



Headquarters U.S. VIII Fighter Command Narratives of Operations

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 be 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 6th - 19th 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 No. 154

VIII FC F.O. 292 - VIII Air Force F.O. 553 - IX FC F.O. 128

9 April 1944

~~Statistics — U.S. Fighter Groups~~ **Heavy-Bomber Attacks on Tutow, Warnemünde, Marienburg,
Poznan & Gdynia**

Statistics of U.S. Fighter Groups:

Heavy-Bomber Support Tasks:	Penetration	Target	Withdrawal	Type 16	Total	Accredited
VIII FC Missions by 13 Groups:	3	2	10	-	15	
IX FC Missions by 4 Groups:	0	0	4	-	4	
P-47 Sorties: -	101	-	286	-	387	
P-38 Sorties: -	-	-	119	-	119	
P-51 Sorties: -	-	80	133	-	213	
Total: -	101	80	538	-	719	
P-47 Thunderbolts Lost: -	3	-	1	-	4	
P-38 Lightnings Lost: -	-	-	2	-	2	
P-51 Mustangs Lost: -	-	-	4	-	4	
P-47 Cat. E or damaged Cat. B: -	-	-	-	-	0	
P-38 Cat. E or damaged Cat. B: -	-	-	-	-	0	
P-51 Cat. E or damaged Cat. B: -	-	-	-	-	0	
Personnel Casualties MiA: -	1	-	7	-	8	
Personnel Casualties KiA: -	-	-	2	-	2	
Personnel Casualties WiA: -	-	-	-	-	0	
Personnel Casualties KiFAc: -	-	-	-	-	0	
Personnel Casualties IiFAc: -	1	-	-	-	1	
Combat Claims (Air): -	8-0-5	0-0-0	12-1-1	0-0-0	20-1-6	11-1-8
Combat Claims (Ground): -	0-0-4	0-0-0	15-0-1	0-0-0	15-0-5	19-0-7
Combat Claims (Water): -	4-0-3	0-0-0	00-0-0	0-0-0	04-0-3	
Total:					39-1-14	
Enemy Aircraft Seen: -	125	8	51	-	184*	
U.S. Bombers seen Shot-down: -	-	3	9	-	12*	

*Possible duplication as compiled from individual Group sightings.

Miscellaneous Ground-Targets: 8 locomotives, one house, one machine-gun nest and three soldiers killed, and one oil-tank car. Damaged: 4 locomotives, one high-speed launch, one trawler, 6 houses, one freight-train, one rail-road station, one administration building, 11 factories, 6 Flak-towers, one barn, one rail-road switch-tower, two gun-emplacements, two hangars and three barracks, 10 barges, one E-boat, one airdrome building set afire, and two objects resembling oil-wells.

1. Summary of Fighter Escort

First Task Force (2nd BD, 4 CWs) Target - Tutow

The 56th 'A' Fighter Group escorted from the north of Heligoland Island, from 10.37 hours, to the east of Kiel Bay at 11.15 hours. Group engaged 40 single-engined enemy aircraft in the vicinity of Kappeln, 15 single-engined south of Laaland, 15 Me 109s in the vicinity of Lübeck, and 15 FW 190s in the vicinity of Eckernförde Bay. Five enemy aircraft (4-0-5 in the air) were destroyed, and miscellaneous ground targets strafed, without loss. The 355th Fighter Group escorted from the Warnemünde area, from 12.25 hours, to Lingen at 13.30 hours. No enemy aircraft were seen. The 20th Fighter Group escorted from north of the Müritzer See, from 12.26 hours, to the vicinity of Vechta at 13.00 hours. The escort was uneventful. The 4th Fighter Group from Uelzen, from 12.50 hours, to a point between the Steinhuder, and Dümmer Lakes at 13.20 hours. The Group strafed two unidentified grass airdromes to the south of Osnabrück, and the airdrome at Lingen/Plantlünne. Three enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground, and none were seen in the air. One P-51 lost. The 361st Fighter Group escorted from 40 miles north-east of the Steinhuder Lake, from 12.50 hours, to the vicinity of Lingen. One pilot broke up an attack by three FW 190s on a straggling B-24, damaging one of them. The 78th 'A' Group escorted from north of Hannover, from 13.05 hours, to mid-Channel (North Sea). One flight turned back-in at the enemy coast to bring out some B-17 stragglers, and destroyed one of four single-engined enemy fighters seen. The 362nd Fighter Group, IXth Fighter Command, rendezvoused north of the Dümmer Lake and escorted uneventfully. Saw three single-engined enemy aircraft, but they were too far away to engage. The 352nd Fighter Group escorted from the vicinity of Hoya, from 13.20 hours, to the enemy coast. The Group destroyed one, probably destroyed one of a total of three FW 190s seen in the air. Ground strafing in the vicinity of Wunstorf, and on an airdrome in the vicinity of Vechta, resulted in claims of 11 twin-engined enemy aircraft destroyed plus locomotives and miscellaneous ground targets. Losses of one P-47, and one P-51. The 359th Fighter Group was delayed on take-off for 80 minutes due to heavy rain at base. The Group later searched the Lingen-Hesepe area for stragglers. No enemy aircraft seen, no bombers sighted. Note: gap in escort on penetration of approximately 35 minutes due to weather having delayed the 4th Fighter Group's take-off.

Second Task Force (3rd BD, 3 CWs) Target - Poznan

The 56th 'B' Fighter Group made rendezvous south of Amrum Island, at 10.45 hours, and escorted to 30 miles east of Kappeln at 11.15 hours. Engaged 40 to 50 FW 190s when north-east of Schleswig, and prevented the enemy from reaching the bombers. Other engagements took place in the vicinity of Neumünster, against 30-plus single-engined enemy fighters; then, east of Kiel, when 20 single-engined enemy fighters were engaged. The 363rd Fighter Group, IXth Fighter Command, met three Combat-Wings of B-17s covered by P-51s near Wanderup, at 15.45 hours, and escorted over the North Sea until 16.45 hours. Only four FW 190s seen along the bomber route.

Third Task Force (3rd BD, 2 CWs) Target - Warnemünde

The 357th Fighter Group rendezvoused 20 miles south-west of Rostock at 12.05 hours. Escorted to the south-east of Bremen at 13.00 hours. Only four enemy aircraft seen, which dove into clouds when 'bounced.' The 55th Fighter Group escorted from the Schweriner Lake, from 12.38 hours, and then to the vicinity of the Dümmer Lake at 13.20 hours. Uneventful escort, P-38s, P-51s and R.A.F. Mustangs seen with the bombers at the rendezvous. The 364th Fighter Group met the bombers in the vicinity of Walsrode, at 13.05 hours, and covered to 14.15 hours when in the Zwolle area. Three Me 109s were dispersed in the vicinity of the Dümmer Lake. Two squadrons strafed miscellaneous ground-targets after breaking escort. The 78th 'B' Fighter Group from the north of Steinhuder Lake, from 13.19 hours, leaving the bombers over the Channel at 14.15 hours. Eight FW 190s were followed down to the 'deck,' but they could not be engaged. At 13.17 hours, the 358th Fighter Group, IXth Fighter Command, made rendezvous 15 miles north of Lingen, and maintained escort to the enemy coast. No enemy aircraft seen. The 356th Fighter Group's take-off was delayed from 11.20 to 13.40 hours, by the bad weather. Before landfall-in, the Group met two or more Combat-Wings of B-17s at 14.25 hours. Flew to Quakenbrück area, and then strafed 10 barges and other ground targets.

Fourth Task Force (1st BD, 5 CW) Targets - Marienburg and Gdynia

The 353rd Fighter Group rendezvoused north-west of Heligoland Island, at 10.50 hours, and escorted to the south of Kappeln, at 11.35 hours. No enemy aircraft seen in the air. Ground strafing resulted in one enemy aircraft being damaged on water, one E-boat damaged, one locomotive destroyed and one damaged, one building set on fire on an airdrome in the vicinity of Wanderup. The 354th Fighter Group, IXth Fighter Command, escorted from the north-east of Godser, from 14.52 hours, to the north of Heligoland, at 11.15 hours. Three FW 190s attacked the bombers when north of Rendsburg. Group destroyed all three. Seven FW 190s were destroyed out of a total of 14 which attacked the bombers west of Kiel Bay. No losses.

Points of Interest:


- (1) Practically no opposition on the Withdrawal to the bombers returning south of Hamburg. On Penetration across the Danish Peninsula, the front of the First Task Force was opposed by 125 single-engined enemy fighters. The enemy should have been able to oppose this Task Force much more heavily than he did.
- (2) Bombers did not return from the eastern targets until two hours after the bombing time of the western targets. In spite of this large lapse of time, the returning eastern bombers were lightly opposed. It is probable that at least part of the bombers attacking Posen were entirely unescorted on the Withdrawal and may have had sightings unreported here.
- (3) Enemy pilots were not aggressive.
- (4) The fair weather definitely permitted full-scale enemy activity.

2. Bomber Report

Eighth Air Force dispatched 542 Heavy-Bombers, 292 B-17s and 246 B-24s, to attack FW 190 factories in North and Central Germany, and Poland. Weather over the targets was clear, and bombing was done visually. Enemy fighter opposition was nil to weak against some of the formations, but very aggressive against others. Approximately 150 enemy fighters were seen by the bomber crews. However, in terms of

depth of penetration and coupled with the fact that many of the formations were not assigned full fighter escort, the enemy opposition to this operations was no deterrent. Flak was meagre to moderate. Eighteen B-17s and 13 B-24s were lost, preliminary claims of bomber crews have not yet been evaluated: 402 aircraft dropped 963.0 tons of bombs with generally good results.

a. Penetration-Support 1st ATF 2nd Division: Tutow


 VIII FC 56th 'A' FG 36 P-47 Thunderbolt 09.08-13.57 F.O. 292 5 - 0 - 6 Various No casualty H-BS: Tutow

(A) 56th 'A' Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Schilling leading (B) 36 P-47s, up 09.08 down 13.57 hours (C) 3 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) thru (G) nil (H) Claims 5-0-5 (air) 1-0-1 (ground) (I) Rendezvoused when north of Heligoland Island, at 10.37 hours, at 22,000 feet. Landfall-in Nordstrand Island at 10.42 hours, at 22,000 feet. Escort broken when north-east of Kiel, 11.15 hours, at 22,000 feet. Landfall-out by flights and elements, over St. Peter Heide, at various times and altitudes. Two groups, each of 20 single-engined enemy aircraft, one from the south and one from the north, came towards the bombers in the vicinity of Kappeln, and engagements ensued. Further engagements with 15 single-engined enemy fighters occurred south of Laaland, which came in from the east and attacked the front box of bombers. On route-out, an Ar 196 was destroyed at anchor on a lake to the north-east of Schleswig, and one Junkers W. 34 was damaged taxiing at Schleswig/Jägel airdrome. After breaking-escort, one squadron headed towards Kiel, and engaged 15 Me 109s in the vicinity of Lübeck. In the vicinity of Eckenförde Bay, 15 FW 190s came up from 8 o'clock to the bomber formation, and was attacked by one flight for the above claims. Five minesweepers observed heading towards Heligoland. From the south-east, two convoys, one of about thirty 5,000 to 6,000-ton motor-vessels headed towards Heligoland, and one of about twenty 5,000 to 6,000-ton motor-vessels headed south in the vicinity of Terschelling Island: both with a destroyer escort. One high-speed launch, with 3-inch guns, was damaged north of Wangerooge Island. One locomotive destroyed to the north of Wilhelmshaven, one trawler damaged north of Langeoog Island. Smoke-screen at Kiel, Eckenförde, Wilhelmshaven, Bremerhaven and Hamburg.

[Accredited Claims: Miller List credits 56th FG with 4-0-4 air & 1-0-0 ground: Ed.]


■ Claim 09.04.44	Col. D.C. Schilling	56 th FG	HQ Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	FW 190	N.E. Schleswig
■ Claim 09.04.44	Col. D.C. Schilling	56 th FG	HQ Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	N.E. Schleswig
■ Claim 09.04.44	Col. D.C. Schilling	56 th FG	HQ Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Ju W.34	Schleswig
■ Claim 09.04.44	Capt. R.S. Johnson.	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	N.W. Kiel
■ Claim 09.04.44	Lt. S.D. Hamilton	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	N.W. Kiel
■ Claim 09.04.44	Lt. S.D. Hamilton	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	0 - 0 - 2	FW 190	N.W. Kiel
■ Claim 09.04.44	Lt. W.A. McClure	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 2	FW 190	Lübeck
■ Claim 09.04.44	Capt. C.R. Harrison	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	Lübeck
↓ Claim 09.04.44	Col. D.C. Schilling	56 th FG	HQ Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Ar 196	Schleswig

b. Target-Support 1st ATF 2nd Division: Tutow

 VIII FC 355th FG 43 P-51 Mustang 10.02-15.00 F.O. 292 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Tutow


(A) 355th Fighter Group, Colonel Cummings leading (B) 43 P-51s, up 10.02 down 15.00 hours (C) nil abortive sorties (D) Field Order #292 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Made landfall-in east of Cuxhaven, 11.50 hours, at 21,000 feet. Rendezvoused in the Warnemünde area, 12.25 hours, at 24,000 feet. Escorted to Lingen, 13.30 hours, at 19,000 feet. Made landfall-out Ijmuiden, 13.50 hours, at 19,000 feet. No enemy aircraft seen. Two bombers seen going down in Wismar area: no chutes. Mustangs, P-38s, escorting in the target area; P-47s and R.A.F. came in on the withdrawal. Twelve motor-vessels seen south-east of Heligoland at 11.45 hours. Thin smoke screen in Hamburg area. Radio good. One unidentified plane spun-in, burned east of Quakenbrück, 13.45 hours. Well-constructed He 111 dummies in woods and fields to the south-west of Quakenbrück. Airdrome under construction on Scharnhorn Island.

c. Withdrawal-Support 1st ATF 2nd Division: Tutow

 VIII FC 20th FG 51 P-38 Lightning 10.08-14.42 F.O. 292 0 - 0 - 0 - 1 Cat.E H-BS: Tutow

(A) 20th Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Rau leading (B) 51 P-38s, up 10.08 down 14.42 hours (C) 9 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) one P-38 Cat.E (F) two P-38s Cat.A Flak (G) 1/Lt. Rexford H. Dettre, 428th Squadron, last seen going into undercast just east of the Zuider Zee on way-out (H) nil (I) Made landfall-in Egmond, 11.15 hours, at 18,000 feet. Rendezvoused with four Combat-Wings of B-24s north of the Müritze See, 12.26 hours, at 22,000 feet. Escorted the bombers from the vicinity of Vechta, 13.00 hours, at 18,000 feet. Landfall-out, 13.35 hours, over Bergen-aan-Zee, at 15,000 feet. Group continued beyond the scheduled rendezvous, the bombers having been 12 minutes late. P-51s seen near the rendezvous, P-38s and P-47s on the track out. No enemy aircraft seen. Flak especially noticeable from airdromes along the route. Bomber formation was good. R/T good. Lieutenant Dettre is on loan from 428th Squadron, 474th Fighter Group (IX Fighter Command).

— Cat.E 09.04.44 1/Lt. Rexford H. Dettre: PoW 474th FG 428th Sqn. P-38J-10: 42-67192 Mech: E. Zuider Zee

 VIII FC 4th FG 27 P-51 Mustang 10.50-15.00 F.O. 292 3 - 0 - 0 Various 1 Cat.E H-BS: Tutow

(A) 4th Fighter Group, Colonel Blakeslee leading (B) 27 P-51s, 10.50 down 15.00 hours (C) 4 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) one P-51 Cat.E (F) nil (G) one missing: Capt. David A. van Epps, 334th Squadron (H) Claim 3-0-0 (ground) (I) Planned take-off was delayed due to bad visibility and low ceiling. The mission, Target-Support, was changed to Withdrawal-Support. The Group made landfall-in Alkmaar, 12.00 hours, at 25,000 feet. Made rendezvous with three Combat-Wings of B-24s near Uelzen, 12.50 hours, at 21,000 to 22,000 feet. Leading box was in poor formation, balance fair, escorted by P-38s, P-51s and P-47s. Left the bombers between the Steinhuder and the Dümmer Lakes at 13.20 hours Out south of Ijmuiden, 14.10 hours, at 17,000 feet. The 334th Squadron strafed two grass airdromes to the south of

Osnabrück, saw dummy aircraft and one FW 190. Light-Flak was experienced on both airdromes. Captain Van Epps pulled up to 1,000 feet after the last attack, and was not seen again. The 336th and 335th Squadrons attacked Lingen/Plantlünne airdrome, destroying three aircraft, also seeing dummy He 111s and Me 109s. No Flak at this airdrome. No enemy aircraft seen in the air. Fifteen tanks concealed in a gravel-pit observed in the vicinity of Meppel.

— Cat.E 09.04.44 Capt. David A. Van Epps: PoW 4th FG 334th Sqn. P-51B-5: 43-6941 QP-T Flak: ↓Tutow

[Accredited Claims: Miller List credits 4th FG with 3-0-1 ground: Ed.]

↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. A.H. Markel	4 th FG	334 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Unident:	S. Osnabrück
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Capt. J.R. Happel	4 th FG	335 th Sqn.	- 0 - 0	Ju 88	Lingen-Plantlünne
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Capt. J.R. Happel	4 th FG	335 th Sqn.	- 0 - 0	Ju 88	Lingen-Plantlünne
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. P.W. McKennon	4 th FG	335 th Sqn.	- 0 - 0	Ju 88	Lingen-Plantlünne
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. P.W. McKennon	4 th FG	335 th Sqn.	- 0 - 0	Ju 88	Lingen-Plantlünne
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. J.T. Godfrey	4 th FG	336 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 410	Lingen-Plantlünne
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. J.T. Godfrey	4 th FG	336 th Sqn.	- 0 - 0	Ju 88	Lingen-Plantlünne
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. J.T. Godfrey	4 th FG	336 th Sqn.	- 0 - 0	Ju 88	Lingen-Plantlünne



VIII FC 361st FG 40 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.58-15.01 F.O. 292 0 - 0 - 1 FW 190 No casualty H-BS: Tutow

(A) 361st Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Kruzel leading (B) 40 P-47s, up 10.58 down 15.01 hours (C) 9 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) thru (G) nil (H) Claim 0-0-1 (air): see list above (I) Group was advised by the Controller that the B-24s were 12 minutes late. Made landfall-in Zandvoort, 12.03 hours, at 20,000 feet. Rendezvoused with two Combat-Wings of B-24s when 40 miles N.N.E. of the Steinhuder Lake, 12.50 hours, at 19,000 feet. P-51s, P-38s and P-47s with the bombers. Two Combat-Wings of B-17s were trailing the B-24s. One squadron investigated, and found them well escorted. Close-escort maintained until in the vicinity of Lingen. Landfall-out Ijmuiden, 13.58 hours, at 16,000 feet. One B-24 spun-in and exploded when 8 miles north-west of Nienburg at 13.15: no chutes. At 13.30 hours, when 20 miles north-west of the Dümmer Lake, 'Wabash' Blue Flight investigated twelve chutes at 5,000 feet. While there, Lieutenant Moorhouse became separated from the flight, and broke up an attack by three FW 190s on a straggling B-24, damaging one on the 'deck.' One unidentified white-nosed P-47 was seen to destroy a FW 190 in the same area and time. It was immediately shot down by another FW 190, and the pilot baled-out at 300 feet, the chute opening.

■ Claim 09.04.44 Lt. D.R. Morehouse 361st FG 375th Sqn. 0 - 0 - 1 FW 190 N.W. Dummer Lake



VIII FC 78th 'A' FG 48 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.18-15.21 F.O. 292 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Tutow

(A) 78th 'A' Fighter Group, Colonel Stone leading (B) 48 P-47s, up 11.18 down 15.21 hours (C) nil abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) thru (G) nil (H) Claim 1-0-0 (air) see list above (I) Landfall-in Egmond, 12.20 hours, at 20,000 feet. Rendezvoused north of Hannover, 13.05 hours, escorted bombers to mid-Channel, crossing out Egmond, 14.00 hours, at 10,000 to 18,000 feet. One flight of 84th Squadron turned back-in at the enemy coast to bring out some B-17s stragglers. B-17 seen shot down by two Me 109s when north of the Dümmer Lake: seven chutes seen, and B-24 down in the same area by two FW 190s: nine chutes open. One of these FW 190s was destroyed. Three single-engined enemy aircraft seen on Diepholz airdrome, none on any other airdromes. R/T and fighter-to-bomber intercom. good.

■ Claim 09.04.44 Lt. W.E. May 78th 'A' FG 82nd Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 FW 190 Dummer Lake



IX FC 362nd FG 51 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.47-15.56 F.O. 128 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Tutow


(A) 362nd Fighter Group, IXth Fighter Command, Lieutenant-Colonel Magoffin leading (B) 51 P-47s, up 11.47 down 15.56 hours (C) one abortive sortie (D) Field Order # 128, IXth Fighter Command (E) thru (H) nil (I) Made rendezvous with the B-24s when north of the Dümmer Lake. Bombers were to the north of the briefed course. Escort uneventful. Many friendly fighters. One Me 109 and two FW 190s sighted, but too far away to attack. Eight to ten silver barrage-balloons seen at Quakenbrück at 2,000 feet. One B-17 seen to go down 5 miles west of the Dümmer Lake: no chutes observed. Red and Yellow flight of 379th Squadron, finding no un-escorted bombers, swept area Oldenburg-Nienburg-Emden-Zwolle-Rheine. Five aircraft seen on Rheine airdrome, could have been dummies. Intense, inaccurate, heavy A.A. at Oldenburg airdrome at 14,000 feet. Moderate, accurate, heavy A.A. at Rheine airdrome at 14,000 feet. Intense, accurate, heavy A.A. south of Dümmer Lake at 14,000 feet.



VIII FC 352nd FG 53 P-51/47 Mixed 12.00-15.15 F.O. 292 12 - 1 - 0 Various 2 Cat.E H-BS: Tutow

(A) 352nd Fighter Group, Major Meyer leading (B) 53 P-47s and P-51s mixed: 328th Squadron with 17 P-47s, 486th Squadron with 17 P-51s, and 487th Squadron with 19 P-51s, up 12.00 down 15.15 hours (C) 7 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) 2 Cat.E (F) nil (G) Lt. Yochim, 328th Squadron, and Lt. Williamson, 487th Squadron, R/T relay (H) Claims 11-0-0 (ground), 1-1-0 (air): Ground and/or water targets claimed by Group (aircraft excluded). One locomotive destroyed by Capt. Bryan, one dwelling-house destroyed by Lt. Laing, and one locomotive damaged by Lt. Laing, all of 328th Squadron. Three locomotives destroyed, (shared) by Lts. Harker, Miklajczyk, Brashear, and Meyer: one locomotive destroyed, and freight-train damaged, (shared) by Capt. Andrew, Lts. Colby, Miles, Miklajczyk: one machine-gun nest destroyed, and three German soldiers killed by Lt. Brashear: one locomotive damaged by Lt. Meyer: one rail-road station damaged by Lt. Anderson, all of 486th Squadron. One locomotive destroyed (shared) by Maj. Meyer, Lts. Ross, McIntire, Barnes, Allison, Nutter and O' Nan: one administration-building damaged by Lt. Whisner. (I) Undercast made landfalls undetermined, believed to be in the vicinity of Bergen-aan-Zee, at approximately 12.45 hours, at 23,000 feet. Arrived in the briefed area, Liebenau, at 13.16 hours at 23,000 feet. Made rendezvous with a good formation of two Combat-Wings of B-24s in the vicinity of Hoya at 13.20 hours, at 20,000 feet. Other P-47s and P-38s escorting at the rendezvous. Few stragglers seen, by 328th Squadron escorting to the enemy coast, remaining 5-8 miles behind the last Combat-Wing of bombers on withdrawal. The 486th Squadron went down to the 'deck' and shot-up ground-targets in the vicinity of Wunstorf, at 13.55 hours. The 487th Squadron strafed an airdrome in the vicinity of Vechta at 14.15 hours. White and Red Flights of 328th Squadron 'bounced' three FW 190s attacking a B-24 to the north of Osnabrück, and had combat from 15,000 down to 5,000 feet, at 13.40 hours, with the above results.

Landfall-out by squadrons: the 328th Squadron in the vicinity of Bergen-aan-Zee at 14.16 hours, at 14,000 feet. The 486th and 487th in same area, from 15,000 to 18,000 feet, from 14.25 to 14.31 hours, respectively. No other aircraft were seen in the air, but ten-plus twin-engined seen on the ground, at an airdrome in the vicinity of Vechta. One B-24 was seen going down north of Osnabrück at 13.40 hrs: eight chutes observed. The three FW 190s which were 'bounced' by us had 5-10 feet black streamers on tail. R/T and fighter-to-bomber intercom. good.

—	Cat.E 09.04.44	1/Lt. Ralph Williamson 	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	P-51B-10: 42-106468	↓off Harwich
—	Cat.E 09.04.44	1/Lt. Fred A. Yochim: PoW	352 nd FG	328 th Sqn.	P-47D-5: 42-8434 PE-V	Cmbt: ↓Osnabrück

[Accredited Claims: Miller List credits 352nd FG with 2-1-0 air & 8-0-0 ground: Ed.]

■	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. M.V. Long	352 nd FG	328 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Osnabrück
■	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. F.A. Yochim	352 nd FG	328 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Dummer Lake
■	Claim 09.04.44	Maj. W.O. Jackson	352 nd FG	328 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	Dummer Lake
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. C.J. Luksic	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	3 - 0 - 0	Ju 88	W. Dummer Lake
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. W.T. Whisner	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Ju 88	Vechta
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. R.H. Berkshire	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Ju 88	Vechta
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. E.B. McMahan	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Ju 88	Vechta
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. C.J. Palmer	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Ju 88	Vechta
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Capt. Davis	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Ju 88	Not admitted
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. Whisner	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	He 111	Not admitted



VIII FC 359th FG 48 P-47 Thunderbolt 13.24-16.35 F.O. 292 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Tutow

(A) 359th Fighter Group, Colonel Tacon leading (B) 48 P-47s, up 13.24 down 16.35 hours (C) 4 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Rain at base delayed the take-off for 80 minutes. Made landfall-in south of De Kooy, 14.22 hours, at 21,000 feet. Left the briefed course to hunt for bombers that were reported 25 miles off course, but these were not sighted. Searched the Lingen-Hesepe area for stragglers, and withdrew at 14.55 hours, when west of the Dummer Lake, at 21,000 feet. Landfall-out south of De Kooy, 15.25 hours, at 23,000 feet. No enemy aircraft seen. Four wings of bombers met over the North Sea on our way in. None seen over Europe. Flak intense, estimated in the vicinity of Osnabrück. R/T satisfactory.

d. Penetration-Support 2nd ATF 3rd Division: Poznan



VIII FC 56th B FG 25 P-47 Thunderbolt 09.23-13.30 F.O. 292 4 - 0 - 3 S.E. Fighters 1 Cat.E H-BS: Poznan

(A) 56th 'B' Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Gabreski leading (B) 25 P-47s, up 09.23 down 13.30 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) 1 P-47 Cat.E (F) nil (G) Lt. Canizares, 62nd Squadron, baled-out over North Sea, picked-up un-injured by A.S.R. (H) Claims 4-0-0 (air 0-0-3 (ground) (I) Landfall-in Bredstedt, 10.50 hours, at 20,000 feet. Made rendezvous south of Amrun Island, 10.45 hours, at 20,000 feet. Escort-broken when 30 miles east of Kappeln, 11.15 hours, at 20,000 feet. Landfall-out between Cuxhaven and St. Peter's Ording, 11.45 hours, from 8,000 to 12,000 feet. When north-east of Schleswig, 40 to 50 FW 190s came in from the south at 22,000 feet, and were engaged and prevented from reaching the bombers. The 62nd Squadron broke-escort to attack two groups of enemy aircraft coming up from the south, in the vicinity of Neumünster. One group of 8 to 12 FW 190s and Me 109s, and another group of 20 FW 190s and Me 109s. East of Kiel, 20 FW 190s and Me 109s were seen headed east, and were followed down with one destroyed at 1,000 feet when east of Neumünster. Another P-47 seen to shoot down one from this bunch. Seven single-engined enemy fighters, at Rendsburg, at about 7,000 feet, was above the Group but did not come down. Airdrome, believed to be Lüneburg, was strafed on the way out. Six to seven He 115s, and unidentified sea-planes, were strafed in Schleswig Bay. Convoy of 20 motor-vessels, with escort, seen south-west of Heligoland headed west, and this put up moderate Flak. North-west of Borkum Island, a 20-ship convoy seen headed east put up moderate Flak. Kiel was screened by smoke-pots.

—	Cat.E 09.04.44	1/Lt. Arlington W. Canizares 	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	P-47D-10: 42-75160 LM-D	Fuel: ↓North Sea
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[Accredited Claims: Miller List credits 56th FG with 4-0-0 air & 3-0-5 ground: Ed.]

■	Claim 09.04.44	Capt. L.C. Smith	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	E. Neumünster
■	Claim 09.04.44	Capt. T. Andersz	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	S.E. Kiel
■	Claim 09.04.44	Capt. J.H. Powers	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	S. Kiel
■	Claim 09.04.44	Maj. L.A. Schreiber	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 109G	Lübeck
■	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. A.W. Canizares	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 109G	Lübeck
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Col. F.S. Gabreski	56 th FG	HQ Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Unident:	Schleswig
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Maj. L.A. Schreiber	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 3	Me 109G	Lübeck
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. H.L. Matthew	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Unident.	Schleswig
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. H.L. Matthew	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109	Schleswig/Jägel
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. W.R. Frederick	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	He 115	Schleswig
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. W.R. Frederick	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	He 115	Schleswig
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Lt. W.E. Kerr	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Ar 196	Schleswig
↓	Claim 09.04.44	Col. S.F. Gabreski	56 th FG	HQ Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	He 115	Not admitted

e. Withdrawal-Support 2nd ATF 3rd Division: Poznan




IX FC 363rd FG 47 P-51 Mustang 13.04-18.30 F.O. 128 0 - 0 - 0 - 2 Cat.E H-BS: Poznan

(A) 363rd Fighter Group, IX Fighter Command, Major Irving leading (B) 47 P-51s, up 13.04 down 18.30 hours (C) 11 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 128 IX Fighter Command (E) 2 P-51s Cat.E (F) nil (G) Lt. Benjamin A. Pollard, 382nd Squadron, and Lt. William W. Steinke, 381st Squadron, missing (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Sylt-Westerland, 14.50 hours, at 16,000 feet. Noted an extremely large airdrome in the vicinity of Tinum (Westerland). Also saw a construction work, and a possible airdrome, on Rõmo Island. Continued on course to Zealand, and circled the Rendezvous Point. Heard the bombers report a position to the north of Kiel, and that they were being attacked by Ju 88s. Met three Combat-Wings of B-17s, covered by a Group of P-51s, near Wandrup, at 15.45 hours, at 16,000 feet. Escorted over the North Sea until 16.45 hours, at 8,000 feet. Two FW 190s were sighted near the rendezvous, and these were engaged by P-51s. Two FW 190s made a head-on pass at the bombers, and were engaged by another group of P-51s. One FW 190 went into a dive with a P-51 on its tail. A P-51 was seen to spin-out to an extremely low altitude, but we did not see it crash. Four auxiliary vessels, one destroyer, one large unidentified vessel were seen in Flensburg harbour. Landfall-out over Siel, 16.07 hours, at 12,000 feet. Flak heavy inaccurate, meagre, at landfall-in. Heavy, intense, accurate, aimed at bombers, in Kiel area.


—	Cat.E 09.04.44	1/Lt. Benjamin A. Pollard 'Y'	363 rd FG	382 nd Sqn.	P-51B-5: 43-6761	Cause wanting
—	Cat.E 09.04.44	2/Lt. William W. Steinke 'Y'	363 rd FG	381 st Sqn.	P-51B-10: 42-106466	Mech: ↓North Sea

f. Target & Withdrawal-Support 3rd ATF 3rd Division: Warnemünde

 VIII FC 357th FG 52 P-51 Mustang 10.30-14.30 F.O. 292 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Warnemünde


(A) 357th Fighter Group, Captain Throop leading (B) 52 P-51s, up 10.30 down 14.30 hours (C) 6 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Delayed take-off due to late change from the First Task Force into the Third Task Force. Made landfall-in north of The Hague, 11.12 hours, at 20,000 feet. Rendezvoused when 20 miles south-west of Rostock, 12.05 hours, at 22,000 feet. Left the bombers at 13.00 hours when south-east of Bremen at 22,000 feet. Crossed out near Egmond, 14.00 hours, at 20,000 feet. Four aircraft, believed to be 'spotters' were seen at 30,000 feet, at 11.45 hours, when in the vicinity of Lüneburg. Four other enemy aircraft seen on the withdrawal when near Lingen. They dove into clouds when 'bounced' by two of our flights. One B-24 seen going down to the north of the Dümmer Lake: eight chutes observed.

g. Withdrawal-Support 3rd ATF 3rd Division: Warnemünde

 VIII FC 55th FG 54 P-38 Lightning 10.46-14.50 F.O. 292 0 - 0 - 0 - 1 Cat.E H-BS: Warnemünde


(A) 55th Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Crowell leading (B) 54 P-38s, up 10.46 down 14.50 hours (C) 13 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) nil (F) one P-38 destroyed Cat.E (G) 2/Lt. Newell Anderson killed in crash shortly after take-off (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Egmond, 11.42 hours, at 21,000 feet, making rendezvous at Schwerin Lake, 12.38 hours, at 24,000 feet. Withdrew at 13.20 hours, when in the vicinity of the Dümmer Lake, making landfall-out at Haarlem, 13.55 hours, at 20,000 feet. Bomber formation was excellent. P-38s, P-51s and R.A.F. Mustangs with the 'Big Friends' at the rendezvous, and along the escort route. No enemy aircraft seen. Thirteen ships (five AO's, four AM's and four escorts) observed at 13.10 hours going east, 20 miles north of Lauwers Zee. Intense and accurate belts of heavy-Flak from Meppen to Nienburg. Diepholz airdrome ringed by 4 to 5 circles of gun-positions, firing in five-gun salvos. At Hagenau, five or six square blocks of new buildings were seen, blocks in string, and camouflaged with roads painted on roofs.

—	Cat.E 09.04.44	1/Lt. Newell Anderson 'Y'	55 th FG	Sqn.	P-38J-10: 42-68085	Take-off: ↓Nuthampstead
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 VIII FC 364th FG 49 P-38 Lightning 11.10-15.10 F.O. 292 1 - 0 - 1 Fw 190 2 Cat.E H-BS: Warnemünde

(A) 364th Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Osborn leading (B) 49 P-38s, up 11.10 down 15.10 hours (C) 13 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) one P-38 Cat.E, 4 P-38s damaged Cat.AC, 2 Cat.B, 1 Cat.E (F) nil (G) Lt. Zakovec, 385th squadron, lost when aircraft exploded after being hit by light-Flak (H) Claims 1-0-1 (air): Ground and/or water targets claimed by Group (aircraft excluded): one rail-road switch-tower and two factories damaged by Lt.Col. Roy W. Osborn, one small factory damaged by Lt. N.F. Bettin, two Flak-towers, one factory damaged by Maj. J.B. McManus, three small factories and two houses damaged by Lt. J. Kerr, one Flak-tower and one barn damaged by Lt. N.W. Cruger, one house damaged by Lt. M.L. Casagrande, three houses damaged by Lt. K.F. Nicholson, one Flak-tower and one factory damaged by Lt. M.W. Glasgow, one Flak-tower damaged by Lt. T.S. Bushnell, two factories damaged by Lt. W.R. Brendler, all pilots of 383rd Squadron. Two gun-emplacements damaged by Maj. J.H. Lowell, one Flak-tower, hangars, and barracks damaged by Capt. Spradlin, hangars damaged by Lt. Phillips; all pilots of 384th Squadron. (I) Bad weather at take-off, with overcast extending to 11,000 feet, prevented the Group from assembling, resulting in many early returns. Landfall-in made in the vicinity of Valkenburg by squadrons, 12.07 hours, at 20,000 feet. Rendezvoused with B-17s when in the vicinity of Walsröde, 13.05 hours, at 21,000 feet. Left the bombers in the vicinity of Zwolle, 14.15 hours, at 20,000 feet. Landfall-out scattered between Ijmuiden and Coxyde, 14.05 to 14.30 hours, from the 'deck' to 20,000 feet. At the rendezvous, bombers were in good formation and happily escorted by other P-38s, P-47s and P-51s. The 385th Squadron stayed with the bombers until 14.15 hours, when in the vicinity of Zwolle. Three Me 109s, ready to attack bombers, were dispersed in the vicinity of the Dümmer Lake. The 383rd and 384th Squadrons hit the 'deck,' strafing miscellaneous ground targets. Enemy aircraft claims resulted when the 384th Squadron strafed Rheine airfield. Eight-plus aircraft were seen on this field. Hangars and barracks were strafed at Bramsche airfield, but no enemy aircraft were seen. The 383rd Squadron strafed miscellaneous targets in the vicinity of Fürstenau.

—	Cat.E 09.04.44	1/Lt. Eugene J. Zakovec 'Y'	364 th FG	385 th Sqn.	P-38J-10: 42-67957	Flak: ↓Rheine
■	Claim 09.04.44	Maj. J.H. Lowell	364 th FG	384 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Bramsche-Rheine
■	Claim 09.04.44	Maj. J.H. Lowell	364 th FG	384 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Bramsche-Rheine

 VIII FC 78th B FG 21 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.32-15.16 F.O. 292 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Warnemünde

(A) 78th 'B' Fighter Group, Captain Julian leading (B) 21 P-47s, up 11.32 down 15.16 hours (C) 8 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Controller called that the bombers were late, and Group 'B' was delayed take-off for ten minutes. Landfall-in Egmond, 12.40

hours, at 19,000 feet. Rendezvoused with the 3rd Task Force B-17s when north of the Steinhuder Lake, 13.19 hours, at 19,000 feet, after the bombers called they were on course on time and happy. P-51s and P-38s in escort. North of Lingen four FW 190s, with four more as top-cover, attacked and blew up a straggling B-24: four chutes seen. These were followed to the 'deck,' but we could not engage. Attack was out of the sun from 8 o'clock, high in-trail. One 3rd Bomb. Division B-17 flew south-west, and Yellow Flight escorted it to the Channel, south of the Dutch Islands. Fort ignored every efforts of escort to change its course. Group crossed out over Katwijk-aan-Zee, 14.12 hours, at 15,000 feet. Left bombers over the Channel at 14.15 hours Fighter-to-bomber intercom. good.



VIII FC 356th FG 48 P-47 Thunderbolt 13.48-16.33 F.O. 292 0 - 0 - 0 - 1 Cat.E H-BS: Warnemünde

(A) 356th Fighter Group, Colonel Malmstrom leading (B) 48 P-47s, up 13.48 down 16.33 hours (C) 5 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) thru (F) nil one P-47 Cat.E, 'spotter' crashed at Thorpe Abbots, pilot killed (G) Lt. Carl W. Dunn killed (H) Ground and/or water targets claimed by Group (aircraft excluded). In area Dümmer-Meppen, one oil-tank car destroyed by Lts. Smith and Earnhart, ten barges damaged (shared) by Col. Malmstrom, and Lts. Holtz and Vossler, one barracks damaged by Lts. Smith, Engel, and Earnhart, two objects resembling oil-wells, damaged by Lts. Smith and Earnhart. (I) Take-off was delayed from 11.20 until 13.40 hours by the weather. Before landfall-in, met two B-17s and two B-24s, and then two or more Combat-Wings of B-17s, at 14.25 hours Made landfall-in at Egmond, 14.39 hours, at 19,000 feet. Proceeded between cloud-layers to the Quakenbrück area. The 359th Squadron descended through ragged cloud to the 'deck,' and scored claims stated above between Dümmer Lake and Meppen. Landfall-out 2 miles south of Egmond, 15.55 hours, on instruments at 1,500 feet. No bombers seen, and no enemy aircraft. Many barges in the Dutch canals. R/T good, but no intercom. with the bombers. Good use made of the R/T relay-plane.

Cat.E 09.04.44 1/Lt. Carl W. Dunn Y 356th FG Sqn. P-47D-15: 42-76147 Wx: ↓Gissing



IX FC 358th FG 46 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.17-15.15 F.O. 128 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Warnemünde

(A) 358th Fighter Group, IXth Fighter Command, Lieutenant-Colonel Wertenbaker leading (B) 46 P-47s, up 12.17 down 15.15 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 128 IXth Fighter Command (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Ijmuiden, 13.17 hours, at 20,000 feet. Made rendezvous with the Fortresses when 15 miles north of Lingen, 13.35 hours, at 21,000 feet. Maintained escort without incident to the enemy coast, where the Group left the bombers, making landfall-out Egmond, 14.04 hours, at 16,000 feet. Bombers were in excellent formation. Several boxes of Libs were observed up ahead of the Fortress formation. No enemy aircraft seen. Moderate, and accurate, heavy-Flak at Ijmuiden on the landfall-in. R/T good.

h. Penetration-Support 4th ATF 1st Division: Marienburg & Gdynia



VIII FC 353rd FG 51 P-47 Thunderbolt 09.26-13.37 F.O. 292 1 - 0 - 0 He 115 2 Cat.E H-BS: Marienburg

(A) 353rd Fighter Group, Major Christian leading (B) 51 P-47s, up 09.26 down 13.37 hours (C) 6 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 292 (E) 2 P-47s Cat.E (F) nil (G) Lt. Stearns, 350th Squadron missing (H) Claim 0-0-1 (water): Ground and/or water targets claimed by Group (aircraft excluded). One E-boat damaged by Lt. Lorraine of 350th Squadron, one locomotive damaged (shared) by Capt. Robertson, Lt. Armstrong, Lt. Corrigan, and Lt. Marchant, of 352nd Squadron, one airdrome-building set on fire by Capt. Byers, of 351st Squadron. (I) Made rendezvous with the bombers north-west of Heligoland, 10.50 hours, at 15,000 feet. Bombers between 12,000 and 16,000 feet, and in good formation. Stayed with the bombers until 11.35 hours, leaving them to the south of Kappeln, returning to the north of the Friesian Islands. No enemy aircraft seen in the air. Six to eight con-trails at 30,000 feet, were observed to the south-east of Kiel. Flight of two making a pass at an airdrome in the vicinity of Wanderup, observed 5 to 6 FW 190s well dispersed, but the pilots were not in a position to attack. An airdrome building was set on fire. Three flying-boats seen in Eckenförde Bay. After strafing Wittensee, Lieutenant Stearns last seen on wing preparing to bale-out. Lieutenant Terzian baled-out 70 miles off Great Yarmouth. Fifteen miles off Borkum Islands, large convoy consisting of four large vessels followed by six larger vessels in pairs line-astern surrounded by three Flak-ships on each side and one Flak-ship following up the rear. Also six large ships seen to the east of Heligoland, heading south. Considerable amount of Flak fired from convoy off Borkum Island. R/T good.

Cat.E 09.04.44 1/Lt. Richard A. Stearns: PoW 353rd FG 350th Sqn. P-47D-5: 42-8499 Flak EPJ Wittensee

Cat.E 09.04.44 Lt. Jack Terzian: ASR 353rd FG 350th Sqn. P-47D-10: 42-75189 Fuel: ↓off Yarmouth

↓ Claim 09.04.44 Lt. W.F. Tanner 353rd FG 350th Sqn. 0 - 0 - 1 He 115 Eckenförde Bay

i. Withdrawal-Support 4th ATF 1st Division: Marienburg & Gdynia



IX FC 354th FG 50 P-51 Mustang 12.31-17.45 F.O. 128 10 - 0 - 0 FW 190 No casualty H-BS: Marienburg

(A) 354th Fighter Group, IX Fighter Command, Lieutenant-Colonel Howard leading (B) 50 P-51s, up 12.31 down 17.45 hours (C) 9 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 128 IX Fighter Command (E) thru (G) nil (H) Claims 10-0-0 (air): no names given (I) Landfall-in Den Helder, 13.40 hours, at 16,000 feet. Made rendezvous with the bombers to the north of Heligoland at 15.00 hours, at 14,000 feet. Made landfall-out over England (sic.) Island, 16.00 hours, at 14,000 feet. When north of Rendsburg, three FW 190s made a head-on pass on the bombers, but all three were destroyed in combat by this Group. Fourteen FW 190s attacked the bombers just west of Kiel Bay, and destroyed two B-17s in a head-on pass before being dispersed. Two abortive sorties returning through Kijkduin were chased by four enemy fighters to the middle of the North Sea to the English coast. It is believed that the enemy aircraft were hovering along the coast waiting for stragglers. One B-17 was observed to spin-in after being hit by Flak at 15.55 hours, when east of Rendsburg: eight chutes seen. In Kiel Bay, one large PS, and numerous smaller ones were observed, in Howacht Bay. Twelve accurate Flak bursts were encountered over Nordeney Island, and over Heligoland. Over Neumünster and Luftenburg, the Flak was heavy and inaccurate. The North Weald Controller kept up a constant 'chatter' with the radio-relay, thereby depriving the Group of a R/T Channel where usually radio-silence is maintained.

■ Claim 09.04.44 Pilot wanting 354th FG Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 FW 190 W. Kiel Bay

■ Claim 09.04.44 Pilot wanting 354th FG Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 FW 190 W. Kiel Bay

■ Claim 09.04.44	Pilot wanting	354 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	W. Kiel Bay
■ Claim 09.04.44	Pilot wanting	354 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	W. Kiel Bay
■ Claim 09.04.44	Pilot wanting	354 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	W. Kiel Bay
■ Claim 09.04.44	Pilot wanting	354 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	W. Kiel Bay
■ Claim 09.04.44	Pilot wanting	354 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	W. Kiel Bay
■ Claim 09.04.44	Pilot wanting	354 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	W. Kiel Bay
■ Claim 09.04.44	Pilot wanting	354 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	W. Kiel Bay
■ Claim 09.04.44	Pilot wanting	354 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	W. Kiel Bay

j. R.A.F. Fighter Escort. Twenty-five Mustangs III of 65 and 122 Squadrons were detailed as escort to the Forts to Staveran. Smoke-screens were in operation to the N.N.E. and north-east of Bremen. Six aircraft returned early, otherwise the mission was uneventful. Time up 11.01 and down 15.10 hours.

Hq. VIII FC Reg. File 23410

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.

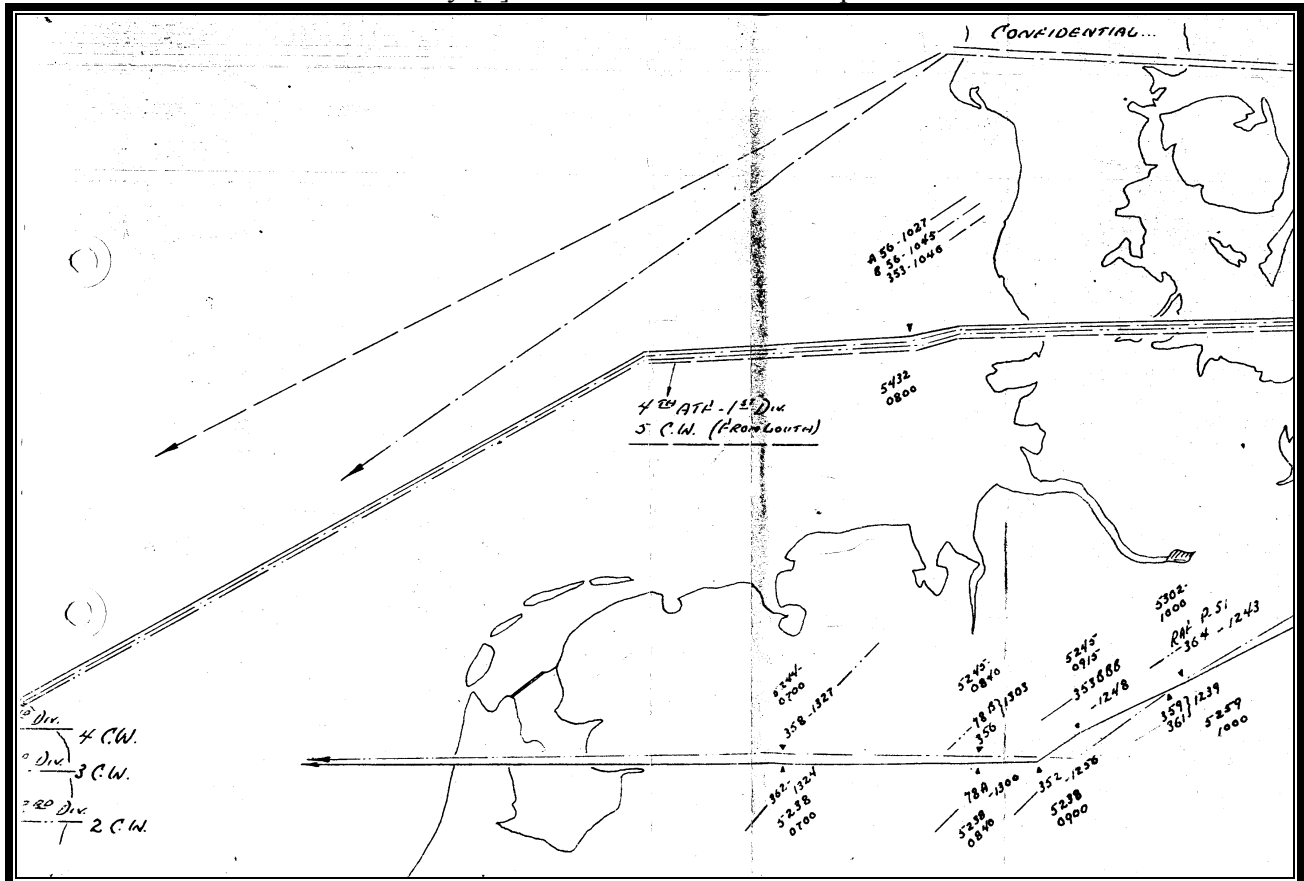
9th April 944: U.S. VIIIth FC Summary of Damage and Loss

Cat.B 09.0.44	Pilot unknown	364 th FG	P-38J-5LO	42-67297	Hit tree: damage both engines, wings
Cat.B 09.0.44	Pilot unknown	364 th FG	P-38J-10LO	42-68161	Flak, hit trees: wings, eng. change
Cat.A 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	4 th FG	P-51B-5NA	43-6913	Debris from explosion
Cat.A 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	355 th FG	P-51B-5NA	43-6577	Flak: holes in propeller
Cat.A 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	355 th FG	P-51B-10NA	43-7182	Flak: 0.30-cal. holes
Cat.A 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	78 th FG'A'	P-47D-5RE	42-8669	Flak
Cat.A 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	78 th FG'B'	P-47D-1RE	42-7951	Flak
Cat.A 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	361 st FG	P-47D-11RE	42-75249	Flak
Cat.A 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	20 th FG	P-38J-10LO	42-67967	Flak: strikes left-boom
Cat.A 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	364 th FG	P-38J-5LO	42-67187	Flak: strikes
Cat.AC 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	56 th FG	P-47D-5RE	42-8673	Flak
Cat.AC 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	56 th FG	P-47D-5RE	42-8693	Flak
Cat.AC 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	56 th FG	P-47D-11RE	42-75237	Debris from exploding enemy fighter
Cat.AC 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	56 th FG	P-47D-11RE	42-75461	Flak
Cat.AC 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	56 th FG	P-47D-11RE	42-75510	Flak
Cat.AC 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	56 th FG	P-47D-22RE	42-25577	Enemy fighter: 13-mm.
Cat.AC 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	78 th FG'A'	P-47D-20RE	42-76584	Flak
Cat.AC 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	361 st FG	P-47C-5RE	41-6528	Hit tree avoiding Flak
Cat.AC 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	364 th FG	P-38J-10LO	42-67459	Flak: strikes
Cat.AC 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	364 th FG	P-38J-10LO	42-68087	Flak: strikes
Cat.AC 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	364 th FG	P-38J-15LO	42-104195	Flak: strikes
Cat.AC 09.04.44	Pilot unknown	364 th FG	P-38J-10LO	42-68070	MG and small-arms strikes

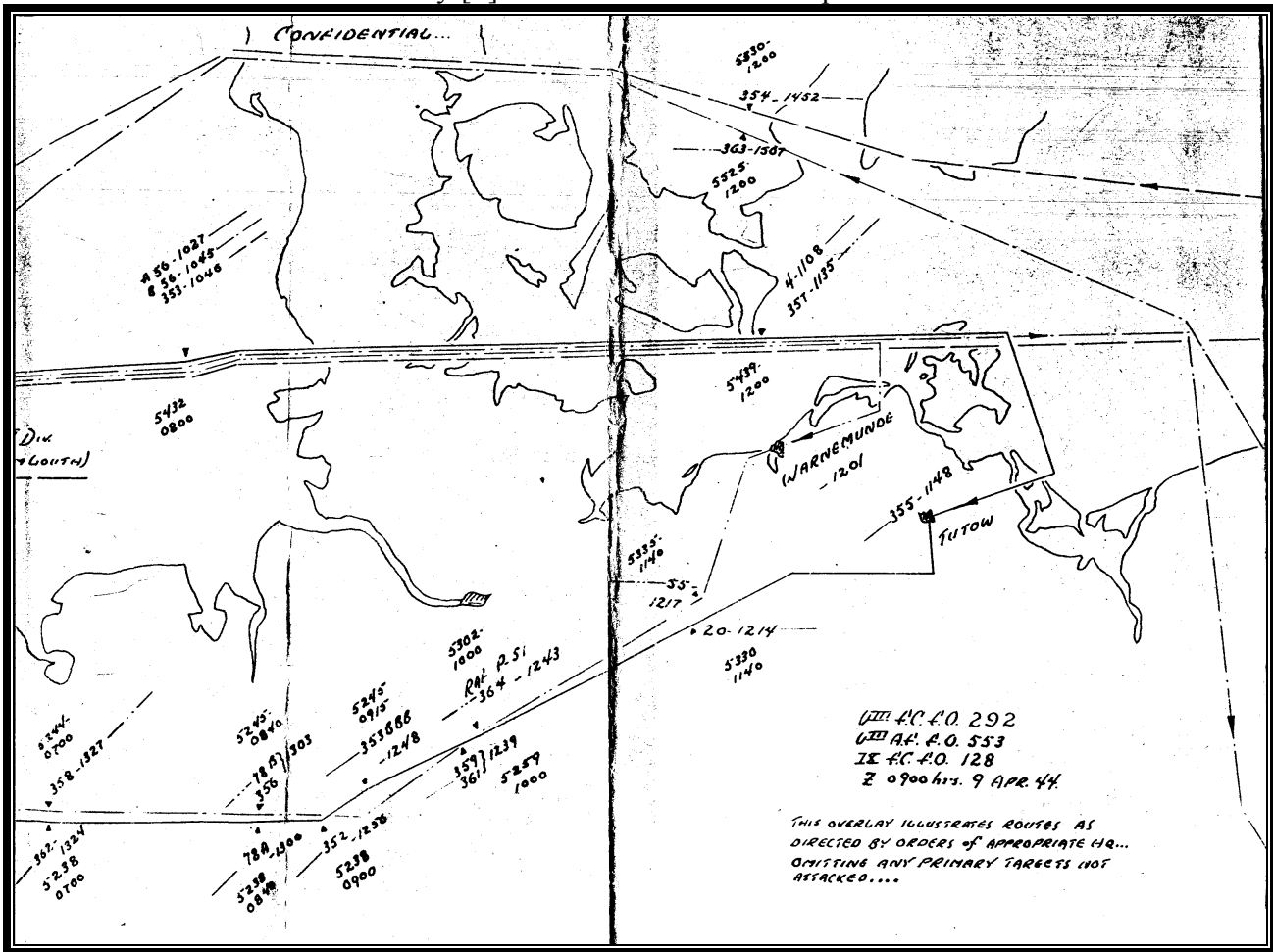
U.S. 8th Air Force Diary of Fighter Operations: 9th April 1944. Field Order # 293. Total 680 airborne: 643 airborne less spares, spotters and relays: 94 aircraft did not complete the mission: 549 aircraft completed the mission out of 580 credited sorties on Heavy-Bomber Support: Targets in North-Central Germany and Poland. Bombs dropped by Fighters : nil. Total aircraft Cat.E : 7 (one to Flak, one to Flak/Fighters, one to Enemy fighters, one in an accident, 3 to causes unknown). Aircraft damaged: 3 Cat.E, 22 less than Cat.E. Casualties: 5 pilots MIA, 4 pilots killed. Combat claims 29-1-14 (in the air and on the ground). Ref: PRO AIR 22/350.

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Over-Lay [1] Field Order # 292: 9th April 1944

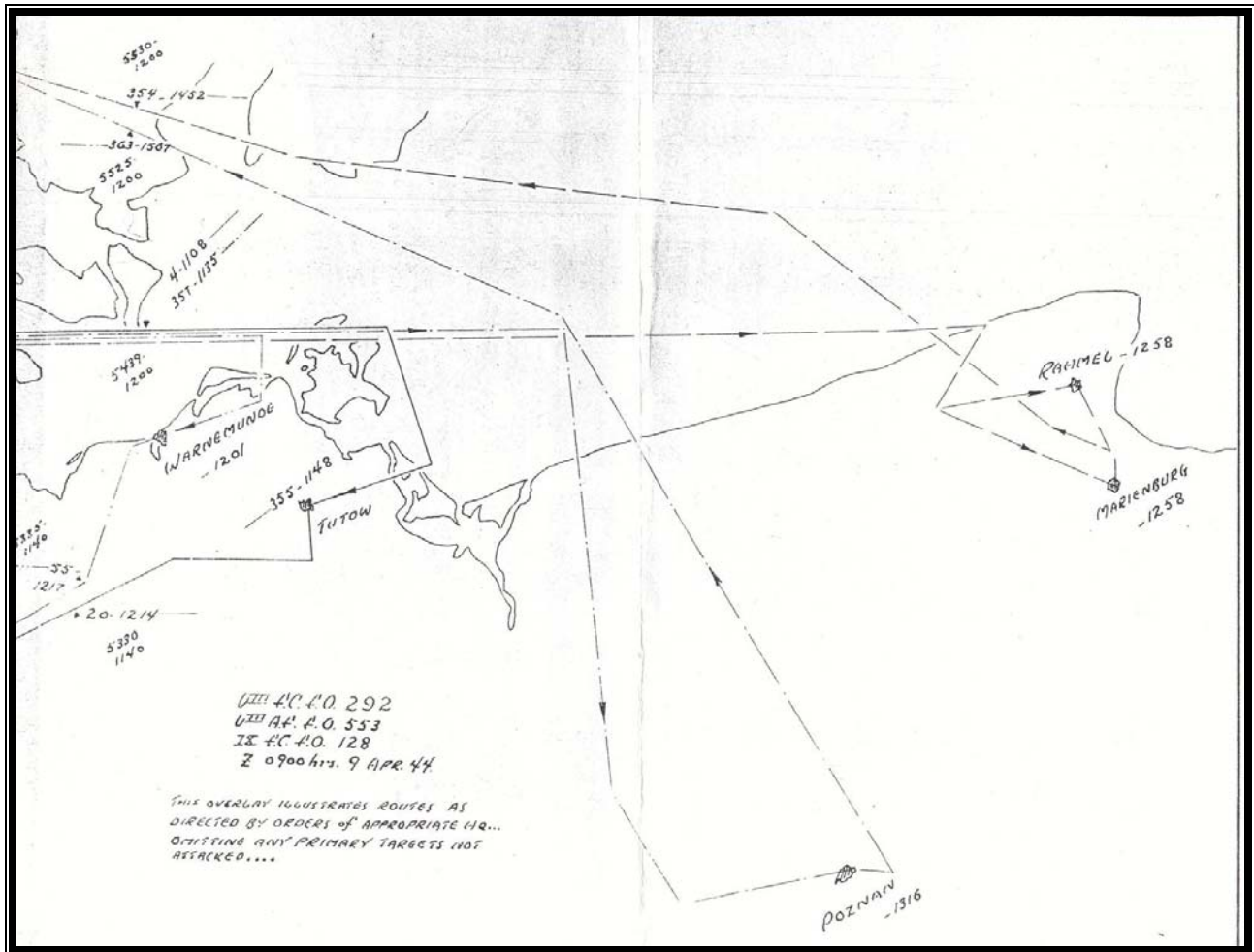


Over-Lay [2] Field Order # 292: 9th April 1944




See Next Page for Over-Lay No. 3:

Over-Lay [3] Field Order # 292: 9th April 1944



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 th 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

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