[Accredited Claims: Miller List credits 364<sup>th</sup> FG with 4-0-4 air: Ed.]

■	Claim 22.05.44	Capt. S.J. Wicker	364 <sup>th</sup> FG	383 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	FW 190 S.W. Kiel
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. J.B. MacDermott	364 <sup>th</sup> FG	383 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190 Kiel
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. J.B. MacDermott	364 <sup>th</sup> FG	383 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190 Kiel
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. K.F. Nicholson	364 <sup>th</sup> FG	383 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190 S.E. Kiel
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. N.F. Bettin	364 <sup>th</sup> FG	383 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190 S.W. Kiel
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. V.L. Kercher	364 <sup>th</sup> FG	384 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190 S.W. Kiel
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. F.C. McClanahan	364 <sup>th</sup> FG	385 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - ½	FW 190 Neumünster
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. H.H. Stubblefield	364 <sup>th</sup> FG	385 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - ½	FW 190 Neumünster

 VIII FC 55<sup>th</sup> FG 46 P-38 Lightning 11.18-15.20 F.O. 346 3 - 0 - 2 FW 190 No casualty H-BS: Kiel


(A) 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Major Giller leading (B) 46 P-38s, up 11.18 down 15.20 hours (C) 4 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 346 (E) thru (G) nil (H) Claims 3-0-2 (air) (I) On-course to rendezvous at 54° 30' North - 08° 10' East, at 12.46, at 27,000 feet, with two Combat-Wings of B-17s with square-markings, and made landfall-in near Bredstedt at 13.00 at 26,000 feet. Escorted bombers through target to north of Neumünster where *Hellcat* and *Acorn* squadrons broke-off to engage three *gaggles* totalling 20 FW 190s, climbing up from the vicinity of Neumünster at 13.15 hours. Resulting in the claims. *Tudor* Squadron remained with bombers making landfall-out near Friederickskoog at 13.20, ~~hrs~~, at 26,000 feet, and breaking-escort near 54° 25' North - 07° 20' East, at 14.10 at 26,000 feet. After combat, other two squadrons made landfall-out at the mouth of Elbe River at 13.45 ~~hrs-hours~~, from 15,000 to 26,000 feet. Combat ranged down to 8,000 feet, with 20<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group joining in. Most of the FW 190s were painted soft-blue blending with the sky. 12 Cargo ships seen taking evasive action in harbour during the bomb-run. Two B-17s seen spinning down in Target-Area, one chute observed. Bomb results appeared good with many fires and explosions.

[Accredited Claims: Miller List credits 55<sup>th</sup> FG with 3-0-0: Ed.]

■	Claim 22.05.44	Maj. J.H. Hancock	55 <sup>th</sup> FG	38 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190 S.W. Kiel
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. C.W. Des Voignes	55 <sup>th</sup> FG	38 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190 S.W. Neumünster
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. M.E. Blanchard	55 <sup>th</sup> FG	338 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190 Neumünster


■ Claim 22.05.44	Lt. Jaklick	55 <sup>th</sup> FG	38 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 2	FW 190	Not admitted
------------------	-------------	---------------------	-----------------------	-----------	--------	--------------

b. High-Cover: Kiel

 VIII FC	355 <sup>th</sup> FG	46 P-51 Mustang	10.53-15.21	F.O. 346	0 - 1 - 1	Me 109G	No casualty	H-BS: Kiel
---	----------------------	-----------------	-------------	----------	-----------	---------	-------------	------------


(A) 355<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Dix leading (B) 46 P-51s, up 10.53 down 15.21 hours (C) 6 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 346 (E) thru (G) nil (H) Claims 0-1-1 (air) (I) Rendezvoused with bombers over North Sea at 12.10 ~~hrs~~ hours, with three Combat-Wings of 1<sup>st</sup> Division west of assigned Rendezvous Point, at 27,000 feet, the bombers at 22,000 to 23,000 feet and in good formation. Landfall-in Bredstedt at 12.40 ~~hrs~~ at 28,000 feet. Arrived target at 12.53 hours. Landfall-out St. Peter's Ording at 13.40, at 27,000 feet. Broke-escort over the sea at 13.53, at 22,000 feet. At 13.00 ~~hrs~~ hours, a gaggle of 40-50 single-engined enemy fighters see south-west of Rendsburg flying north-east to intercept the bombers. The enemy aircraft climbed from 20,000 to 28,000 feet. At the same time, 15 Me 109s seen flying from 32,000 to 38,000 feet. Resulting in the claims listed. Other squadron chased but could not catch them. The enemy aircraft did not attempt to *bounce*, but climbed when pursued. Three FW 190s seen going down smoking after attack by P-38s. One P-38 exploded in Target-Area. Two bombers seen going down near Neumünster, no chutes seen. P-38s provided good close-escort. Red and orange-nosed P-51s seen north of Hamburg, free-lancing at 13.10 hours. P-47 (56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group) picked-up at Vlieland, escorted 40 miles short of English coast. Heavy, intense, accurate Flak at Kiel. Heavy-Flak from Trischen Island. Airdrome on edge of island. Several Me 109s had pointed wings like Spits. Large airdrome east of Hamburg with approximately 10 FW 200s on runways. Rockets fired at bombers at landfall-in. Six-ship convoy including escort vessels of over 10,000 tons, cruiser lines, sighted 54° 50' North - 10° 10' East, heading north-west at 13.15 hours. Radio O.K.

■ Claim 22.05.44	Lt.Col. G.J. Dix	355 <sup>th</sup> FG	HQ Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	S.W. Kiel
■ Claim 22.05.44	Lt. J. Guarrant	355 <sup>th</sup> FG	357 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	Kiel

 VIII FC	357 <sup>th</sup> FG	46 P-51 Mustang	11.14-15.20	F.O. 346	0 - 0 - 0	-	No casualty	H-BS: Kiel
---	----------------------	-----------------	-------------	----------	-----------	---	-------------	------------

(A) 357<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Graham leading (B) 46 P-51s, up 11.14 down 15.20 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 346 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Rendezvoused north-west of Heligoland at 12.40, at 29,000 feet. Landfall-in Amrun Island at 12.56 ~~hrs~~ at 29,000 feet. Escorted bombers through target crossing over Trischen at 13.45, at 29,000 feet. Left bombers in the vicinity of Control-Point at 14.10, at 29,000 feet. Approximately 20 Me 109s observed 15 miles south of target diving from altitude to the *deck* without attacking bombers. Two bombers seen to go down in Target-Area. Smoke seen rising at 10,000 feet as result of bombs on target. Fifteen to 20 ships believed motor-vessels seen heading north-west near Scharnhorn Island at 13.55 hours. Eight black-nosed P-38s with silver-tips on pilot's nacelles fired on one of our fighters.

c. Fighter-Sweeps: Kiel


 VIII FC	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	52 P-51 Mustang	10.45-15.15	F.O. 346	1½ - 1 - 0	Me 109G	1 Cat.E	H-BS: Kiel
---	--------------------	-----------------	-------------	----------	------------	---------	---------	------------

(A) 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Colonel Blakeslee leading (B) 52 P-51s, up 10.45 down 15.15 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 346 (E) 1 P-51 Cat.E lost to enemy-action (F) nil (G) Capt. Nicholas Megura, 334<sup>th</sup> Sqn., missing (H) Claims 1½-1-0 (air) (I) Group made landfall-in Alkmaar at 11.47, at 25,000 feet. Swept area Bremen-Hamburg. Rendezvoused with B-17s of First and Second Task Forces at Kiel at 13.00, at 26,000 feet. The 334<sup>th</sup> and 335<sup>th</sup> Squadrons escorted the Second Task Force, and 336<sup>th</sup> Squadron swept south of Lübeck area to engage 10 Me 109s at over 30,000 feet. Escorting squadrons left bombers west of Heide at 13.40 ~~hrs~~ hours, crossed-out enemy coast south of Den Helder at 18,000 feet at 14.21 hours. A section of three aircraft from 334<sup>th</sup> Squadron, separated from the Squadron, sighted 30-plus FW 190s at 18,000 feet flying north from Hamburg. They prevented an attack on bombers west of target but did not score due to mechanical trouble. Captain Megura, with section, attacked three Me 109s south-west of Kiel engaged with P-38s. Captain Megura's P-51 was hit in the melee, and he headed for Sweden, being escorted by section as far as Langeland. When last seen, at 12,000 feet, plane was leaving a long thin stream of glycol. One B-17 seen to blow up over target.

 Cat.E 22.05.44	Capt. Nicholas Megura: Int.	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	334 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	P-51B-10: 43-7158 QP-F	Mech: Sweden
--	-----------------------------	--------------------	------------------------	------------------------	--------------

[Accredited Claims: Miller List credits 4<sup>th</sup> FG with 3-0-0 air: Ed.]

■ Claim 22.05.44	Lt. R.K. Hofer	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	336 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	Hamburg
■ Claim 22.05.44	Capt. N. Megura	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	334 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 109G	S.W. Kiel (shared: P-38)
■ Claim 22.05.44	Capt. W.W. Millikan	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	336 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	N.W. Kiel
■ Claim 22.05.44	Capt. J.H. Bennett	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	334 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	Lübeck




 VIII FC	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	48 P-47 Thunderbolt	10.27-15.14	F.O. 346	12 - 1 - 2	S.E. Fighters 3 Cat.E	H-BS: Kiel
---	---------------------	---------------------	-------------	----------	------------	-----------------------	------------

(A) 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Colonel Zemke leading (B) 48 P-47s, up 10.27 down 15.14 hours (C) 3 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 346 (E) 3 P-47s Cat.E lost (1 pilot rescued by A.S.R.) (F) 1 P-47 Cat.E burned near Leiston; 2 Cat.AC due enemy-action (G) Lt. Heineman and Lt. Nale, 61<sup>st</sup> Squadron, both believed due enemy-action, missing  
 (H) Claims 12-1-12 S.E. Fighters (air): Ground and/or water targets claimed by Group (aircraft excluded). Five locomotives destroyed (shared) by Capt. Eaves, Lts. Davenport, McClure and Edens, of 62<sup>nd</sup> Squadron. One locomotive destroyed (shared) by Capt. Williamson and Lt. Bennett, of 62<sup>nd</sup> Squadron. Two German soldiers killed by Lt. Matthews, of 63<sup>rd</sup> Squadron. Two locomotives damaged (shared) by Capt. Williamson and Lt. Bennett. Three locomotives damaged by Lt. Boswick, all of 62<sup>nd</sup> Squadron. One locomotive damaged by F/O McMinn and one damaged (shared) by Lts. Herin and Lekulich: one gun-position damaged by F/O McMinn, all of 61<sup>st</sup> Squadron. Three barges damaged by Col. Zemke: two barges damaged (shared) by Col. Zemke and Lt. Magel: five barges damaged (shared) by Major Lamb, Lts. Dale, Lawrence and Kariva: two barges damaged by F/O Dale: one barge damaged by F/O Lowman: two barges damaged by




Lt. Matthews: one barge damaged (shared) by Lt. Matthews and Lt. Fiber: one freight-train damaged by Lts. Casteel and Stewart, all of 63<sup>rd</sup> Squadron.

(I) Landfall-in Katwijk-aan-Zee at 11.12, at 16,000 feet. Group proceeded to Dummer Lake where it formed into squadrons, 61<sup>st</sup> Squadron to the Bremen area, 63<sup>rd</sup> Squadron to Hannover, and 62<sup>nd</sup> Squadron to Paderborn-Einbeck-Brunswick. Landfall-out between Katwijk and Ijmuiden at 13.15 to 14.35 ~~hrs-hours~~, from 9,000 to 12,000 feet. Over Höperhöfen airdrome (Rotenburg), east of Bremen, 12 P-47s of the 61<sup>st</sup> Squadron let down to 15,000 feet as the saw 16 enemy fighters taking-off in line-abreast from this grass airdrome. As additional enemy aircraft took-off in pairs, four additional P-47s of the 61<sup>st</sup> Squadron rejoined after strafing and combat took place over the airdrome at 3,000 feet. Three chutes and four fires on the airdrome were seen. The squadron reformed at 10,000 feet and saw an additional 25 FW 190s at 5,000 feet. As the squadron went down to attack the enemy aircraft, the latter were fired upon by their own guns from Höperhöfen airdrome. When the Flak stopped on a flare signal from the enemy fighters, the 61<sup>st</sup> Squadron made a second attack destroying three and forcing others to drop their tanks. Both the missing pilots were lost in this engagement. Other squadrons attacked ground-targets: four large camouflaged hangars on Höperhöfen airdrome, and heavy barge-traffic east and west of the Ems-Weser Canal. Much rail-traffic moving west from Hannover. Much shipping on Rhine River near Goringchen, and at Ijmuiden. No aircraft seen on Hildesheim airdrome.


	Cat.E 22.05.44	2/Lt. Cletus B. Nale	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	P-47D-6: 42-74752	FW 190 Süderwalsede
	Cat.E 22.05.44	2/Lt. Richard M. Heineman	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	P-47D-20: 42-76509	FW 190 Hoperhöfen
	Cat.E 22.05.44	2/Lt. Eugene M. Bennett: ASR	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	62 <sup>nd</sup> Sqn.	P-47D-22: 42-26133	Fuel North Sea
—	Cat.E 22.05.44	Pilot wanting	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	-	P-47D-10: 42-75163	Re-fuelling: Leiston

[Accredited Claims: Miller List credits 56<sup>th</sup> FG with 12-2-3 air: Ed.]

■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt.Col. S.F. Gabreski	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	3 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Hoperhöfen A/D
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt.Col. S.F. Gabreski	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	Hoperhöfen A/D
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. R.M. Heineman	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Hoperhöfen A/D
■	Claim 22.05.44	F/O E.D. McMinn	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Rotenburg
■	Claim 22.05.44	F/O E.D. McMinn	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	Rotenburg
■	Claim 22.05.44	Capt. J.R. Carter	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Hoperhöfen A/D
■	Claim 22.05.44	Capt. J.R. Carter	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	Hoperhöfen A/D
■	Claim 22.05.44	Capt. J.R. Carter	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	Hoperhöfen A/D
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. R.A. Herin	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Hoperhöfen A/D
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. P.Neyland	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Hoperhöfen A/D
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. J.J. Clark	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Hoperhöfen A/D
■	Claim 22.05.44	Lt. J.J. Clark	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	Hoperhöfen A/D
■	Claim 22.05.44	P/O W.A. Lanowski	56 <sup>th</sup> FG	61 <sup>st</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Hoperhöfen A/D


 VIII FC 356<sup>th</sup> FG 47 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.31-14.19 F.O. 346 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Kiel

(A) 356<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Baccus leading (B) 47 P-47s, up 10.31 down 14.19 hours (C) 7 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 346 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Overflakkee Island at 11.11 at 17,000 feet. Arrived Münster area at briefed time and split-up for sweep. The 359<sup>th</sup> Squadron to Dummer Lake, 360<sup>th</sup> Squadron to Steinhuder Lake and Bremen, and the 361<sup>st</sup> Squadron to the Hannover area. The 56<sup>th</sup> Group reported enemy aircraft taking-off from an airdrome in Bremen area. Proceeded to that area and orbited, but could not find the enemy aircraft because of 8/10<sup>th</sup> cloud-cover. Sighted one Me 110 at 12.35, when leaving Bremen area but lost it in clouds. Landfall-out by squadrons at Egmond, Ijmuiden and Schouwen Island. Last squadron out 14.42 hours. Intercom. with 56<sup>th</sup> Group on 'C' Channel was good. Winds not as briefed, about 20 m.p.h. off those stated.


 VIII FC 352<sup>nd</sup> FG 45 P-51 Mustang 12.15-15.40 F.O. 346 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Kiel

(A) 352<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group, Major Lund leading (B) 45 P-47s, up 12.15 down 15.40 hours (C) 6 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 346 (E) thru (G) nil (H) Ground and/or water targets claimed by Group (aircraft excluded). Two locomotives destroyed by Maj. Andrew, Lt. Keller and Lt. Howel (shared). One locomotive damaged (shared) by same three pilots, and one rail-road station damaged also by same three pilots. One jeep and trailer damaged by Lt. Markle, all pilots of 486<sup>th</sup> Squadron (I) Landfall-in Egmond at 13.00 at 22,000 ~~ft-feet~~. Arrived Dummer Lake area at 13.27, 23,000 ~~ft-feet~~. Group swept Hannover-Brunswick-Hamburg-Bremen-Osnabrück areas until 14.15 ~~hrs-hours~~. No enemy aircraft seen. Five freighters observed at anchor in Ijmuiden harbour. Thorough search made in Channel area WJ-2444 for ditched R.A.F. bombers - nothing sighted. R/T good.

#### d. Air-Sea Rescue Patrols

 VIII FC 359<sup>th</sup> 'B' FG 4 P-51 Mustang 11.15-15.00 F.O. 23 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty

(A) 359<sup>th</sup> 'B' Fighter Group, Lieutenant Wetmore leading (B) 4 P-51s, up 11.15 down 15.00 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 23, 67<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (E) thru (H) nil (I) Reached Cromer at 11.22, at 800 feet, but bombers were not in sight and could not be contacted on R/T so proceeded on-course. Bombers still not seen, or contacted, at 11.37 ~~hrs-hours~~, so flew reciprocal till 11.47, when bombers were seen, and reported that they were 28 minutes late. At which time, escort was begun. Reached position at 13.15, and escorted till 13.45, we flying at 1,500 feet, and bombers at 800 feet, when fuel-supply made it necessary to leave. Landfall-in Great Yarmouth at 14.45 hours.

 VIII FC 361<sup>st</sup> 'B' FG 4 P-51 Mustang 11.00-14.21 F.O. 23 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty

(A) 361<sup>st</sup> 'B' Fighter Group, Lieutenant Locke leading (B) 4 P-51s, up 11.00 down 14.21 hours (C) no abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 23, 67<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (E) thru (H) nil (I) Two ships rendezvoused with 4 B-17s, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, letter 'J' on tail, off Cromer at 11.30 hrs-hours at 800 feet. Escorted to assigned area, withdrew at 13.30 hrs-hours. Crossed-in Great Yarmouth at 13.55, at 1,000 feet. Rendezvous rendered difficult through reversal in Field Order. Customary fighter-bomber C/S. Flight complied with Field Order but bombers used 'Vinegrove' call-sign.

**Headquarters U.S. VIII Fighter Command**  
**Narratives of Operations**  
Intelligence Summary # 190

U.S. VIII FC F.O. 346 & 347 - 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force F.O. 669 & 670  
VIII FC F.O. 323 - 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force F.O. 618

**22 May 1944**

~~Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups~~ **Part I: Heavy-Bomber Attacks on Crossbow Target**  
~~Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups~~ **Part II: Heavy-Bomber Attack on KIEL**  
~~Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups~~ **Part II: Fighter-Bomber Attacks on Liège & Hasselt Bridges**

**Part III**

Statistics of U.S. Fighter Groups-

<b>Fighter-Support Tasks:</b>	<b>Fighter-Bombing</b>
VIII FC Missions by 4 Groups:	4
P-47 Fighter Sorties: -	67
P-47 Fighter-Bomber Sorties: -	63
Total: -	130
P-47 Thunderbolt Lost: -	1
P-47 Cat.E or damaged Cat.B: -	3
Personnel Casualties MiA: -	1
Combat Claims (Air): -	0-0-0
Combat Claims (Ground): -	0-0-0
Enemy Aircraft Seen (air): -	0
Bombs Dropped: -	103 x 500-lb. G.P. 38 x 1,000-lb. G.P.


Miscellaneous Ground-Targets: 16 locos damaged, (7 claimed by pilots as destroyed), 3 freight-cars destroyed, 1 Flak-tower damaged, 1 donkey-engine damaged, 1 factory damaged, 7 freight-cars damaged, 1 power-house damaged.

**1. Summary of Fighter-Activity**

78<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group dropped 32 x 500-lb. G.P. bombs on target, Hasselt bridge. Skip-bombing from 25-50 feet with good results. 353<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group dropped 38 x 1,000-lb. G.P. and 2 x 500-lb. G.P. bombs on Targets-of-Opportunity, from zero feet with poor results. Primary not attacked due to combination of weather and high-transmission lines and H/T cables. 356<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group skip-bombed the bridge at Hasselt with 23 x 500-lb. G.P. registering quite a few hits. Glide began at 1,000 feet with 10° angle of dive. Bombs released from zero to 50 feet. 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group dropped 46 x 500-lb. G.P. bombs on Hasselt rail-road bridge. Eight dropped from low-level, remainder from above 1,500 feet, with fair results. Enemy Opposition: nil. Flak: Intense light-Flak at Liège Bridge. Meagre, heavy at Antwerp. Ground Strafing: 78<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group claims 7-0-9 locomotives, 3-0-7 freight-cars, and other miscellaneous targets. Observations: Hasselt marshalling-yard severely damaged by previous bombings. Fifteen motor-vessels with red hulls seen in construction-docks at Antwerp.

Points of Interest: nil.

a. Fighter-Bombing: Hasselt Bridge


 VIII FC 78<sup>th</sup> FG 50 P-47 Thunderbolt 13.57-16.53 F.O. 347 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty F-B: Hasselt

⊖(A) 78<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Major Stump leading (B) 50 P-47s, up 13.57 down 16.53 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 347 (E) nil (F) 1 Cat.A Flak, 1 cat.AC Flak, 2 Cat.B, one Flak, one crashed on landing (G) nil.

(H) Ground and/or water targets claimed by Group (aircraft excluded). One locomotive damaged by Lt. Higginbotham and Lt. Kitley, one locomotive damaged by Lt. Holden, all of 83<sup>rd</sup> Squadron. One locomotive destroyed by Lt. Bernhard: one locomotive damaged (shared) by Lts. Wagner and Scholz: two locomotives damaged by Capt. Wilkinson: three freight-cars damaged (shared) by Lts. Bernhard, Wagner and Scholz: seven freight-cars damaged (shared) by Lts. Bernhard, Wagner, Scholz and Slater: one factory damaged (shared) by Capt. Wilkinson and Lt. Gladstone: one Flak-tower damaged by Capt. Wilkinson, all pilots of 82<sup>nd</sup> Squadron. One locomotive destroyed (shared) by Maj. Stump and Lts. Belliveau, Just and Putnam: one locomotive destroyed (shared) by Capt. Mayo, Lts. Luckey


and McIntosh: one locomotive destroyed and one damaged by Lt. Abel, all pilots of 84<sup>th</sup> Squadron. One donkey-engine destroyed by Lts. Wise and Riccardo: one locomotive destroyed (shared) by Lts. Wise and Riccardo: one locomotive destroyed (shared) by Lts. Wise, Riccardo, Kitley and Higginbotham: one locomotive destroyed (shared) by Lts. Hurst, Holden and Pursell: one locomotive destroyed by Lts. Hurst, Holden, Pursell, White, Oxley, all pilots of 83<sup>rd</sup> Squadron.

(I) Landfall-in Knokke at 14.36, at 16,000 feet. Low cloud prevented dive-bombing, so 84<sup>th</sup> Squadron skip-bombed from 25 to 50 feet, making a west-to-east approach. At least eight bombs believed to have been planted in the approach embankments. Tracks were severed on both approaches, one bomb exploded on bridge-span. All bombs appeared to explode in immediate Target-Area. After bombing Group flew to the Aachen-Mönchen Gladbach area to attack trains and miscellaneous ground-targets. One freight-car blew-up possibly loaded with ammunitions. Crossed-out Knokke at 15.50, at 12,000 feet. Bombing report: (1) 32 x 500-lb. G.P. with M.113 fuzes. (2) Skip-bombed from 25-50 feet (3) Rail-road bridge at Hasselt, primary, VK. 3262. (4) Good. (5) Nil.


 VIII FC 353<sup>rd</sup> FG 37 P-47 Thunderbolt 13.40-16.55 F.O. 347 0 - 0 - 0 - 1 Cat.E<sup>m</sup> F-B: Hasselt

(A) 353<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group, Colonel Duncan leading (B) 37 P-47s, up 13.40 down 16.55 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 347 (E) 1 P-47 Cat.E lost due Flak (F) 1 P-47 Cat.B, pilot safe (G) Lt. Terzian, 351<sup>st</sup> Sqn., missing (H) no claims pending assessment (I) Landfall-in Knokke at 14.31, at 14,000 feet. Group proceeded time and distance to the approximate vicinity of the target, where one or two holes were found. Lead-flight went down and picked out the target. Base of clouds varied from 4,000 to 6,000 feet, restricting maneuverability such that the Group could not be covered by Flak-neutralizing flight. Consequently, the flights able to come down through overcast met intense light-Flak opposition. It is felt that oblique target-photographs would materially aid in missions of this type. Primary-Target unsuccessfully attacked due to high-transmission lines and cables. Lieutenant Terzian seen to belly-land south of Brussels. Landfall-out Knokke at 16.10, at 10,000 feet. Bombing report: (1) 55 x 1,000-lb. G.P. with M.113 fuzes, delayed 8-11 second tail. 2 x 500-lb. G.P. fuzed same. (2) Released from zero feet (3) S.O. (4) Poor. (5) 11 x 1,000-lb. G.P. bombs released in Channel.

— Cat.E 22.05.44 1/Lt. Jack Terzian: PoW 353<sup>rd</sup> FG 351<sup>st</sup> Sqn. P-47D-23: 42-25730 Flak↓Letterhouten

 VIII FC 356<sup>th</sup> FG 24 P-47 Thunderbolt 17.07-20.03 F.O. 347 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty F-B: Hasselt

(A) 356<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Tukey leading (B) 24 P-47s, up 17.07 down 20.03 hours (C) no abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 347 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Overflakkee at 17.50, at 15,000 feet. Strafe-bombing of bridge at Hasselt at 18.40 hours. No Flak. No enemy aircraft ~~at fl.~~ Landfall-out Knokke at 19.26, 11,000 feet. Cover-flight stayed with P.R.U. P-38. The 56<sup>th</sup> Group were bombing as we arrived. R/T good. Three Flak-towers in locations as briefed were observed, but not manned or damaged. If it had been known in advance the type of bridge, and the construction of it, a better job could have been done and different types of bombs would have been dropped. Bridge is steel with heavy concrete bases at either end. Bomb data: (1) 24 x 500-lb. ANM-64 tail-fuze M.113, with 8 to 11 second delay. Two bombs to each P-47. (2) Glide began at 1,000 feet. Angle 10° of dive. Bombs released from zero to 50 feet. (3) All bombs dropped on Primary-Target except one which was dropped on a bridge three miles away. Quite a few hits were registered on Primary.

 VIII FC 56<sup>th</sup> FG 24 P-47 Thunderbolt 16.47-19.30 F.O. 347 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty F-B: Hasselt

(A) 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Colonel Zemke leading (B) 24 P-47s, up 16.47 down 19.30 hours (C) 1 abortive sortie (D) Field Order # 347 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Schouwen at 17.33, at 11,000 to 14,000 feet. Flew to a point south-east of target remaining in the Target-Area between 17.50 and 18.30 hours. Landfall-out Nieuport and Knokke at 18.50 to 19.00, from 8,000 to 15,000 feet. Dropped 46 x 500-lb. G.P. bombs, M-113 tail-fuze with M-16 primer-detonator (15-seconds delay). Eight bombs released at *deck* level. Six dropped from 1,500 feet in a glide, 16 dive-bombed from 10,000 to 6,000 feet. Vertical, 16 dive-bombed from 12,000 to 8,000 feet, at 45 - 47° dive-angle. Results fair, but some bombs failed to explode. Two bombs jettisoned. No results of prior bombing noted. Hasselt marshalling-yard severely damaged by prior bombing. Fifteen motor-vessels with red-hulls seen in construction dock at Antwerp. Meagre heavy-Flak at Antwerp.


Hq. VIII FC Reg. File 25623

The Foregoing is subject to Amendment and should not be used for Record Purposes.

By Command of Major-General KEPNER

Signed: Laurence K. Callahan  
Colonel. G.S.C.  
Asst. C/S, A-2.

Reading the Narratives and their Keys. **Title-Line** is commenced on the left margin by the U.S. VIII or IX Fighter Command Logo. The Narratives including the operations of the U.S. IX Fighter Command from October 1943 when its Groups were subordinated to the Eighth. Paragraph 'A' reads the Fighter Squadron or Group; Paragraph 'B' the Force number, including the abortive sorties, and type of aircraft of the force; Paragraph 'C' times of first-up and last-down in GMT; Paragraph 'D' mission Field Order Number; 'H' tri-numbered Claim and Enemy-Aircraft type or task [destroyed - probably destroyed - damaged]; Paragraph 'E & F' gives short summary of Aircraft Loss Categories; Paragraph 'I' reads Task with Target and/or Area of Operation. The Tasks are coded as follows:

Logo	A	B	C	D	H	E & F	I
 VIII FC	78 <sup>th</sup> FG	48 P-47 Thunderbolt	16.44-18.25	F.O. 81	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	No casualty F-Sw: Pas-de-Calais
Mech:	Mechanical or Engine-Failure						
Wx:	Adverse Weather						



Cmbt:	Air Combat
H-BS	Heavy-Bomber Support
M-BS	Medium-Bomber Support
L-BS	Light-Bomber Support
F-BS	Fighter-Bomber Support
F-Sw	Fighter-Sweep (R.A.F. 11 Group 'Rodeo')
Cat.A	Damaged: repair on site by operating Unit.
Cat.AC	Damaged: repair on site not by operating Unit.
Cat.B	Damaged: repair at Maintenance Unit.
Cat.C	Damaged: repair for Ground Instruction purposes only.
Cat.E	Written-off: salvage impossible.
Cat.E1	Written-off: use of components possible.
Cat.E2	Written-off: salvage of scrap possible
Cat.Em	Written-off: missing on operational flight
ASR	Air-Sea Rescue
CE	Close-Escort
EC	Escort-Cover
HC	High-Cover
EPJ	Emergency Parachute-Jump

ISSUE # 1: Date Tuesday, September 24, 2002.