

K113.107-158

Thru 1959

Vol. 3

1954

RETURN TO
Air Force
Historical Research Center
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6678

8-1115-32

0468159

SCANNED BY ACD

2005

Request information on the following points:

Erbitte Erklarung folgender Bezeichnungen:

Study 9 to 11, Volumes III and IIIa.

In the German text:

In the English text:

Im deutschen Text:

Im englischen Text:

Seite 100: FF ? *Flank Feuer*

Page 86.

Seite 100: Y-Fuehrung ?

Page 87.

Seite 106: FF ? (wie oben)

Page 92.

Seite 119: FN ? *Fernnachtjäger*

Page 103.

Seite 120: FF ? (wie oben)

Page 103.

Seite 130: FN ? (wie oben)

Page 112.

Seite 127: L.Gr. ? und L.F. ? *Leuchtfeuer*

Page 111.

P.R.C.

Seite 140: Y-Fuehrung? (wie oben)

Page 123.

Seite 210: Y-Fuehrung ? (wie oben)

Page 177.

Seite 296: Dueppeln ?

Page 241.

~~L.G.R.~~

L.Gr. = *Leuchtgranate von Flakartillerie abgeschossen*

0468159

8-1115-32

K113.107-158
Mar 159
1954

RETURN TO:

Foot notes

Study 9 to 11

The Employment of the German Luftwaffe

Against the Allies in the West

1943 to 1945

Study 9 to 11

The Employment of the German Luftwaffe Against the Allies in the West
1943 to 1945

Volume III (with Supplement III):

Air Battles over the Reich's Territory
in Defense of the Vital Resources of the
German Luftwaffe
From 1 April 1944 to D-Day (6 June 1944)

Prepared from German Material by

Beppe Schmid
Generalleutnant (ret.) and Former Com-
manding General of the I Fighter Corps

Augsburg, May 1954

Preface

1. On account of the chain of command of the German Luftwaffe in World War II the Study 9 to 11 is subdivided into two books:

"The Air War in the West" and

"The Home Air Defense (RLV)"

2. The procurement and extent of the required source material do not permit the preparation of the Study 9 to 11 in the form of a chronological historical presentation. The author was under the necessity of anticipating in his work those periods for which adequate source material was available in time. For this reason, the historical presentation of the air operations within the framework of the home air defense during the period from 15 September 1943 to D-Day (6 June 1944) was completed first. It contains the following three volumes with three supplements:

I Volume

Air Warfare over the Reich's Territory by Day and by Night from

15 September 1943 to 31 December 1943

II Volume

The Battle for the Air Supremacy over the Reich's Territory from

1 January 1944 to 31 March 1944

III Volume

Air Battles over the Reich's Territory in Defense of the Vital

Resources of the German Luftwaffe from 1 April 1944 to D-Day (6

June 1944)

- IV -

A critical comparison of the Allied and the ^{historical} German presentations of the events of the air warfare during the period selected will be given later.

3. In this third volume of the Study 9 to 11 the air operations in the framework of the home air defense are presented strictly on the basis of German knowledge. So far as ^{the} required source material was available, detailed data on the employment of the German antiaircraft artillery and the effects of the bombing attacks were included in the presentation too. This, however, distorts an otherwise clear picture. These data, however, serve the formation of an idea of the direct successes in connection with the economy of the German antiaircraft artillery in addition to its indirect deterring effect as well as of the extent ^{of} the damage inflicted upon personnel and material by bombing attacks.

The sketches pertaining to the third volume are contained in ~~the~~ Supplement III.

4. Source Material for the III Volume

The war diary of the I Fighter Corps was used as the main basis for the presentation of the events. It is of documentary value. Complementary data were ^{remaining} taken from the ~~the~~ papers of the former Branch of Military Science of the Luftwaffe which are to be regarded as semi-official. ~~The~~

^{source}

The only ~~main~~ source for the presentation of the period from 21 May to 6 June 1944 was the documentary material left by the former Branch of Military Science of the Luftwaffe. Therefore, the sketches in Supplement III regarding this period of time are ~~incomplete~~ and offer a graphic presentation of the air operations only.

- v -

Individual complementary remarks were based on private notes taken by a former civil air defense official.

A few other sources from which specific data were taken are especially quoted in the text.

Critical comments which are contained in the monthly reviews represent the views of the author. In preparing them the opinions of the following gentlemen were considered:

Generalmajor (ret.) Walter Grabmann, the former Commanding General of the 3rd Fighter Division,

Oberst (ret.) Guenther Radusch, the former Commanding Officer of the 5th Night Fighter Wing.

The following material was not considered:

Reports written from memory and data from belletristic wartime and post-war literature.

6. Overall Evaluation of the III Volume of the Study 9 to 11

The presentation of the course of events of the air warfare in the third volume is based on material of the air force command of medium level. Combat reports of flying units ~~XXXXXXXX~~ were not available. Owing to the extraordinary conditions at the end of the war it will hardly be possible to procure documentary material of the operational units relating to the course of combat in the air. Out of this results a considerable deficiency for historiography all the more so as reports subjectively prepared from memory of individuals are of limited value only.

The statements made in Volume III of the Study 9 to 11 will come close to the historic^{-al} truth.

- VI -

Regarding the period from 21 May to 6 June 1944 the presentation is presumably incomplete. In view of the limited source material available and human frailties allowance must be made for minor historical errors.

It should be noted that all ~~the~~ statements ~~xxx~~ regarding the Allied air operations reflect exclusively the German knowledge at the respective point of time.

All figures excluding those relating to time ^{can} ~~must~~ be evaluated only in respect to relative quantities. The author will later comment on the always limited value of numerical data, moreover on the characteristics ^{of} and emissions in ~~the~~ ~~preparation~~ the preparation of reports.

Table of Contents

Chapter I ----- Daytime Activities	Page
XXXXXXXXXX in April 1944	
1.) Survey	
2.) American Attack on Pferzheim on 1 April 1944	
3.) American Attack on Steyr and Bruck/Mur on 2 April 1944.....	
4.) American Attack on Budapest on 3 April 1944	
5.) American Strafing Attacks on Airfields within the Reich's Territory on 5 April 1944	
6.) American Attack on Graz on 6 April 1944	
7.) American Reconnaissance Operations on 7 April 1944	
8.) American Attack on Braunschweig and the Airfields within the Reich's Territory on 8 April 1944	
9.) American Attack on Aircraft Plants at Pesen, Getenhafen, Marienburg, and Tutew on 9 April 1944	
10.) American Fighter-Bomber Attack on Bielefeld on 10 April 1944	
11.) American Attacks on Rostock, Stettin, Bernburg, and Oschersleben on 11 April 1944	
12.) American Attacks on Wiener-Neustadt and Airfields in Central Germany on 12 April 1944	
13.) American Attacks on Augsburg, Schweinfurt, and Budapest on 13 April 1944	
14.) American Fighter-Bomber Attack on the Airfield of Diedenhofen on 14 April 1944	
15.) American Strafing Attacks on Airfields within the Reich's Territory and in Jutland on 15 April 1944	
16.) American Attack on Berlin on 18 April 1944	
17.) American Attacks on Koblenz and Kassel on 19 April 1944	

Index to Volume

Page

..... 100

..... 101

..... 102

..... 103

..... 104

..... 105

..... 106

..... 107

..... 108

..... 109

..... 110

..... 111

..... 112

..... 113

..... 114

..... 115

..... 116

..... 117

..... 118

..... 119

..... 120

..... 121

..... 122

..... 123

..... 124

..... 125

..... 126

..... 127

..... 128

..... 129

..... 130

..... 131

..... 132

..... 133

..... 134

..... 135

..... 136

..... 137

..... 138

..... 139

..... 140

..... 141

..... 142

..... 143

..... 144

..... 145

..... 146

..... 147

..... 148

..... 149

..... 150

..... 151

..... 152

..... 153

..... 154

..... 155

..... 156

..... 157

..... 158

..... 159

..... 160

..... 161

..... 162

..... 163

..... 164

..... 165

..... 166

..... 167

..... 168

..... 169

..... 170

..... 171

..... 172

..... 173

..... 174

..... 175

..... 176

..... 177

..... 178

..... 179

..... 180

..... 181

..... 182

..... 183

..... 184

..... 185

..... 186

..... 187

..... 188

..... 189

..... 190

..... 191

..... 192

..... 193

..... 194

..... 195

..... 196

..... 197

..... 198

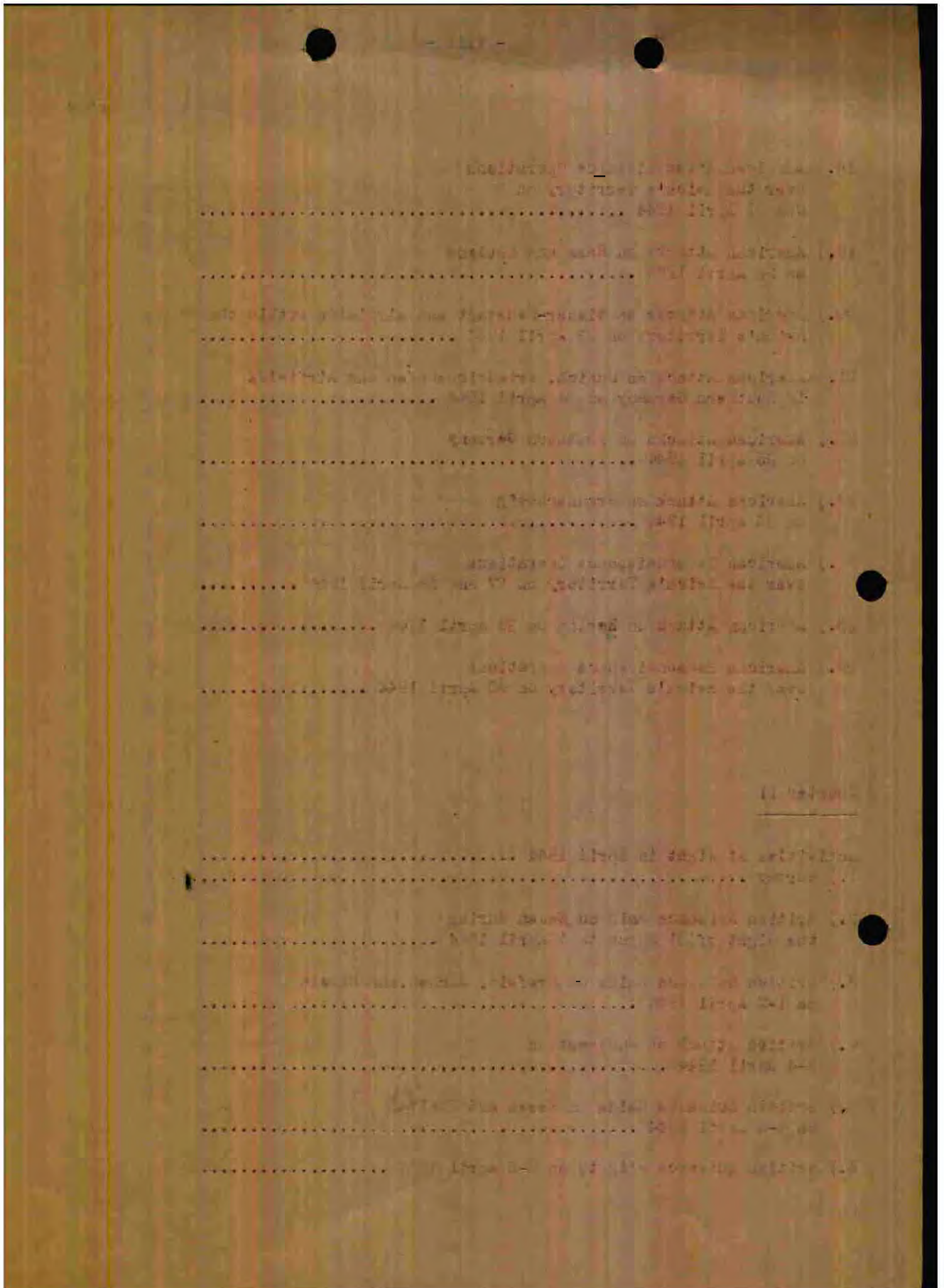
..... 199

..... 200

- 18.) American Reconnaissance Operations
over the Reich's Territory on 20
and 21 April 1944
- 19.) American Attacks on Hamm and Koblenz
on 22 April 1944
- 20.) American Attacks on Wiener-Neustadt and Airfields within the
Reich's Territory on 23 April 1944
- 21.) American Attack on Munich, Friedrichshafen and Airfields
in Southern Germany on 24 April 1944
- 22.) American Attacks on Southern Germany
on 25 April 1944
- 23.) American Attack on Braunschweig
on 26 April 1944
- 24.) American Reconnaissance Operations
over the Reich's Territory on 27 and 28 April 1944
- 25.) American Attack on Berlin on 29 April 1944
- 26.) American Reconnaissance Operations
over the Reich's Territory on 30 April 1944

Chapter II

- Activities at Night in April 1944
- 1.) Survey
- 2.) British Nuisance Raid on Essen during
the Night of 31 March to 1 April 1944
- 3.) British Nuisance Raids on Krefeld, Aachen, and Hameln
on 1-2 April 1944
- 4.) British Attack on Budapest on
3-4 April 1944
- 5.) British Nuisance Raids on Essen and Koeln
on 4-5 April 1944
- 6.) British Nuisance Flights on 5-6 April 1944



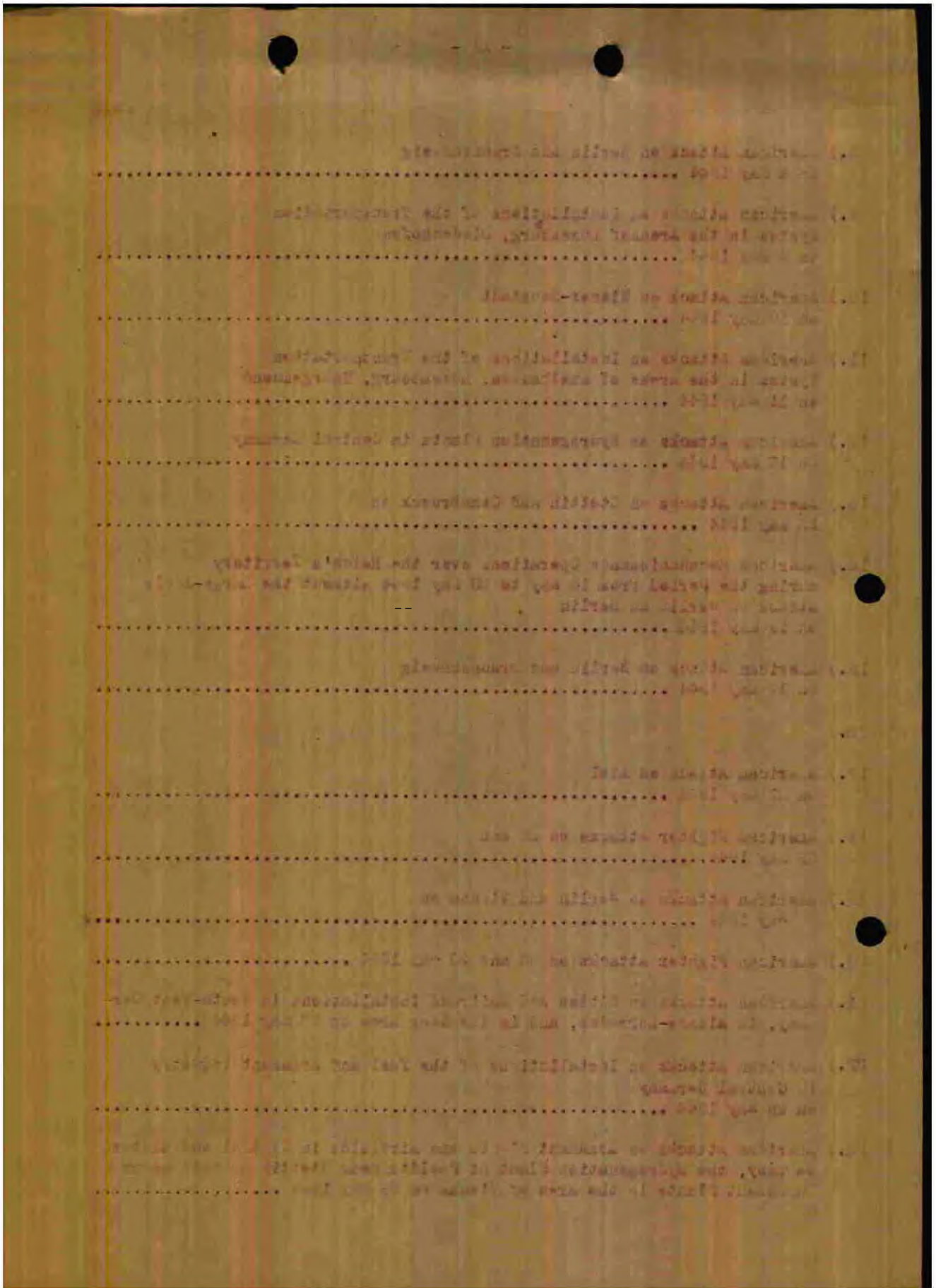
- 7.) British Nuisance Raids on Hagen, Duisburg, Koeln and Hamburg on 6-7 April 1944
- 8.) British Mining Operations off the Dutch Coast on 7-8 April 1944
- 9.) British Nuisance Raids on Duisburg and Essen on 8-9 April 1944
- 10.) British Nuisance Raids on Cities within the Reich's Territory and Mining Operations in the Bay of Danzig on 9-10 April 1944
- 11.) British Nuisance Raids on Duisburg, Duesseldorf, and Hannover on 10-11 April 1944
- 12.) British Attacks on Aachen and Hannover as well as Mining Operations in the Western Baltic on 11-12 April 1944
- 13.) British Attacks on Osnabrueck and Budapest as well as Mining Operations in the Helgoland Bight on 12-13 April 1944
- 14.) British Nuisance Raids on Berlin, Dortmund, and Aachen on 13-14 April 1944
- 15.) British Air Operation on 14-15 April 1944
- 16.) British Air Operation on 15-16 April 1944
- 17.) British Nuisance Raid on Budapest on 16-17 April 1944
- 18.) British Nuisance Raid on Koeln and Mining Operations in the Bay of Kiel on 17-18 April 1944
- 19.) British Nuisance Raids on Berlin and Osnabrueck as well as Mining Operations in the Stettiner Haff on 18-19 April 1944
- 20.) British Attacks on Koeln, Berlin, and Osnabrueck on 20-21 April 1944
- 21.) British Nuisance Raid on Koeln on 21-22 April 1944
- 22.) British Large-Scale Attacks on Braunschweig and Duesseldorf as well as Nuisance Raids on Krefeld, Muenchen-Gladbach, and Mannheim on 22-23 April 1944

- 23.) British Nuisance Raid on Mannheim and Mining Operations
in the Stettiner Haff on 23-24 April 1944
- 24.) British Attacks on Munich, Karlsruhe, and Mannheim on 24-25 April
1944
- 25.) British Nuisance Raid on Koeln on 25-26 April
1944
- 26.) British Large-Scale Attacks on Essen and Schweinfurt as well as a
Nuisance Raid on Trier on 26-27 April 1944
- 27.) British Attacks on Friedrichshafen and Aachen on 27-28 April
1944
- 28.) British Nuisance Raid on Hamburg
on 28-29 April 1944
- 29.) British Nuisance Raids on Koeln-Muelheim and Oberhausen
on 29-30 April 1944

Chapter III

- Daytime Activities during the Period from 1 May 1944
to D-Day (6 June 1944)
- 1.) Survey
 - 2.) American Attack on ^Transportation and Industrial Installations
in the ~~NEEE~~ Areas of Metz and Saargemund on
1 May 1944
 - 3.) American Reconnaissance Operations on 2 and 3
May 1944
 - 4.) American Bombing Operation
on 4 May 1944
 - 5.) American Reconnaissance Operations
on 5 May 1944
 - 6.) American Low-Level Attacks on Airfields
on 6 May 1944
 - 7.) American Attack on Berlin
on 7 May 1944

- 8.) American Attack on Berlin and Braunschweig
on 8 May 1944
- 9.) American Attacks on Installations of the Transportation
System in the Areas of Luxemburg, Diederhofen
on 9 May 1944
- 10.) American Attack on Wiener-Neustadt
on 10 May 1944
- 11.) American Attacks on Installations of the Transportation
System in the Areas of Muelhausen, Luxemburg, Saargemund
on 11 May 1944
- 12.) American Attacks on Hydrogenation Plants in Central Germany
on 12 May 1944
- 13.) American Attacks on Stettin and Osnabrueck on
13 May 1944
- 14.) American Reconnaissance Operations over the Reich's Territory
during the Period from 14 May to 20 May 1944 without the Large-Scale
Attack on Berlin on Berlin
on 19 May 1944
- 15.) American Attack on Berlin and Braunschweig
on 19 May 1944
- 16.)
- 17.) American Attack on Kiel
on 21 May 1944
- 18.) American Fighter Attacks on 22 and
23 May 1944.....
- 19.) American Attacks on Berlin and Vienna on
24 May 1944
- 20.) American Fighter Attacks on 25 and 26 May 1944
- 21.) American Attacks on Cities and Railroad Installations in South-West Ger-
many, in Alsace-Lorraine, and in the Saar Area on 27 May 1944
- 22.) American Attacks on Installations of the Fuel and Armament Industry
in Central Germany
on 28 May 1944
- 23.) American Attacks on Armament Plants and Airfields in Central and Eastern
Germany, the Hydrogenation Plant at Poelitz near Stettin as well as on
Armament Plants in the Area of Vienna on 29 May 1944



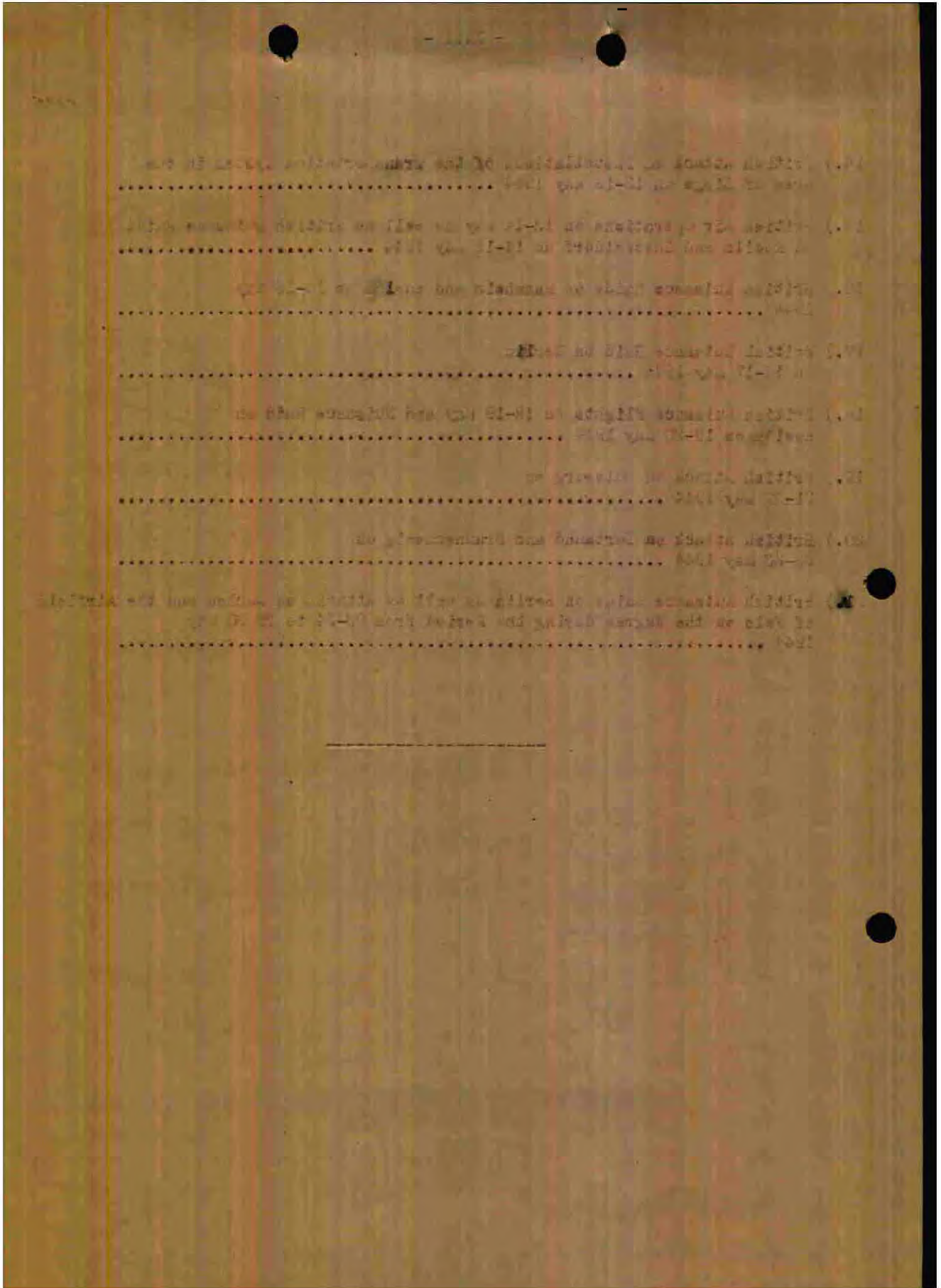
- 24.) American Attacks on Armament Plants in Central Germany, Airfields in Northern Germany, and Industrial Installations in Austria on 30 May 1944
- 25.) American Attacks on Installations of the Transportation System in Western and Southern Germany on 31 May 1944

Chapter IV

Activities at Night during the Period from 1 May 1944 to D-Day (6 June 1944)

- 1.) Survey
- 2.) British Nuisance Raids on Saarbruecken and Dueren during the Night from 30 April to 1 May 1944
- 3.) British Attack on Installations of the Transportation System in the Area of Brussels and a Nuisance Attack on Mannheim on 1-2 May 1944
- 4.) British Nuisance Raid on Keelna on 2-3 May 1944
- 5.) British Nuisance Attacks on Duesseldorf and Mannheim on 3-4 May 1944
- 6.) British Nuisance Raids on Mannheim, Keelna, Leverkusen, and Budapest on 4-5 May 1944
- 7.) British Air Operations for Mining the Danube River on 5-6 May 1944
- 8.) British Nuisance Raids on Keelna and Mannheim on 6-7 May 1944
- 9.) British Nuisance Raids on Krefeld and Leverkusen on 7-8 May 1944
- 10.) British Attack on Installations of the Transportation System in the Area of Namur, Charleroi and a Nuisance Raid on Osnabrueck on 8-9 May 1944
- 11.) Appearance of British Bombers over Northern France and Nuisance Raid on Berlin on 9-10 May 1944
- 12.) Appearance of British Bombers over the Area of Brussels and Cambrai as well as Nuisance Raids on Frankfurt on the Main, Mannheim and Budapest on 10-11 May 1944
- 13.) British Attack on Installations of the Transportation System in the Area of Brussels on 11-12 May 1944

- 14.) British Attack on Installations of the Transportation System in the Area of Liège on 12-13 May 1944
- 15.) British Air Operations on 13-14 May as well as British Nuisance Raids on Keelín and Duesselderf on 14-15 May 1944
- 16.) British Nuisance Raids on Mannheim and Keelín on 15-16 May 1944
- 17.) British Nuisance Raid on Berlin on 16-17 May 1944
- 18.) British Nuisance Flights on 18-19 May and Nuisance Raid on Keelín on 19-20 May 1944
- 19.) British Attack on Duisburg on 21-22 May 1944
- 20.) British Attack on Dertmund and Braunschweig on 22-23 May 1944
- 21.) British Nuisance Raids on Berlin as well as Attacks on Aachen and the Airfield of Fels on the Wagram during the Period from 23-24 to 29 30 May 1944



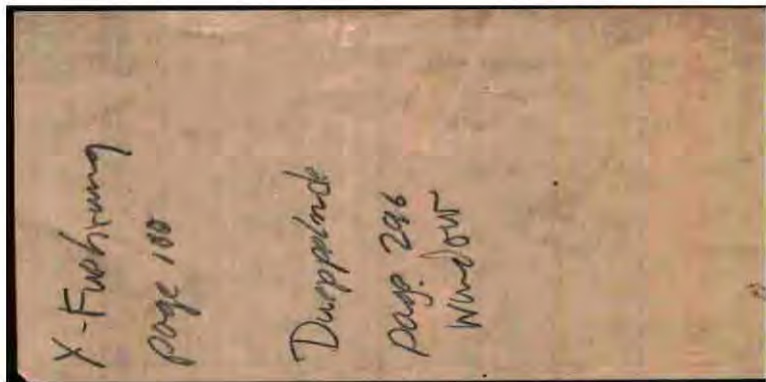
Mr. Bliss says:
Somewhere in this text
he wrote "medium heavy
damages" when he only
intended to write
"medium damages."
Book III
(XXII)

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



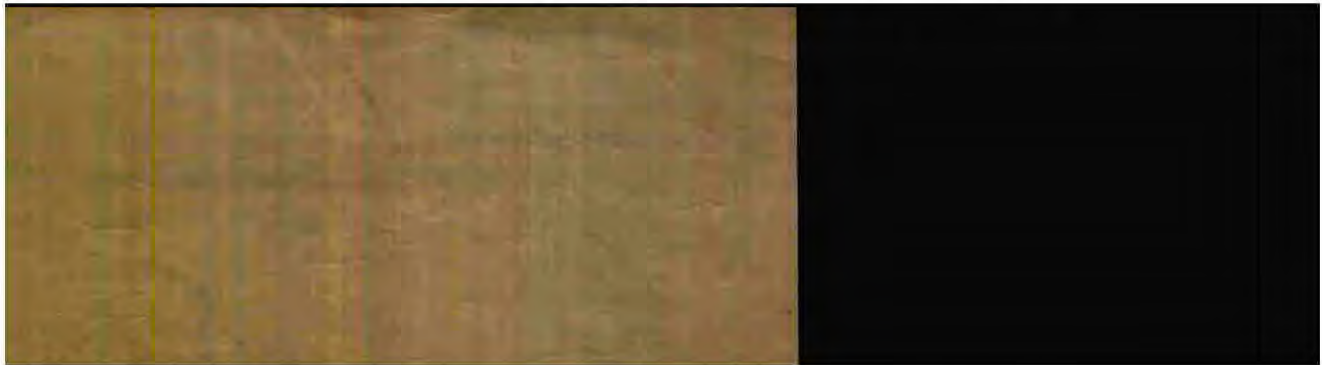
THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

Y-Fuhrung
2 meanings:
ultra high frequency method
of directing aircraft and
also means of determining
location - See Volume ^{XII} (Algeria)

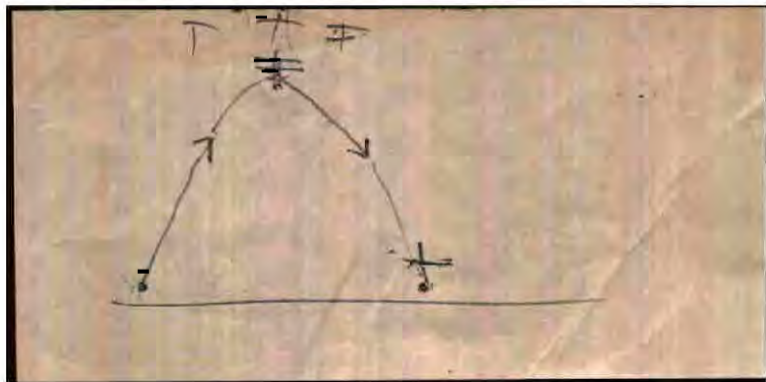
THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

Chapter I

Daytime Activities in April 19441.) Surveya.) American Offensive Operations

The air supremacy of the American air forces over the Reich's territory could be consolidated in April 1944. The former was, ~~especially~~ in particular, demonstrated by the fact that the American fighter forces began to carry out ^{especially} strafing attacks against the Luftwaffe on airfields within the Reich's territory. This was done within the framework of large-scale bomber attacks as well as in special fighter operations. Bombing operations against German airfields were conducted only to a limited extent.

By this new American practice of fighting the German Luftwaffe on the ground several hundred aircraft were destroyed and the same number of them was damaged. The striking power of the Luftwaffe, however, was only slightly impaired by these operations. The readiness for action of the flying units of the home air defense was hardly affected. The few bombardments of airfields remained without any influence on the functioning of the home air defense. The fact that the American fighter forces obtained freedom of operation, however, had grave consequences for the home air defense. While the American fighters ~~were~~ were, in performance of their escort duties, hitherto tied to the four-engine bomber formations they had now obtained their full freedom

- 2 -

of operation in all altitudes and attacked the German fighter aircraft wherever the latter appeared. Thus the American fighter attacks were also directed against the German single- and twin-engine fighter units while the latter were assembling or on their approach flight. Above all, singly flying German fighters which ^{had} already suffered hits were unable to escape their American pursuers. This also applied to German fighters which were forced to precipitous landing because they had run out of fuel. Eventually, the American fighters began to interfere with the landing maneuvers of German fighter ^{and} units ~~which they~~ scored considerable success. The air supremacy of the American fighter forces ^{over the Reich's territory} had by now become complete. The American fighters had been released from their rigid mission of escorting bombers and fulfilled their proper mission of free operating. ~~xxxxx~~ Sometimes this fact proved to be disadvantageous to the American bombers. In cases when American fighters left the bombers they were to escort precociously to fly low-level attacks in free operations the German fighter units succeeded, in surprise attacks, in decimating the unprotected bomber formations or in destroying them completely.

again
In April 1944 the emphasis of the American bombing attacks was placed on the German air armament industry. The latter suffered heavy damage by attacks carried out on a large scale under favorable weather conditions. In addition, the American air forces stationed in Great Britain started bombing attacks on installations of the transportation system in North-West Germany and strafing raids on trains, especially locomotives.

A synchronization of the American air operations conducted from the air base in Great Britain with those conducted from the Italian base was to ^{be assumed} ~~be expected~~ on three days only.

The operations of the American air force stationed in Italy extended

- 3 -

to targets in Austria, Hungary, Jugoslavia, and Rumania. Not including the attacks on targets in France the amounted to almost one third of the American total effort in April and brought about a dispersion of the fighter defense force within the home air defense.

In spite of the weather conditions favorable for offensive operations the American air force in Great Britain did not continue their attacks against the German air armament industry within the Reich's territory on 27 and 28 April. On both these days these forces operated over ~~the~~ French-Belgian territory.

The intensity of the American air effort against the Reich's territory in April is demonstrated by the following numbers of offensive missions flown:

12 large-scale attacks conducted from the air base in Great Britain,

6 large-scale attacks conducted from the air base in Italy,

3 independent operations conducted by fighters and fighter-bombers against German airfields,

11 offensive operations by fighter units against airfields within the Reich's territory in conjunction with American large-scale bomber operations.

It was only on two days that the American bombers over the Reich's territory met with such unfavorable weather conditions that they had to drop their bombs without visual observation of the ground. Nine large-scale attacks were ~~always~~ concentrated on the respective city, while on all the other days when attacks were flown several targets were covered. On six days of the month the American air force conducted only reconnaissance operations over the Reich's territory and on three days there was no American aircraft over the Reich's territory at all.

- 4 -

In April 1944 the American air operations had been very successful. They had seriously hit the German air armament industry and thus slowed down the expansion of the German fighter aircraft industry as well as prevented the speedy reinforcement of the fighter defense forces of the home air defense.

The order of the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe of 24 April 1944 to increase the total strength of the day fighter forces of the home air defense within the shortest possible period of time to the number of 2000 aircraft could not be carried out.

The American attacks on installations of the transportation system and railroad material within the Reich's territory had only limited results in April 1944.

The casualty figures of the American air forces had considerably increased as compared to March 1944. The relative extent of casualties, however, by no means jeopardized future operations.

b.) Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

On 1 April 1944 the Corps Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps assumed the mission of protecting the entire Reich's territory including the territories of Austria and Hungary. For this purpose the corps headquarters was assigned the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 7th Fighter Divisions.

The following were the advantages of the new command organization:

responsibility of a single command staff within the home air defense, uniform interpretations of the air situation for the purpose of conducting fighter operations within the entire Reich's territory,

- 5 -

possibility of concentrating forces in the air for the defense against American day air attacks ~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~range~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~fighter~~ ~~aircraft~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~weather~~ ~~conditions~~ ~~permitted~~ ~~such~~ ~~operations~~.
provided
cruising ranges of the fighter aircraft and the weather conditions permitted such operations.

Despite this new command organization the Corps Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps did not succeed in obtaining from the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe the permission for the concentration of all day fighter forces within ~~an~~ ~~one~~ ~~limited~~ ~~area~~ of the Reich's territory. It was the objective of the corps headquarters to beat the American attacking forces by the employment of all forces available in a limited area. The Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe, on the other hand, ~~demanded~~ maintained his demand that all parts of the Reich's territory should be protected for economic reasons as well as for reasons of interior politics. Consequently, the day fighter forces were deployed over the Reich's territory as follows:

~~one~~ ~~fighter~~ ~~and~~ ~~one~~ ~~twin-engine~~ ~~fighter~~ ~~wing~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~
one single-engine and one twin-engine fighter wing in the area between Hannover and Berlin,
one fighter wing in Western Germany,
two fighter groups in the area of Frankfurt,
two fighter groups in Bavaria,
one single-engine and one twin-engine fighter wing in the area of Vienna.

Owing to this wide dispersion of the day fighter forces it was only seldom possible ~~to~~ ~~concentrate~~ ~~all~~ ~~forces~~ ~~in~~ ~~respect~~ ~~to~~ ~~time~~ ~~and~~ ~~space~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~defensive~~ ~~operations~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~home~~ ~~air~~ ~~defense~~ ~~for~~ ~~combat~~ ~~in~~ ~~defensive~~ ~~operations~~ ~~within~~ ~~the~~ ~~framework~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~home~~ ~~air~~ ~~defense~~ ~~to~~ ~~strike~~ ~~with~~ ~~all~~ ~~forces~~ ~~after~~ ~~concentrating~~ ~~the~~ ~~forces~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~area~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~home~~ ~~air~~ ~~defense~~.
~~the~~ ~~defensive~~ ~~operations~~.

- 6 -

The air defense operations over the Reich's territory in April 1944 continued to be dominated by the American air supremacy. Even so, it had been possible, with the exception of two days, and owing to ^{favorable} ~~good~~ weather conditions, to offer resistance to all American large-scale attacks. The result was a balance between the American attacking and the German defense forces which was more favorable in April than it had been in March, 1944. This is demonstrated in the following:

Balance of Forces

	American Total Effort (Bomber and Fighter Aircraft)	:	German Total Effort (Single- and Twin-Engine Fighters)
March 1944 : <u> </u>	7,5	:	1
April 1944 : <u> </u>	4,5	:	1

	American Total Effort (Fighters only) <u> </u>	:	German Total Effort (Single- and Twin-Engine Fighters)
March 1944 : <u> </u>	3,6	:	1
April 1944 : <u> </u>	2,2	:	1

- 7 -

The commitment of the day fighter forces was in April 1944 considerably influenced by inadequate interpretation of the air situation in the cases of American large-scale attacks from the air base in Italy and by the American fighter tactics of free operation. The incomplete air route observation and plotting system in the areas of Italy, Dalmatia, and Croatia as well as inadequate signal communications across the Alps to the aircraft reporting stations within the ~~area~~ ^{sector} of the Second Air Fleet Command were the reasons why fighter command staffs of the home air defense often received retarded or incomplete reports on bomber aircraft intruding from the South. On these grounds bomber attacks conducted from the American air base in Italy could, in most cases, be fought off only with limited forces or in a precipitated and unsystematic manner. The German fighter forces often did not reach the American attackers at all because they had been sent on their mission too late. ^{It was due} ~~owing~~ to the initiative and energy of the Fighter Commander Ostmark, Oberst Handrick, that conditions ~~were~~ ^{had been} created by the end of April 1944, ~~which~~ which made it possible to establish a well functioning aircraft warning system and a workable ground command organization in the area of Austria and Hungary and its southern foreground.

The American tactics of free operation forced the friendly fighter forces to assemble to form combat formations outside the areas in ~~which~~ ^{which} the American fighters were, on account of the general direction of operations, expected to operate; doing so the former were to escape the danger of being attacked already while assembling in the air. By this the periods of time ^{German} for which the fighters could engage themselves in combat were shortened. Moreover ~~in addition~~, the new American fighter tactics meant a new additional moral strain for the single- and twin-engine ^{fighters} of the home air defense.

- 8 -

They were admittedly fairly trained in fighting in strong formations especially against four-engine bombers, but lacked experience in combat in detached formation or against individual adversaries. They knew about the technical superiority of the American fighter aircraft and realized that whenever they had to operate singly as a result of bad weather, engine trouble, or damage incurred in combat they could ~~become~~ ^{fall a} victim to the American fighters now operating at all altitudes. This was, especially in the cases of young and inexperienced fighter pilots, the cause of the so-called "Fighter Panic" (German: Jaegerschreck). Its result was an increase of the number of German aircraft shot down and lost because the pilot bailed out preciously from fear. Eventually it had become impossible to employ twin-engine or night fighters in areas in which American fighter aircraft could be expected to operate.

~~The operations against the Type Mosquito reconnaissance aircraft which were attempted by the I Fighter Corps were unsuccessful.~~

The ~~operations~~ attempts of the I Fighter Corps to fight the Type Mosquito reconnaissance aircraft were unsuccessful.

The operational strengths of the day fighter units employed in the home air defense decreased towards the end of the month. The reason for this decrease was that the Luftwaffe High Command began, in anticipation of a possible invasion in France, to establish fighter reserves of matériel and personnel at the cost of replacements for the home air defense.

It could be noticed that, in spite of all the difficulties resultant from the American air supremacy, the inferiority of the friendly forces in respect to technical equipment and training as well as from the

- 9 -

wide dispersion of the fighter forces, the day fighter forces fought bitterly and often successfully. The number of enemy aircraft shot down had increased compared to March 1944. The casualties of the friendly forces, in particular the numbers of damaged aircraft and of formation leaders lost were high. Even so, the fighter forces employed in the home air defense could not prevent an American large-scale attack on the Reich's territory. Their defensive action supplied action for the Luftwaffe juggernaut under the motto of endeavoring primarily to shoot down four-engine bombers. The daytime air warfare over the Reich's territory with ^{the} ~~its~~ increased American offensive action had ^{also} ~~existed~~ brought about a psychological effect on ~~the~~ all command staffs and dominated them. Nowhere, at no command headquarters, neither at the Wehrmacht High Command, nor at the headquarters of the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe, nor at the General Staff of the Luftwaffe, nor at the staff of the General of the Fighter Force, nor at the Air Fleet Command Reich, nor at the Corps Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps a generous plan for operations to regain the air supremacy by a victorious fighter battle was under consideration. The attention of all responsible commanders was focused on only one danger - the flying fortresses carrying heavy bomb loads. The persistent demand for destroying mainly American bomber aircraft by incessant commitment of fighters doubtless originated with the Supreme Commander of the German Wehrmacht. It had, however, ^{known} not become ~~public~~ during the war that an experienced airman had contradicted him or had suggested an other technique for a successful defense against the dangerous American daytime bombardments together with a plan for regaining the air supremacy over the Reich's territory.

The fact that, as early as on 25 May 1943, the General of the Fighter Forces, Generalmajor Galland suggested* to the Inspector General of the

- 10 -

Luftwaffe, Generalfeldmarschall Milch, the employment of all the free armament capacity for the production of the Type Me 262 jet fighter, is not considered here.

c.) Special Information

The unification of the fighter defenses within the Reich's territory was initiated by the following teletype message from the Air Fleet Command Reich of 31 March 1944:

in

"For the purpose of concentrating the home air defense ~~xxxx~~ in the Reich's territory as well as in the occupied western territories the Reichsmarschall issued the following order:

(1.) The 7th Fighter Division including the Fighter Commander Ostmark will be assigned to the I Fighter Corps as of this date. Thus the I Fighter Corps, subordinate to the Air Fleet Reich assumes command ~~xxxx~~ ^{of} all fighter operations within the Reich's territory, in particular also of the fighter defenses of Southern and South-East Germany against enemy aircraft intruding from the South. Close contact will be maintained ~~ix~~ with the Second Air Fleet.

(2.) The day fighter forces ~~xxxxxx~~ of the Third Air Fleet will be employed concentrated in the sector of the II Fighter Corps for the defense of the occupied western territories, in particular of the imper-

.....

Note: * Information taken from the document: Letter of the General of the Fighter Forces to Generalfeldmarschall Milch, dated 25 May 1943.

- 12 -

The total losses of aircraft in the sector of the I Fighter Corps in April 1944 amounted to:

395 aircraft - which is 8,8% of the total effort.

The enemy losses over the Reich's territory in the sector of the I Fighter Corps in April 1944 amounted to:

514 aircraft net including those shot down by antiaircraft artillery.

This was 2,5 % of the estimated American total effort against the Reich's territory amounting to 20 337 aircraft of which were 10 000 fighters. The operations conducted from the American basis in Italy are included in this consideration.

In addition, the incomplete lists in the war diary of the I Fighter Corps show the following data on the American losses over the Reich's territory in April 1944:

42 aircraft shot down for sure by antiaircraft artillery,
10 aircraft crash-landed in Switzerland.

Thus, the American losses in aircraft over the Reich's territory in April 1944 add up to:

566 aircraft.

This was 2,8 % of the American total effort against the Reich's territory in April 1944.

2.) The American Attack on Pforzheim on 1 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense in supplement
161)

- 13 -

The Enemy Effort

At 08:35 hours a strong American fighter force intruded via the Belgian Channel coast at Blankenberg in south-eastern direction to cover following bomber forces to the North. Elements of this fighter force penetrated into South-West German territory where they arrived one hour ahead of the bombers. The bombers, flying in south-eastern direction too, appeared over the Channel coast in the sector between Ostend and Etaples at 08:45 hours. They proceeded via Malines - Charleville, Bingen - Strassbourg into the area of Heilbronn, Stuttgart, Reutlingen, Karlsruhe. In their approach flight they attacked the city of Pforzheim from 10:50 hours to 11:05 hours from the South-East and North-West. The altitude of attack amounted to 6100 to 6700 meters. The target could be located only by observation through openings of the clouds. Strassbourg, too, was hit by a number of bombs. A smaller bomber unit flew over Switzerland by mistake and accidentally dropped its bombs on Schaffhausen on the Rhine. From 10:50 hours on the four-engine bomber units left the area of Pforzheim in north-western direction. Their last elements left the Channel coast between Ostend and the mouth of the Seine River by 12:30 hours. Escort fighter units returning to their bases were observed from 09:07 hours on in the area of Dinant and from 10:16 in the area of Trier. From 10:50 hours on, fighter forces assigned to escort the bomber forces back to their bases flew across the coastal sector between Ostend and Calais into area of Dinant to meet the bomber aircraft.

~~xxxxxxx~~

In the attack against Pforzheim the following forces were committed:

- 14 -

150 bomber aircraft, 200 single-engine fighter aircraft, and 150 twin-engine fighter aircraft. The damages caused by this bombing raid were comparatively little.

In addition, to cover the bombing raid the American air force stationed in Great Britain carried out the following operations:

Two intruding operations with Type Thunderbolt fighters. The aircraft approached at 08:32 hours over the Walcheren Island, Hertegenbesch into the area of Muenster and at 08:40 hours over Ijmuiden, Meppel, Meppen into the area of Delmenherst. They left the area at 09:10 hours via Grenau - Assen. Until 10:35 hours patrol missions were flown along the coast between Den Helder and Zandvoort.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were committed:

Units of the 3rd Fighter Division in direction of Mannheim and Mainz.

Units of the 7th Fighter Division in direction of Heilbronn and Reutlingen.

EEI Information on the air situation available in respect to aircraft approaching over French territory was inadequate. For this reason, only the units of the 3rd and 7th Fighter Divisions were operationally employed. The majority of the fighters employed did not encounter enemy forces.

Total effort: 150 fighter aircraft

Enemy losses : 2 bomber and 1 fighter aircraft ~~definitely shot down~~ ;

total: 3 aircraft definitely shot down.

- 15 -

Losses of friendly forces: 4 aircraft.
 (as of 1 April 1944, 17:00 hours) 1 aircraft ^{received over} ~~damaged~~ 60% damage;
 losses of personnel: 1 killed,
 4 missing.

Weather conditions: 3/10 to 10/10 shallow stratus clouds of 800 up to 1500 meters, above them medium-high and high clouds. South of the line Stuttgart - Nuremberg 10/10 clouds at altitudes of 200 to 300 meters with light snow fall.

Special information: German intelligence later issued the following statement in respect to the American attack on 1 April: The attack was intended to hit the chemical plants at Ludwigshafen and was to be carried out as a coordinated action of the 2nd and 3rd Bomber Divisions. The units of the 3rd Bomber Division, however, were ordered back on account of the bad weather conditions in the area of Dunkirk. It was the first time that the 2nd Bomber Division operated alone over the Reich's territory. About 180 Type Liberator bombers reached the area above the target. Each aircraft carried a bomb load of 1,9 tons.

3.) The American Attack on Steyr and Bruck/Mur on 2 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 162 1)

The Enemy Effort

Starting from the American air base in Italy 400 bombers, 200 single-engine and 100 twin-engine fighters reached the areas of Agram and Laibach at 10:00 hours.

- 16 -

The attacking forces proceeded in northern direction raided armament plants at Bruck on the Mur River and at Steyr. A smaller force released its bombs on Linz on the Danube River. The bombers began their return flight from the target area at 11:20 hours. The last returning unit formation was flying over Klagenfurt in southern direction at 11:37 hours. The American bomber attacks were dispersed by strong German fighter defenses. In the target area under attack medium damage was caused to industrial installations and light damage was inflicted on houses. The emphasis of the attack was placed on the ball-bearing plants and the Daimler motor plants at Steyr.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Units of the 3rd Fighter Division from the area of Frankfurt in direction of Wels.

Units ^{of} ~~from~~ the 7th Fighter Division from the area of Bavaria in direction of Passau and Salzburg and from the area of Vienna in direction of Graz.

Good visibility at high altitudes and cloudless weather made it possible to engage all forces employed in combat.

Total effort: 226 single- and twin-engine fighters.

Enemy losses: 34 bombers and 3 fighters;

that is:

~~xxxxxxxx~~ 37 aircraft definitely shot down.

6 bombers probably shot down.

Moreover:

1 bomber shot down by antiaircraft artillery.

- 17 -

Losses of friendly forces:

(as of 3 April 1944, 10:00 hours)

12 aircraft

received

8 aircraft ~~annihilated~~ over 60% damage.

Losses of personnel: 5 killed,

2 wounded,

16 missing.

Weather conditions: 0/10 to 4/10 shallow stratus clouds of 1000 up to 2000 meters. In the target area cloudless, good visibility.

Special information: German intelligence later issued the following statement

in respect to the American attack on 2 April 1944 :

The attack was primarily intended to hit the ball-bearing plants and the motor plants at Steyr. It was flown at altitudes of 6700 to 7000 meters without employing pathfinder forces. Owing to the strong German defenses the attack was not fully effective. All fighter forces (Types Thunderbolt and Lightning) available at the ~~American~~ American air base were committed for escort purposes. The German fighter defenses which exceeded the expectations of the bomber crews engaged the bomber force for the first time in area of Udine. The climax of the air battle was over the target area. The antiaircraft artillery fire was termed inaccurate by the bomber crews. Three bomber aircraft were lost due to collision in the air and engine trouble.

- 18 -

4.) The American Attack on Budapest on 3 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 163)

Enemy Effort

At 10:15 hours unclear reports were received on American offensive forces approaching over Croatia in northern direction. In the area of Lake Balaton it was observed that 200 bomber aircraft turned ~~xxxxxx~~ into north-eastern direction. Their objective was the aircraft ~~xxxxxx~~ industry in the area of Budapest where heavy damage was inflicted on industrial installations. The bombers left the target area in southern and south-eastern directions. The last report on the position of these aircraft over Southern Hungary was timed 11:15. 150 twin-engine fighters were observed ~~xx~~ escorting the bombers in the area of Budapest.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Units of the 7th Fighter Division

from the area of Bavaria in direction of Passau and Linz,
from the area of Vienna in direction of Lake Balaton and
Budapest.

~~A systematic employment of the forces was not possible as a result of the
lack of information available at the time of the air situation.~~

It was not possible to employ the available forces systematically, since information received on the air situation was extremely confusing.

- 19 -

Total effort: 203 single- and twin-engine fighters of which only 58 single-
engine fighters were engaged in combat.

Enemy Losses: 2 bomber aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of friendly forces:

(as of 4 April 1944, 10:00 hours)

3 aircraft;

losses of personnel: 3 missing.

- 20 -

5.) American Strafing Raids on Airfields in the Reich's Territory on

5 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 164!)

Enemy Effort

It was the first time that the American air force stationed in Great Britain conducted a major fighter operation against airfields in the Reich's territory. Under weather conditions unfavorable for defensive action a force of a total strength of 80 single-engine ~~fighters~~ and 70 twin-engine fighters attacked airfields in the areas of Salzwedel, Hannover, Magdeburg, Brandenburg, Stuttgart, Memmingen, Munich, and Augsburg. By ~~these~~ the low-level strafing attacks heavy damages were inflicted on all types of grounded aircraft on nine airfields.

The American fighter raids were conducted as follows:

A total of 70 fighter aircraft ^{beginning at} approached in two waves ~~from~~ 13:10 hours. The first wave approached via Ostend, Trier, Mannheim, ~~and~~ to Karlsruhe from where the aircraft started their return flight. The second wave proceeded in south-eastern direction to the area of Stuttgart, Augsburg, and Munich and returned via Heilbronn, Mannheim, Antwerp, Strassburg, and Charleville. Patrol missions were flown along the coast between Heyst and Beulegne till 17:00 hours.

Beginning at 13:40 hours, a total of 80 fighter aircraft approached over the Dutch coast between Den Helder and Rotterdam. They proceeded

- 21 -

in eastern direction via the lines Muenster - Vechta, south of Hildesheim -
Hannever, and Halberstadt - south of Braunschweig. The longest penetration
obtained in eastern direction was Luckenwalde - Berlin.

Elements of these units returned from the area Muenster, Osnabrueck. The bulk
of the force returned from the area of Berlin in western direction.

Missions were flown across the coast between Den Helder and the Island of
Walcheren. Till 17:00 hours.

The fighter aircraft approached at an altitude of 9000 meters and carried
out their low-level attacks at an altitude of 300 meters.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps.

had been
36 fighter aircraft which were in a state of alert were employed by the
1st and 7th Fighter Divisions.

Enemy losses: 3 Type Mustang fighter aircraft were definitely shot down.

Losses of friendly forces: 1 aircraft received over 60% damage.

Losses of personnel: none.

- 22 -

6.) American Attack on Graz on 6 April 1944

(See sketch; home air defense, supplement 1641)

Enemy Effort

Under extremely bad weather conditions the American airforce ~~command~~ stationed in Italy conducted an air raid on Graz employing 120 bombers, 30 single-engine and 30 twin-engine fighters. They took the air ~~re~~ route via Croatia on their approach and return flight. The majority of the bombs hit open terrain. Only limited damage to buildings was inflicted on the city of Graz.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps:

107 single- and twin-engine fighters of the 7th Fighter Division were committed. Owing to the bad weather conditions only a limited number of fighters encountered the American attackers in the area of Graz.

Enemy Losses: 3 bomber and 2 fighter aircraft;
that is: 5 aircraft definitely shot down.
1 aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 1 single-engine fighter.
1 aircraft received over 60% damage.
Losses of personnel: 1 missing

Special Information: The knight cross of the iron cross was awarded to
Oberfeldwebel Ehrenberger of 6th Squadron/ 53rd Fighter
Wing and to
Oberfeldwebel Rollwage of 5th Squadron/ 53rd Fighter
Wing on 6 April 1944.

- 23 -

P H O T O O F

Oberfeldwebel Rellwage of 5th Squadron/53rd Fighter Wing

7.) American Reconnaissance Operations on 7 April 1944

Enemy Effort

In spite of weather conditions favorable for offensive action no large-scale attack was conducted by the American air forces. A number of Type Mesquite aircraft only flew reconnaissance missions over the Reich's territory.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps: Several fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 1 Type Mesquite reconnaissance aircraft definitely shot down

Losses of Friendly Forces: none.

- 25 -

8.) The American Attack on Braunschweig and on Airfields in the Reich's Territory on 8 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1651)

Enemy Effort

Beginning at 12:00 hours strong American fighter forces intruding via Holland^Y over the coastal sector of Den Helder and Nordwijk and ~~straf~~ over the mouth of the Schelde River. They proceeded in eastern respectively southeastern direction ⁱⁿ to the area of Hannover, Bremen as well as into the area of Trier and Koblenz where they carried out strafing attacks on 23 airfields. At the same time 500 American bomber aircraft of the 2nd and 3rd Bomber Divisions escorted by strong fighter forces crossed the Dutch coast between the island of Texel and Nordwijk. Flying in eastern direction they reached the area of Magdeburg and Braunschweig. The majority of the four-engine bomber force bombed, with unobstructed vision of the ground, armament plants at Braunschweig. Smaller units released their bombs on airfields ~~at~~ in the area of Braunschweig, Bremen, and Rheine as well as on 34 villages in the area around Braunschweig. The bombing attack on Braunschweig inflicted medium damage on buildings and industrial installations. The following were the results of the bombing and strafing attacks against the airfields:

- 4 heavily damaged landing fields,
- 72 destroyed aircraft of all types and
- 45 damaged aircraft.

Beginning at 14:04 hours the American bomber units left the area of Braunschweig in western and north-western direction. Patrol flights over

- 26 -

the area between the island of Borkum and the mouth of the Schelde River were observed till 16:10 hours. To meet the returning bomber aircraft for escort purposes, several fighter units had, beginning at 13:30 hours, ~~xxxx~~ intruded ~~xxxx~~ via Holland and had partially reached the border of the Reich. German estimates showed that the total strength of fighter aircraft which participated in the large-scale attack on Braunschweig amounted to 400 single-engine and 250 twin-engine fighters.

On 8 April a force of Type Wellington bombers escorted by Type Spitfire fighters carried out, for the first time, a daytime attack on targets in Yugoslavia.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Units of the 1st Fighter Division in direction of Braunschweig,
 units of the 2nd Fighter Division in direction of Hildesheim,
 units of the 3rd Fighter Division in direction of Diepholz, Bremen,
 and Braunschweig,
 units of the 7th Fighter Division in direction of Braunschweig.

A bitter air battle developed in the area of Braunschweig and Hannover during which both sides suffered casualties. The American fighter operations over German landing fields inflicted additional casualties on the German forces.

Total Effort: 417 single- and twin-engine fighters

- 26 -

Enemy Losses : 39 bombers and 11 fighters;
 that is: 50 aircraft definitely shot down.
 28 bombers and 1 fighter;
 that is: 29 aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 36 aircraft,
 34 aircraft received over 60% damage,
 (as of 9 April 1944, 12:00 hours)
 Losses of personnel:
 9 killed,
 14 wounded,
 36 missing.

Weather Conditions: 6/10 to 9/10 upsloping clouds,
 bottom ceiling : 5000 meters,
 in Southern Germany fogs and high fogs,
 east of the Elbe River cloudless.

- 27 -

Special InformationA.) Effect of the Attacks on the Airfields in the Reich's Territory on8 April 1944

<u>Airfield</u>	<u>Destroyed Aircraft</u>	<u>Damaged Aircraft</u>	<u>Condition of Airfield</u>
Quakenbrueck	18	-	blecked
Retenburg	4	1	clear for landing
Celle	7	3	"
Wagun-Braunschweig	-	1	"
Braunschweig-Breizem	5	10	"
Achmer	8	7	blecked
Oldenburg	2	2	"
Hesepe	3	3	"
Hannover-Langenhagen	1	4	clear for landing
Wesendorf	6	7	"
Hustedt near Celle	11	-	"
Dedeladerf	-	7	"
Trier-Euren	7	-	"
Limburg	-	-	"
Merzhagen	-	-	"
Niedermendig	-	-	"
Ailertchen	-	-	"
<u>Total:</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>4 blecked airfields</u>

- 28 -

b.) On 8 April 1944 Oberleutnant Zwernemann, Commanding Officer of the 1st Squadron/11th Fighter Wing, after having successfully bailed out with a parachute, died of injuries incurred in fierce air battle. He had 126 downed enemy aircraft to his credit and had been awarded the addition of the oakleaf cluster to the knight cross of the iron cross.

c.) On 8 April 1944

Hauptmann Grislawski, Commanding Officer of the 1st Group/1st Fighter Wing, was awarded the addition of the oakleaf cluster to the knight cross of the iron cross

and

Major Specht, 11th Fighter Wing, was awarded the knight cross of the iron cross.

- 29 -

9.) American Attack on Aircraft Plants at Poznan, Getenhafen, Marienburg,
and Tutow on 9 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 166!)

Enemy Effort:

Beginning at 09:31 hours strong American air forces were seen intruding about 170 kilometers north-west of the island of Texel flying in eastern direction. 500 bomber aircraft escorted by strong fighter forces crossed the southern North Sea ^{across} and flew ~~near~~ the west coast of Jutland ~~at~~ ^{were} between Husum and Heide. Continuing their flight these forces divided as follows:

Northern units flying in eastern direction over the island of Lolland into the area of the Bay of Danzig, Königsberg/East Prussia, and Marienburg to attack the aircraft plants at Getenhafen and Marienburg.

Southern units flying across the Bay of Luebeck, ~~Rastack~~ the island of Rügen, the Bay of Mecklenburg in south-eastern direction to attack Poznan and across the Bay of Luebeck and Rostock to attack Tutow and Warnemünde.

Returning to their bases the aircraft used the following routes:

Beginning at 13:35 hours the aircraft flew from the Bay of Danzig in western direction ~~xxxxx~~ ^{via} the island of Bornholm, the southern corner of Zealand, the island of Rügen and across the Bay of Mecklenburg, the Bay of Luebeck, and Elbe Estuary .

Beginning at 13:35 hours in north-western direction across the Stettiner Haff and the Bay of Mecklenburg.

- 30 -

Beginning at 12:07 hours the aircraft flew from the Pomeranian Bay across the lines Luebeck - Salzwedel, Hannover - Wesermuende, Bechelt - Grenin-
 Estuary
 gen and the Schelde River - island of Texel. At 16:38 hours the
 bombers which had left last were flying north of the island Ameland.

According to German reports the American bomber aircraft were escorted by 400 single-engine and 250 twin-engine fighters. The fighter operations were conducted as follows:

Beginning at 09:36 hours several fighter units approached flying in eastern direction along the West and East Frisian islands to the Rays of Heligeland and Luebeck to cover the bomber force to the South and to carry out low-level attacks on airfields in the area of the Baltic Sea coast.

Beginning at 11:09 hours several fighter units intruded in eastern direction and crossed the lines Assen - Lingen, Kleppenburg - Minden, Seltau - Celle to proceed into the area Lueneburg, Salzwedel, Braunschweig, and Bremen where they were to meet the returning bombers. Simultaneously, strafing attacks were conducted on a number of airfields in this area.

Beginning at 14:00 hours several fighter units intruded via the island of Heligeland, Husum, Kiel, and the island of Fehmarn into the area of Stralsund to meet the returning bombers.

The American bomber attacks inflicted heavy damage on the aircraft plants at Marienburg, Posen, Getenhafen, Tutew, and Warnemuende.

- 31 -

Medium damage was inflicted on grounded aircraft of all types by the strafing attacks against airfields.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Units of the 1st Fighter Division in direction of Kiel,
units of the 2nd Fighter Division in direction of Neumenster,
units of the 3rd Fighter Division in direction of Heligoland and
Schleswig.

On a second mission elements of all divisions were employed against
in direction of Flensburg against returning bomber aircraft.

The combat units of the 2nd and 3rd Fighter Divisions were engaged in
combat with American fighters already in the area of Hamburg and Elbe Es-
tuary.

Total Effort: 354 single- and twin-engine fighters.

Enemy Losses: 24 bombers and 5 fighters:

that is: 29 aircraft definitely shot down.

7 bombers and 1 fighter;

that is: 8 aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 13 aircraft,

12 aircraft received over 60% damage.

Losses of personnel: 3 killed,

7 wounded,

13 missing.

- 32 -

Weather Conditions: Irregular high upsloping clouds.

Dense high-altitude haze.

Special Information: During the attack on ⁹ April RAF squadrons were, equipped with Type Mustang aircraft, for the first time employed over large areas

- 33 -

10.) American Fighter-Bomber Attack on Bielefeld on 10 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 167)

Enemy Effort

At 15:05^{hours} a total of 80 fighters approaching about 100 kilometers west of IJmuiden were located by radio direction finding. The fighter-bombers crossed the Dutch coast between Bergen op Zoom and Nordwijk in eastern direction. While 40 Type Thunderbolt aircraft bombed Bielefeld Type Lightning fighters covered the operation in the area Nienburg, Hannover, and Paderborn. From 15:55 hours on all fighter aircraft were on their return flight in western direction. They crossed the coast between Bergen op Zoom and the mouth of the Schelde River till 17:00 hours. They flew at an altitude of 5500 meters. Light damage only was brought about in Bielefeld.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

Under weather conditions unfavorable for defensive action 30 fighter aircraft which had been in a state of alert were employed by the 3rd Fighter Division.

Enemy Losses: No enemy losses were observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

- 34 -

11.) American Attacks on Rostock, Stettin, Bernburg, and Oschersleben
on 11 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 168)

Enemy Effort

Employing units of the 1st to 3rd Bomber Divisions the American air force stationed in Great Britain struck a strong blow against the plants of the German ^{air} armament industry. These operations were conducted with 600 bombers, 450 single-engine and 250 twin-engine fighters.

Beginning at 09:10 hours strong fighter units flew ahead of the bombers over Holland into the area of Northern Germany. They did not succeed in disturbing the assembly of the German day-fighter units. Instead they inflicted damage on aircraft by strafing attacks against airfields. During their low-level attacks on 25 trains 21 locomotives ~~were~~ ~~damaged~~ suffered heavy damage.

The American bomber force which was escorted by strong fighter forces approached in two separate groups:

The northern group approached via the southern ^o North Sea to attack Rostock and Stettin. This group approached at 09:09 hours over the sea area about 90 kilometers north-west of the island of Vlieland. The aircraft crossed the coast between Westerland and Rendsburg. They proceeded via Laaland and Ruegen into the area of Koeslin in Pomerania, Stargard, Poznan, and Stettin, moreover via the island of Fehmarn into the area of Rostock.

The southern group crossed the coast between Bergen op Zoom and Den Haag from 09:55 hours on. The aircraft proceeded in eastern direction across

- 35 -

the Zuider Sea and the lines Kloppenburg - Osnabrueck, Soltau - Hildesheim, Stendal - Dessau to attack Oschersleben and Bernburg. A smaller bomber unit proceeded from the area of Stendal across the area south of Berlin to Cottbus and via Frankfurt on the Oder, Gruenberg in Silesia, Sagan, and Torgau into the area of Bernburg.

The following were the targets of the attack:

Stettin, the factories of the "Pommersche Motorenbau GmbH",
 Poznan, the "Focke-Wulf" factories,
 Oschersleben, aircraft plants,
 Bernburg, the factories of the "Junkers Flugzeug- und Motorenwerke",
 Sorau, the "Focke-Wulf" aircraft plants,
 Cottbus, the factories of the "Pommersche Motorenbau GmbH", and
 Halberstadt, the factories of the "Junkerswerke".

The bomber units returned across the following lines:

Northern group: Eberswalde - Bay of Pomerania, Schwerin - island of Falster, and Elbe Estuary - island of Roem. The last report on the aircraft on their return flight over the western coast of Jutland was timed 14:45.

Southern group: Rotenburg - Paderborn, Muenchen - Gladbach - Groningen, and island of Vlieland - Ostend. The last report on the ~~last~~ aircraft on their return flight over Ostend was timed 15:10.

Fighter units escorted the bombers to their target areas. Moreover, several fighter units intruded at 12:38 hours from the sea area 50 kilometers north of the island of Terschelling in eastern direction across the Heligo-

- 36 -

land Eight to the island of Laaland to meet the returning bombers.

The attacked air armament plants showed heavy damages.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Units of the 1st Fighter Division in direction of Schwerin and the island of Fehmarn,

units of the 2nd Fighter Division in direction of Kiel,

units of the 3rd Fighter Division in direction of Stade, Flensburg, and in direction of the Brocken in the Harz.

Total Effort: 432 single- and twin-engine fighters.

Combat units of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Fighter Divisions repeatedly attacked American bomber formations in the area of Kiel, Rostock, and Luebeck. Fierce air battles developed. The single- and twin-engine fighters of the 1st Fighter Division distinguished themselves especially. Owing to bad visibility in the area of Central Germany the units of the 3rd and 7th Fighter Divisions scored limited success only.

Fighting against American air forces three times superior the day-fighter units of the home air defense shot down a considerable number of enemy aircraft. However, they did not succeed in preventing the air attacks of the German ^{air} armament plants which were of utmost consequence.

Enemy Losses: 81 bomber and 11 fighter aircraft;
that is: 92 aircraft definitely shot down.
20 bomber and 3 fighter aircraft;

- 37 -

that is: 23 aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces:

(as of 12 April 1944, 12:00 hours)

19 aircraft,

17 aircraft received over 60% damage.

Losses of personnel:

13 killed,

17 wounded,

24 missing.

Of these losses the units of the 1st Fighter Division sustained:

11 aircraft completely lost,

12 aircraft received over 60% damage.

Losses of personnel:

10 killed,

11 wounded,

16 missing.

Weather Conditions: Frequently changing clouds, ground haze.

Special Information:

It was observed that the bombers intruding into the Reich's territory used a new type of flying formation. The three groups of a wing flew in a broad front one beside the other without being echeloned vertically. Within the individual groups the vertical ~~echeloned~~ echelonnement by leading, high- and low-altitude flight was omitted. Units of the 2nd Bomber Division were up to 34 minutes late.

- 38 -

The escort fighter forces for the 3rd Bomber Division were subdivided into 16 waves.

12.) American Attacks on Wiener-Neustadt and on Airfields in Central Ger-
many on 12 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 169)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the American air forces:

a.) A large-scale attack from the air base in Italy 500 bombers, 400 single-engine and 250 twin-engine fighters on the aircraft factories at Wiener-Neustadt. The bombing raid brought about heavy damages.

b.) Strafing attacks with a strong fighter unit from the air base in ~~France~~ Great Britain on airfields in Central Germany. The attacks were almost completely ineffective owing to the strong German fighter defenses.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

All units of the 7th Fighter Division in the area of Vienna. During these operations superior American fighter forces inflicted serious losses on the German defense forces, in particular on the twin-engine fighter units.

Almost all fighter units of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Fighter Divisions which had been in a state of alert; they were to fight off the low-level attacks in Central Germany. They prevented the systematic conduct of the American attacks on the airfields.

- 39 -

Total Effort: 421 single-engine and twin-engine fighters.

Enemy Losses:

In the area of Vienna:

21 bombers and 2 fighters;

that is: 23 aircraft definitely shot down.

1 bomber and 1 fighter;

that is: 2 aircraft probably shot down.

In the area of Central Germany:

1 fighter definitely shot down,

2 fighters probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces:

(as of 13 April 1944, 10:00 hours)

12 aircraft,

13 aircraft received over 60%
damage.

Losses of personnel:

7 killed,

11 wounded,

15 missing.

13.) American Attacks on Augsburg, Schweinfurt, and Budapest 13 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 170)

Enemy Effort

At 08:29 hours three units equipped with Type Marauder aircraft

- 40 -

crossed the Channel coast between Calais and Ostend and proceeded in south-eastern direction into the area of Brussels, Liège, and Sedan. Presumably they bombed airfield on Belgian territory. Beginning at 08:50 hours the medium bombers returned on their former flying routes. They were met in the and at an altitude of 3300 meters area of Douai by a fighter unit which had intruded at 08:50 hours over Etaples.

The heavy bomber forces continued their attacks on aircraft factories in the Reich's territory. 500 four-engine aircraft, escorted by 300 single-engine and 150 twin-engine fighters, ^{bombed} ~~attacked~~ armament plants in Schweinfurt and Augsburg as well as a number of airfields in Southern Germany. The bombers used the air route across the Channel coast between Schelde Estuary and Calais where they appeared at 12:00 hours. They proceeded across the lines Antwerp - Dinant, south of Koeln - Bingen, Giessen - Darmstadt into the areas of Schweinfurt and Augsburg, Muenchen. The escort fighter units flew ahead of the bombers in northern direction. ~~Elements of the escort units flew ahead of the bombers in northern direction.~~ Beginning at 13:40 hours elements of them flying over the area of Frankfurt on the Main began turning home. Other elements penetrated into the area of Southern Germany where they conducted strafing attacks on a number of airfields. The bomber aircraft commenced their return flight ^{and} at 14:08 hours over the area of Schweinfurt at 15:00 hours over the area of Augsburg flying in north-western direction. Over the Channel coast in the sector between Schelde Estuary and Boulogne the return flights lasted until 17:45 hours.

Several fighter units met the attacking forces over the Rhine River as well as over the areas of Mainz and Mannheim. They had been intruding

- 41 -

on
from 15:22 hours between Schelde Estuary and Boulogne in south-eastern di-
rection.

by bombing
The damages inflicted on the aircraft plants at Schweinfurt and Augsburg
were heavy. Heavy damages were also caused to aircraft grounded on the air-
fields in Southern Germany.

in
The American air force stationed in Italy attacked industrial in-
stallations at Budapest and other Hungarian cities successfully with
300 bombers, 100 single-engine and 50 twin-engine fighters.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

Under weather conditions favorable for defensive action the following
forces were employed:

To repulse
~~In defense~~ a large-scale attack on Southern Germany:

Units of the 1st Fighter Division in direction of Frankfurt on the
Main,
units of the 2nd Fighter Division in direction of Frankfurt on the
Main,
units of the 3rd Fighter Division in direction of Koblenz and Eifel
from the Bavarian Woods
units of the 7th Fighter Division ~~in direction of~~ in direction of
Mannheim.

To repulse the attack on Budapest:

Units of the Fighter Commander Ostmark in the area of Lake Balaton.

In the area of Frankfurt on the Main and Schweinfurt fierce air battles

- 42 -

developed between German and American fighter forces. The American escort forces often succeeded in preventing the German attacks on the bombers. They inflicted considerable losses on the German fighter units.

Since the air situation in Croatia and Hungary was obscure the commitment of the forces of the Fighter Commander Ostmark was difficult.

Total Effort: 412 single-engine and twin-engine fighters.

Enemy Losses: 31 bombers and 4 fighters;

that is: 35 aircraft definitely shot down.

11 bombers and 2 fighters;

that is: 13 aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces:

28 aircraft,

(as of 14 April 1944, 10:00 hours)

15 aircraft received over 60%
damage.

Losses of personnel:

1 killed,

4 wounded,

32 missing.

Weather Conditions: 5/10 to 10/10 clouds. Visibility of 5 to 10 kilometers.

14.) American Fighter-Bomber Attack on the Airfield of Diedenhofen on

14 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 171)

- 43 -

Enemy Effort

80 American fighter-bombers attacked the airfield of Diedenhofen. They had approached via Ostend in south-eastern direction and returned on counter ~~XXXXXX~~ routes via Dunkerk to Great Britain. The damages caused at Diedenhofen were negligble.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

Several fighters of the 3rd Fighter Division which had been in a state of alert were employed from the area of Frankfurt. They did not reach the attackers any more.

Enemy Losses: No enemy losses were observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

15.) American Strafing Attacks on Airfields in the Reich's Territory and
in Jutland on 15 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 171)

Enemy Effort

The American fighter forces conducted strafing attacks on 28 airfields in the Reich's territory and in Jutland with a total strength of 400 single-engine (Type Mustang and Thunderbolt) and 200 Type Lightning fighters; they scored little success.

- 44 -

The operations were conducted as follows:

a.) From 12:14 hours to 13:07 hours a great number of fighter units penetrated across the Dutch coast between Den Helder and Hoek van Holland in eastern direction into the areas of Northern and Central Germany. A portion of these units conducted low-level strafing attacks on airfields while provided cover against German fighters at high altitudes.

The area in which the American fighters operated was bordered by the following general lines:

In the North: Assen - Kloppenburg - Bremen - Lueneburg - Parchim.

In the South: Hertogenbosch - Duisburg - Kassel.

In the East : Wittstock - Neuruppin + west of Potsdam - Dessau - Halle - Nordhausen - Langensalza.

Elements of the American fighter forces began their return flights in western direction already in the area of Osnabrueck and Hannover. The majority of the fighters left the area of attack split up into a great number of small units which flew in a ^{very} broad front in western and north-western direction. They were observed flying over the coast between the Heligoland Bight and Schelde Estuary until 15:15 hours.

b.) Beginning at 12:32 hours a number of American fighter units penetrated between the island of Terschelling and Den Helder across the West and East Frisian islands in eastern respectively north-eastern direction into the area of Schleswig-Holstein and the Bay of Kiel and of the islands of Falster, Laaland, Zealand, and Fyn. In this area they carried out strafing attacks against airfields. Beginning at 14:00 hours they returned in western direction flying in a broad front and had left the western coast of

- 45 -

Jutland by 15:05 hours.

Strong offensive forces from the American air base in Italy bombed targets within the urban areas of Bukarest, Ploesti, and Nisch.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

To repulse the low-level attacks in Northern and Central Germany a total of 133 fighter aircraft were employed by the 2nd and 3rd Fighter Divisions. These fighters succeeded in preventing systematic offensive action of the American fighters and major damage to the airfields.

Enemy Losses: 4 fighter aircraft definitely shot down.

In addition, 20 fighters were destroyed by antiaircraft artillery.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 11 aircraft.

Losses of personnel: 6 killed,
2 missing.

16.) American Attack on Berlin on 18 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 172)

Enemy Effort

Beginning at 10:30 hours an American offense force consisting of 500 bombers, 400 single-engine and 200 twin-engine fighters flew across the Zuider Sea and proceeded in eastern and south-eastern direction towards Berlin. Under weather conditions moderately suitable for offensive action the bombers attacked industrial targets in the area of Berlin approaching from western and southern direction. Some bomber formations bombed Rathenow and the airfield of Perleberg. Berlin suffered medium damages to industrial installations. The damages caused to Rathenow and the airfield of Perleberg, however, were heavy. The bombers returned from the area of Berlin in north-western direction via Elbe Estuary as well as in western direction via Northern Germany, Holland, and Schelde Estuary.

The targets of the attack in the area of Berlin were:

Oranienburg, the factories of the "Heinkelwerke",
Klein-Machnow, the factories of the "Boschwerke", and
Brandenburg, the factories of the "Aradowerke".

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Units of the 1st Fighter Division ^{in direction of Salzwedel} after being assembled in the area of Schwerin.

- 47 -

Units of the 2nd Fighter Division were, after assembly in the area of Hannover and Nienburg, engaged in fierce air combat with American fighter forces.

The units of the 3rd and 7th Fighter Divisions could not be employed owing to bad weather conditions in Western and Southern Germany.

Total Effort: 144 single-engine and twin-engine fighters.

Enemy Losses: 31 bombers and 3 fighters;

that is: 34 aircraft definitely shot down.

1 bomber probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces:

6 aircraft,

2 aircraft received over 60% damage.

(as of 19 April 1944, 12:00 hours)

Losses of personnel: 2 killed,

6 missing.

Special Information:

a.) A bomber force attacked from the front by German fighters fired rocket-type projectiles after the German combat unit which exploded with black or grey bursts at a distance of roughly 600 meters behind the combat unit.

b.) On 18 April 1944 the 3rd Fighter Wing (Udet) under the command of Major Karl Friedrich Mueller succeeded in destroying completely a bomber force flying in close formation.

- 48 -

PHOTO

The Commanding General of the I Fighter Corps inspected the factories of the "Arado-Flugzeugwerke" at Brandenburg on the Havel on 1 May 1944. The American bombing attack on 18 April 1944 did not cause any damage to the factories.

- 49 -

PHOTO

Major Karl Friedrich Mueller (left), Commanding Officer of the
(Udet)
3rd Fighter Wing, killed in action in May 1944.

- 50 -

17.) American Attacks on Koblenz and Kassel on 19 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 173!)

Enemy Effort

The American air force stationed in Great Britain conducted large-scale attacks on Kassel and Koblenz as well as against a number of airfields employing a total strength of 600 bombers, 450 single-engine and 350 twin-engine fighters. The aircraft factories at Kassel as well as three airfields sustained heavy and the installations of the transportation system at Koblenz sustained medium damage.

Beginning at 09:00 hours bomber units escorted by strong fighter forces crossed the Dutch coast between Bergen op Zoom and Hoek van Holland. Proceeding across the lines Meppen - Muenster, Hannover - Bielefeld in eastern and south-eastern direction they reached the area of Nordhausen, Eisenach, and Kassel. From here a number of units proceeded in south-western direction to Koblenz. From 10:40 hours on the bombers returned in western direction via Schelde Estuary to Great Britain. The last units left the continent at 12:19 hours. Beginning at 10:20 hours several American fighter units had intruded via Schelde Estuary in south-eastern direction to protect the returning bombers.

Commitment of the I Fighter CorpsUnder variable weather conditions the following forces were employed:

Units of the 1st Fighter Division in direction of Hameln, units of the 2nd Fighter Division in direction of Osnabrueck; they were, while assembling, attacked and dispersed by American

- 51 -

fighters.

Units of the 3rd Fighter Division in direction of Muenster and Paderborn.

The units of the 7th Fighter Division could not be moved in owing to weather conditions.

Total Effort: 220 single-engine and twin-engine fighters; only 96 of them engaged in combat.

Enemy Losses: 15 bombers and 7 fighters;
that is: 22 aircraft definitely shot down.
2 bombers probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 10 aircraft.
(as of 20 April 1944, 10:00 hours) 7 aircraft received over 60% damage.
Losses of personnel:
6 wounded ,
10 missing.

Special Information:

On 19 April 1944 Oberleutnant Otto Wessling, Commanding Officer of the 11th Squadron/3rd Fighter Wing was killed in action. He was credited with 83 downed enemy aircraft and was ~~awarded~~ decorated with ~~and~~ the knight cross of the iron cross.

- 52 -

18.) American Reconnaissance Operations over the Reich's Territory

on 20 and 21 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1731)

Enemy Effort

On 20 April the following reconnaissance missions were flown:

1 Type Mosquito reconnaissance aircraft intruded ~~approached~~ into the area of Kassel. This aircraft approached at 09:00 hours ~~via~~ via Brussels, Koblenz, and Kassel. It returned in north-western direction via Paderborn and left the air space over Den Helder at 12:00 hours.

1 Type Mosquito reconnaissance aircraft intruded into the area of the Baltic coast. This aircraft approached at 09:35 hours via Heligoland, Schleswig, north of Kiel into the area of Greifswald. ~~return flight~~ Its ~~return flight~~ on counter route lasted until 11:20 hours.

On 21 April several Type Mosquito aircraft flew reconnaissance missions over the Reich's territory.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps: The corps was not operationally committed

Enemy Losses: No enemy losses were observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

- 53 -

19.) American Attacks on Hamm and Koblenz on 22 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1741)

Enemy Effort

The American large-scale attack carried out by 600 bombers, 400 single-engine and 200 twin-engine fighters was directed against the installations of the transportation system at Hamm and Koblenz. While the marshalling yard at Hamm was heavily damaged, the city of Koblenz sustained medium damage inflicted on industrial installations and buildings.

At 17:20 hours 6 American fighter units began intruding in a broad front across the Dutch as well as French-Belgian coasts. They penetrated between Texel and Schelde Estuary in eastern direction into the area of Hamburg, Uelzen, east of Braunschweig, Hildesheim, west of Kassel. They conducted strafing attacks in this area. Other fighter forces intruded between Ostend and Dieppe in south-eastern direction into the areas of Mainz, Darmstadt, Mannheim, as well as Soissons, Metz, and Luxembourg. At 18:25 hours the bombers appeared, escorted by strong fighter forces, over the Dutch coast between Amsterdam and Den Haag. They crossed the line Deventer - Wesel in east-south-eastern direction and ~~xxxxxx of the xxxxxxxxx~~ attacked Hamm; elements of them proceeded via Muenster. Other elements proceeded in south-eastern direction into the area of Marburg where they turned to attack Koblenz. Returning from the Ruhr area and from the area of Koblenz the bombers and escort fighters flew in western direction and left the Channel coast between Dunkerke and Boulogne at 20:30 hours.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

- 54 -

The following forces were employed:

Units of the 1st Fighter Division in direction of Koblenz,
units of the 3rd Fighter Division in direction of Muenster and Siegen.
The units of the 2nd Fighter Division could not be employed owing to
weather conditions.

The majority of the fighters of the 1 Fighter Division did not reach
the American attacking forces any more. Superior American fighter for-
ces inflicted heavy losses on the fighter units of the 3rd Fighter Divi-
sion.

Total Effort: 193 single-engine and twin-engine fighters of which 140

aircraft engaged in combat ~~action~~.

Enemy Losses: 9 bombers and 10 fighters;

that is: 19 aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 17 aircraft,

10 aircraft received over 60% damage.
(as of 23 April 1944, 08:00 hours)

Losses of personnel:

1 killed,

5 wounded,

17 missing.

Weather Conditions: 4/10 to 7/10 cumulus clouds with scattered showers.

High-altitude wind: 300 degrees, 100 kilometers
per hour.

20.) American Attacks on Wiener-Neustadt and on Airfields in the

Reich's Territory on 23 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 175)

- 55 -

Enemy Effort

In the morning 600 four-engine aircraft, escorted by 200 single-engine and 100 twin-engine fighters, bombed the aircraft plants at Wiener-Neustadt. This large-scale attack which was conducted from the American air base in Italy caused medium damage to buildings and industrial installations.

In the afternoon a total strength of 100 American fighters conducted strafing attacks against airfields in North-Western Germany and in the area of Stuttgart. The airfield of Soesterberg in Holland was bombed.

The offensive operations were conducted as follows:

At 14:05 hours 30 fighter aircraft intruded over Bergen op Zoom in eastern direction into the area of Emden, Bremen, and Osnabrueck. They returned in western direction and ~~left~~ ^{were observed leaving} the air space over the island of Terschelling up to 15:30 hours.

At 14:26 hours 20 fighter aircraft approached flying in south-eastern direction via Ostend, Longwy into the area of Stuttgart. They returned on counter routes and were observed leaving the air space over Schelde Estuary up to 16:25 hours.

Beginning at 14:48 hours 50 fighter aircraft intruded flying in small formations across Den Haag in eastern direction into the areas of Paderborn, Hannover, Bremen, Halberstadt, and Kassel. A small unit bombed the airfield of Soesterberg. They aircraft returned flying

- 56 -

in a broad front in western direction across the coastal sector Den Hel-
der - Schelde Estuary up to 19:25 hours.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

To repulse the attack on Wiener-Neustadt the units of the 7th Fighter
Division were employed. On account of the weather conditions ~~no mission~~
was flown against ~~the attacking aircraft~~ attacking the airfield.
~~engaged in combat with~~

Total Effort: 174 single-engine and twin-engine fighters of which 169
engaged in combat.

Enemy Losses: 12 bombers and 9 fighters;

that is: 21 aircraft definitely shot down.

2 bombers were probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces:

11 aircraft,

(as of 24 April 1944, 19:30 hours)

8 aircraft received over 60%
damage.

Losses of personnel:

1 killed,

4 wounded,

15 missing.

Weather Conditions: 3/10 to 7/10 light clouds at altitudes of 100 to 1500
meters, around 2500 and above 7000 meters.

- 57 -

21.) American Attack on Munich, Friedrichshafen, and on Airfields in
Southern Germany on 24 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 176 !)

Enemy Effort

From 09:00 hours on 10 to 11 American combat wings were ~~located~~ located ~~was~~ assembling over the area of Norwich and over Thames Estuary by the German radio intercept service. Beginning at 11:10 hours 600 bombers escorted by strong fighter forces left the ~~English~~ ~~Island~~ Island of Britain between Brighton and Dover flying in south-eastern direction. Having crossed the coast between Boulogne and Treport they reached the area east of Paris. From here they proceeded via Nancy, Strassbourg, and via Neufchateau, Colmar into the area of Munich. Individual units branched off into the area of Friedrichshafen. Strong fighter forces intruded across Schelde Estuary, Liege, and Frankfurt on the Main into the area of Munich and covered the bombers to the North. In addition, they conducted strafing attacks against a total of 15 airfields in the area of Nuremberg, Stuttgart, and Munich. The bulk of the bombers returned via Mannheim and Darmstadt in north-western direction. A number of units left the area of Southern Germany in western direction. To protect the returning offense forces additional fighter units had penetrated via Schelde Estuary into the area of the Mosel River. The bomber operations were protected by a total force of 600 single-engine and 300 twin-engine fighters.

The American attacks had brought about the following results:

At Munich and in the aircraft factory of Oberpfaffenhofen:

- 58 -

Medium damage to buildings and to the transportation system.

At Fiedrichshafen:

Heavy damage to the aircraft factories.

On the airfields in Southern Germany:

Heavy damage inflicted on grounded aircraft by strafing and bombing raids.

A secondary attack was directed against the piston manufacturing plants at Neckarsulm.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Units of the 1st Fighter Division in direction of Eisenach, Wuerzburg,
units of the 2nd Fighter Division in direction of Frankfurt, Stuttgart,
units of the 3rd Fighter Division in direction of Mainz, Strassbourg,
from the area of Bavaria
units of the 7th Fighter Division in direction of Stuttgart, Sigmaringen,
from the area of Vienna in direction of Munich.

Total Effort: 350 single-engine and twin-engine fighters of which 301 engaged
in combat.

The units of the 2nd and 3rd Fighter Divisions engaged in fierce air battles with the American fighter forces protecting the bombers to the North. The units of the 1st and 7th Fighter Divisions scored good successes in bringing down enemy aircraft. The losses sustained by friendly forces were extremely high.

Enemy Losses: 48 bombers and 14 fighters;

that is: 62 aircraft definitely shot down.

- 59 -

6 bombers and 6 fighters;

that is: 12 aircraft probably shot down.

Additional losses:

~~Losses of Friendly~~ 12 aircraft shot down by antiaircraft artillery,
10 aircraft made emergency landings in Switzerland.

Total losses: 84 aircraft.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 32 aircraft,

22 aircraft received over 60% damage.

Losses of personal:

10 killed,

8 wounded,

35 wounded.

Weather Conditions:

In Northern Germany: Low clouds.

In Southern Germany: Bright, good visibility at high
altitudes.

Special Information: On 24 April 1944 Leutnant Schwaiger, Commanding Officer of the 1st Squadron/3rd Fighter Wing, was killed in action. He was credited with 58 downed enemy aircraft and decorated with the knight cross of the iron cross.

- 60 -

22.) American Attacks on Southern Germany on 25 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 177!)

Enemy Effort

Beginning at 08:20 hours 600 bombers escorted by strong fighter forces crossed the French Channel coast between Valery en Caux and Berck sur Mer in south-eastern direction. While proceeding they crossed the areas of St. Quentin, Meaux, Sedan, St. Dizier, Diedenhofen, Epinal and reached the area of Mannheim, Stuttgart, Ulm, Konstanz, and Freiburg in the Breisgau. High-altitude clouds ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ in the area of Ulm presumably hindered the continuation of their flight. They dropped their bombs unsystematically on small towns, airfields, and open terrain. The damage thus caused was negligible. Starting at 10:10 hours the bomber units turned back in north-eastern direction flying over Belgium and Northern France. They were observed leaving the coastal sector Ostend - Somme Estuary up to 12:00 hours. ~~This offensive operation~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ 400 single-engine and 200 twin-engine fighters took part in this unsuccessful offensive operation. ~~The majority of these fighters~~ Beginning at 08:25 hours the majority of these fighters crossed Schelde Estuary in south-eastern direction flying in subsequent unit formation into the area of Ingolstadt, Schleissheim near Munich. A portion of these units began turning back on counter routes as early as at 09:10 hours over the area of Schwaebisch-Gmuend.

Comment of I Fighter Corps

The corps was not operationally employed owing

- 61 -

to bad weather conditions.

Enemy Losses: No enemy losses were observed.

Weather Conditions: 4/10 to 7/10 clouds. Lower ceiling was 150 to 200 meters in rainy weather. Upper ceiling was 3500 to 4000 meters.

- 62 -

23.) American Attack on Braunschweig on 26 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1781)

Enemy Effort

intruding

At 07:49 hours 700 bombers escorted by 400 single-engine and 200 twin-engine fighters reached the Dutch coast between Den Helder and Den Haag flying in eastern direction. They proceeded in four waves across the lines Zwolle - south of Groningen, Minden - Verden and Hildesheim - Uelzen to attack Braunschweig where the bombs were dropped without visual observation of the ground. The third wave struck at Braunschweig flying by way of Detmold and Holzminden. From 09:55 hours the bomber units left the area of Braunschweig in western direction. Their return lane was bordered by the following lines:

In the North: Celle - Vechta - Assen - Den Helder.

In the South: Paderborn - Bielefeld - Apeldoorn - Haarlem.

The last bombers crossed the coast at 11:30 hours in western direction. In addition to the fighters immediately escorting the bombers a fighter unit was observed which penetrated at 08:50 hours across the island of Goeree, Emmerich, Muenster, and Detmold into the area southwest of Hannover. Braunschweig reported medium damage caused to buildings and slight damage inflicted on industrial installations.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The commitment of the corps was not possible owing to bad weather conditions. The 3rd Fighter Wing was readied for a possible operational employment over Berlin.

- 63 -

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: Dense stratus clouds; lower ceiling from 300 to 500 meters, upper ceiling 1500 meters. East of the Elbe River high-altitude fog. Strong icing in cases of flights through the clouds in the extremely moisty air. At altitudes of 5000 to 7000 meters high-altitude winds of 350 degrees, 60 kilometers per hour.

24.) American Reconnaissance Operations over the Reich's Territory

on 27 and 28 April 1944

Enemy Effort

On both days a number of Type Mosquito aircraft flew reconnaissance missions over the Reich's territory.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

On 27 April 19 fighter aircraft.

On 28 April 10 fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 2 aircraft were definitely shot down on 28 April.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

- 64 -

25.) American Attack on Berlin on 29 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1791)

Enemy Effort

From 07:25 hours on the German radio intercept service was able to locate the assemblies of 11 combat wings. Beginning at 09:15 hours 800 bombers, 400 single-engine and 200 twin-engine fighters ~~intruded from~~ started in the area of Great Yarmouth ~~on~~ to fly an offensive mission in eastern direction towards Berlin. They crossed the Zuider Sea, the area of Hannover and Soltau and struck at Berlin flying by way of Stendal and Pritzwalk.

Elements of the offense force bombed Braunschweig. The bulk of the bombers left the area of Berlin in southern direction. The aircraft returned by way of the area of Magdeburg from where they proceeded in a broad front to the Dutch coast which they crossed over the sector between the island of Texel and Schelde Estuary. Elements of the American escort fighter forces flew about 100 kilometers ahead of the intruding bombers forming a broad cover. A number of fighters conducted low-level strafing attacks against the airfield of Burg near Magdeburg. To provide cover for the returning bombers several fighter units penetrated across Schelde Estuary into the area of Bielefeld and Nienburg. ^{While} ~~proceeding~~ in south-eastern direction elements of these forces carried out strafing attacks against the air bases of Gotha and Nordhausen.

In spite of good visibility and high ^{numerical} ~~operational~~ strength of its operational units the large-scale attack on Berlin was, for ~~the~~ ^{this} American air force, no success of great importance in respect to the over-all war~~force~~ effort.

- 65 -

The industry of Berlin sustained slight damage only. The damages caused to buildings and the losses of personnel were heavy. The strafing attacks against ^{the}air bases showed no results.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Units of the 1st Fighter Division: Assembly over Magdeburg and operational employment in direction of Braunschweig. The ^{26th}Twin-Engine Fighter Wing was kept in readiness over Kuestrin for commitment against bombers breaking through to the North.

Units of the 2nd Fighter Division: Assembly over Hamburg. Employment in direction of Hannover.

Units of the 3rd Fighter Division: Assembly of all elements over ^{Kassel}~~Hannover~~.
Braunschweig.
Employment in direction of ~~North~~

Elements of all fighter divisions could be employed on a second mission from the sectors of the 1st and 2nd Fighter Divisions against returning bombers. It was not possible to move in units of the 7th Fighter Division owing to weather conditions.

Total Effort: 1st mission: 275 single-engine and twin-engine fighters.

2nd mission: 75 single-engine fighters.

Total : 350 single-engine and twin-engine fighters.

By assembling the combat units outside the approach lanes of the American bombers the German fighter units could be launched into a

- 66 -

concentrated attack against the bomber units. During these operations the day-fighter units of the I Fighter Corps scored a considerable defensive success by ~~bringing down~~ destroying 10% of the American bombers committed.

Enemy Losses: 84 bombers and 7 fighters;

that is: 91 aircraft definitely shot down.

9 bombers and 2 fighters;

that is: 11 aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 11 aircraft,

(as of 30 April 1944, 14:00 hours) 10 aircraft received over 60% damage.

Losses of personnel:

3 killed,

2 wounded,

11 missing.

Weather Conditions:

Sector of the 1st Fighter Division: 4/10 to 6/10 cumulus clouds.

Sectors of the 2nd and 3rd Fighter

Divisions : 6/10 to 10/10 ^{light rain} ~~shower~~ clouds,
lower ceiling 400 to 600 me-
ters; snow and rain showers;
icing in case of flights ~~thru~~
through clouds.

- 67 -

Special Information:Effects of the attack on Berlin: During the period from 10:41 hours to

11:30 hours about 1000 demolition bombs were dropped on Berlin.

The sectors hit were: The center of the city, the southern sector of the city, Zehlendorf, and Steglitz.

^a
Damages inflicted on material and personnel:

294 buildings completely destroyed,

1808 buildings damaged,

375 killed,

470 wounded, and

13 700 lost their homes.

26.) American Reconnaissance Operations over the Reich's Territoryon 30 April 1944Enemy Effort

A number of Type Mosquito aircraft flew reconnaissance missions over Northern Germany. In addition, several American fighter aircraft conducted strafing attacks against airfields without scoring any success.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The corps was not operationally committed.

Enemy Losses:

Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Chapter III

Night Activities in April 19441.) Surveya.) British Offensive Action

In spite of the high losses in heavy bomber aircraft which the RAF had sustained at the end of March the British air command maintained its concept of night attacks. In April 1944 the night bombing operations against the Reich's territory were continued with undiminished intensity. In the first half of the month the RAF admittedly limited the ranges of penetration as well as the total strengths of its bomber forces committed and temporarily placed ^{the} emphasis of its attacks on the western areas occupied by Germany. In the last third of the month, however, the striking power of the RAF reached a climax in respect to the momentum of its attacks. The British air armament industry had proved to be in a position to cover the material losses of the RAF without difficulty and the RAF had surprisingly proved able ~~to~~ quickly to replace losses in personnel. The British nuisance ~~operations~~ raids were continued regardless of weather conditions and visibility at night. The British Mosquito force exercised the unqualified air supremacy over the Reich's territory at night. By now, the continual effect of the night attacks had developed into a "Mosquito-plague" for Germany. The employment of British nuisance bombers

- 69 -

and aircraft carrying agents from the air base in Italy had been increased in April. The alarming effects of this employment extended to Austria, Hungary, and to the areas of Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Poland.

The British large-scale attacks did not reveal a special tendency in respect to the selection of targets. However, the British Bomber Command as well as the American air force stationed in Great Britain began to attack installations of the transportation system in the Reich's territory, especially in the area of the Rhine River. These attacks caused heavy damage to railroad stations, however, did not materially impair the German transportation activities to the western areas occupied by Germany.

It could be assumed that it was only during the day and night attacks on Munich on 24 April that the RAF and the American air force stationed in Great Britain directly coordinated their operations.

The total operations of the RAF against the Reich's territory and the eastern areas covered by the home air defense in April 1944 consisted of:

- 6 large-scale attacks on targets in the Reich's territory,
- 1 large-scale attack on Budapest,
- 18 nuisance raids against targets in the Reich's territory conducted from the air base in Great Britain,
- 2 missions to drop agents flown from the British air base in Italy, and
- 11 mining operations with emphasis on the Baltic Sea, often conducted with strong forces.

- 70 -

It was only during one night of the month that not a single British aircraft appeared over the Reich's territory.

b.) British Offense Tactics and Radio Interference

During the winter of 1943/44 the RAF placed great emphasis on ample and varied radio interference activities in line with its night bomber operations to disturb the commitment of the German night fighter units. This period of radio interference had been successfully overcome by the Germans by the end of March. However, already since the beginning of 1944 the British air command attempted to counter by variable tactical measures the defensive action of the German night fighter force in the home air defense which scored increasing success. By action of all types the British air command ~~RAF~~ endeavored to conceal the approach routes and the targets of the bomber units. Even so, it was not able to prevent the failure on 30/31 March 1944.

The April 1944, however, brought a change in the British night bomber warfare. This could, above all, be ascribed to the great flexibility and tenacity of the British command as well as to the considerable striking power of the British night bomber forces. The latter was demonstrated by numerical superiority, varied command facilities, and high training standards of the flight crews. In spite of the loss of at least 500 men of high-class flight personnel solely during the night of 30/31 March, the fighting spirit of the bomber groups was unbroken.

In April 1944 the RAF, applying new tactical methods, started night operations against the Reich's territory and with comparatively little losses it succeeded in maintaining the night air operations which were to have so grave consequences for Germany. The new tactics applied

- 71 -

by the RAF consisted in ~~not operating with the existing bomber streams in the~~
~~night attacks~~ employing several bomber streams if possible simul-
 taneously against different targets in the Reich's territory instead of
 operating with a single bomber stream in these night attacks. The evalua-
 tion of these British intruding operations by the German command was, in
 addition, rendered difficult by the fact that often British nuisance ~~force~~
~~xxx~~ and mining forces left the air base Great Britain simultaneously with
 the four-engine bomber streams. Thus, it had become extremely difficult
 and often impossible for the German radio intelligence to locate the main
 bomber stream(s) accurately and in time. It had to acquire new knowledge
 to be able to ^{the basis of} compute on the bearings of the British radar stations the
 main effort of the four-engine bomber streams.

c.) Commitment of the German Night Fighter Forces

On 1 April the headquarters of the I Fighter Corps assumed
 the responsibility for the night fighter defenses within the entire Reich's
 territory. (See Chapter I, 1c) By this arrangement a demand raised by the
 corps headquarters in autumn 1943 was met. The command organization of 1
 April 1944 created the basis for a unified interpretation of the air situa-
 tion in the Reich's territory and made it possible to concentrate forces
 for the repulsion of British night attacks. In spite of this basis the
 efficiency of the night fighter defenses had decreased in April 1944.
 The reason for this decrease was primarily the British tactics of employin
 several bomber streams in conjunction with ample camouflage measures.
 The headquarters of the I Fighter Corps did not succeed in concentrating
 a maximum strength of defense forces on the respective bomber stream.

- 72 -

Short-range intrusions with attacks against targets in the western part of the Reich's territory or in the western outpost area and time-consuming efforts to find out the ^{respective} main bomber stream were the reasons why the night fighter forces were often employed too late or in a precipitated manner. Moreover, the British ~~tactics~~ several-bomber stream and concealment tactics brought about a dispersion of the night fighter operations as well as ~~caused~~ the misdirected commitment of forces. Finally, bad weather conditions and, above all, bad visibility at high altitudes sometimes impaired the efficiency of the German night fighter defenses.

In the endeavor to repulse the British intrusions from the South the inadequacy of matériel and personnel of the radar and ground control organization in the areas of Austria and Hungary made itself unfavorably felt. The network of radar stations in these areas was widely dispersed, the construction of the stations was, in part, not yet completed and the personnel manning the stations lacked experience. The night fighter training units employed in the sector of the Fighter Commander Ostmark lacked operational experience. A strange development occurred that over ^{(among other types of aircraft,} the areas of Austria and Hungary, the obsolete Type Do 217 night fighter without the Type SN 2 airborne search apparatus was committed against the obsolete Type Wellington bomber. It was not until 5 April 1944 that the ^(Twin-Engine Night Fighter) headquarters of the I Fihgter Corps transferred the experienced 2nd Group/5th Night Fighter Wing from the sector of the 1st Fighter Division on the airfield of Parndorf into the sector of the Fighter Commander Ostmark.

Among other statements, post-war literature disclosed that British interference impaired the ~~efficiency~~ efficiency of the German

- 73 -

Type SN 2 airborne search apparatus already in April 1944 and thereby reduced the successes of the night fighters in bringing down enemy aircraft. The war diary of the I Fighter Corps contains no statement to this effect.

Towards the end of April 1944 German radio intelligence had ~~xx~~ succeeded in differentiating ~~the employment of~~ ^{between} the bomber groups ^{employed} in British large-scale operations and ~~xx~~ ⁱⁿ evaluating ^{-ng} the different bomber streams.

Consequently, the operations of the night fighter units in the home air ^{again} defense had ^{again} justified prospects for decisive successes in the future. This was especially so since the British several-bomber stream tactics had not reduced the effectiveness of the German night fighter combat methods but, above all, the efficiency of the German radar system which was the basis of a systematic night fighter commitment. This abuse was remedied.

The problem of repulsing the Type Mosquito bombers remained completely unsolved also in April 1944.

d.) Successes and Losses in April 1944

In April 1944 the average total strength of operational night fighter aircraft in the sector of the I Fighter Corps amounted to:

	270 twin-engine night fighter aircraft
and	<u>110 single-engine night fighter aircraft.</u>

The total number of night fighter aircraft committed in the sector of the I Fighter Corps in April 1944 amounted to:

1884 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

The total losses in night fighter aircraft in the sector of the I Fighter

- 74 -

Corps in April 1944 amounted to:

76 aircraft which is 4% of the total effort.

The losses of the RAF over the Reich's territory in the sector of the I Fighter Corps in April 1944 amounted to :

143 aircraft not including aircraft
brought down by antiaircraft artillery.

This figure was about 2,6% of the estimated total effort of the RAF against the Reich's territory amounting to 5400 aircraft ~~and~~ in April 1944 and about 3% of the heavy bomber aircraft employed.

- 75 -

2.) British Nuisance Raid on Essen during the Night of 31 March to 1 April

1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1801)

Enemy Effort

Essen was attacked by 10 Type Mosquito bombers without special success. At 21:02 hours 12 aircraft approached across the Zuider Sea. One Type Mosquito aircraft of them cruised over the area east of Meppel than and turned back on counter route. An other Mosquito penetrated into the area of Leppen. The majority of the aircraft proceeded in south-eastern direction into the area of Essen, Duisburg. They returned via Schelde Estuary up to 22:05 hours.

Other Enemy Activities

During the period from 21:23 hours to 21:40 hours a number of aircraft cruised in the sea area north of the island of Ter-schelling and presumably dropped ~~rockets~~ mines.

An aircraft (FN) penetrated across the Zuider Sea, and flying at a low altitude, into the area of Hannover, Kassel, Magdeburg, ~~Stka~~ and Stendal and returned by way of Bremen and Emden.

and Frankfurt on the Main,
A Mosquito, flying over France in eastern direction, reached the area of Wuerzburg and Bamberg and returned on counter route.

Southern Norway was crossed by two British courier aircraft flying in direction of Sweden. A British courier aircraft passed by Northern Jutland flying to Sweden.

- 76 -

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

The 1st and the 3rd Fighter Divisions employed ~~three~~³ single-engine fighters each.

Total Effort: 6 aircraft

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions:

In the southern part of the sector of the 3rd Fighter Division and in the Ruhr area: Bright.
Otherwise: 3/10 to 8/10 clouds between 800 and 4000 meters. Visibility: 10 to 20 kilometers. In the coastal area scattered snow showers with clouds at altitudes of 200 to 400 meters.

- 77 -

3.) British Nuisance Raids on Krefeld, Aachen, and Hameln on

1/2 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 180!)

Enemy Effort

A total of 30 Type Mosquito bombers attacked Krefeld, Aachen, and Hameln. Beginning at 20:39 hours the bombers approached via the island of Terschelling and Northern Holland. They proceeded in eastern direction into the area of Celle, Braunschweig, and Hannover and in southern direction into the area of Duisburg and Aachen. They returned from the area of Hameln from 21:30 hours and from the Ruhr area from 21:05 hours on. The aircraft left the air space over the island of Ameland and over the Westerschelde up to 22:50 hours.

In addition, the following operations were observed:

Several aircraft intruded over sea to the West Frisian islands. After dropping tinfolils they turned back on counter routes.

A British aircraft was observed flying over Northern Jutland, presumably carrying supplies for agents.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were committed:

By the 3rd Fighter Division 3 single-engine fighters were employed to repulse attacking Type Mosquito aircraft, and 4 twin-engine fighters were employed which were to apply the "Himmelbett"ⁿ-night fighter aircraft tactics to repulse ~~aircraft~~ intruding to the West Frisian islands.

- 78 -

By the 2nd Fighter Division 1 twin-engine fighter was employed to apply the "Himmelbett" night fighter tactics in order to repulse aircraft intruding to the West Frisian islands.

Total Effort: 8 aircraft

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: 0/10 to 4/10 clouds, lower ceiling 1000 meters, upper ceiling 1500 to 2000 meters. Above 6000 meters thin cloud formations.

4.) British Attack on Budapest on 3/4 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 180!)

Enemy Effort

In the first half of the night about 30 Type Wellington bombers approached from the British air base in Italy via Croatia and Western Hungary in northern direction and bombed Budapest. A number of aircraft, presumably carrying supplies for agents, penetrated by way of Slovakia into the area of Lodz and Warsaw. All these aircraft returned on counter routes. Slight damage was caused at Budapest.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed in night fighter pursuit
.....

Note: "Himmelbett" is the designation for the older type of night fighting in which each German aircraft was assigned to a particular "box" outside of which it was not authorized to operate.

- 79 -

operations:

By the 7th Fighter Division (Fighter Commander Ostmark) : 6 twin-engine fighter aircraft. They assembled over the airfield of Farnsdorf and proceeded across the Lake Balaton to Budapest.

Enemy Losses: 3 bomber aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 1 Type Do 217 aircraft slightly damaged.

Weather Conditions: In Austria and Hungary thin cloud formations at about 5000 meters. Visibility from 5 to 15 kilometers.

Special Information: On 3 April 1944 Major Hans Joachim Jabs was awarded the addition ~~to~~ of the oakleaf cluster to the knight cross of the iron cross.

5.) British Nuisance Raids on Essen and Koeln on 4/5 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 180!)

Enemy Effort

In the first half of the night a force of about 40 Type Mosquito bombers penetrated via Northern Belgium in eastern direction and attacked Essen and Koeln. They returned via Holland.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

Operations against the nuisance aircraft were not conducted, since the night fighters of the 3rd Fighter Division which were to be employed against the Type Mosquito aircraft were not in operational condition.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None

- 80 -

Weather Conditions: 3/10 to 6/10 light clouds at about 800 meters; cloudless in the target area.

6.) British Nuisance operations on 5/6 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 180!)

Enemy Effort

2 British nuisance aircraft flying via Schelde Estuary and St. Trond reached the area of Metz. They returned on counter routes.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The corps was not operationally employed.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: 10/10 stratus clouds. Lower ceiling from 200 to 400 meters, rain.

Special Information: a.) On 6 April 1944 Oberstleutnant Guenther Radosch, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Night Fighter Wing was awarded the addition of the oakleaf to the knight cross of the iron cross.

b.) On 6 April 1944 Oberfeldwebel Frank, 2nd Squadron/3rd Night Fighter Wing, was awarded the knight cross of ~~the~~ the iron cross.

7.) British Nuisance Raids on Hagen, Duisburg, Koeln, and Hamburg on 6/7

April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 181!)

Enemy Effort

- 81 -

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

Nuisance raids on Hagen, Duisburg, and Koeln.

Beginning at 21:25 hours 30 Type Mosquito ^{bomber} aircraft approached via Holland in south-eastern direction and flew into the area of Dortmund, Wuppertal, Koeln, and Bonn. Some aircraft returned extremely early across the area of Holland. The majority of the aircraft returned from the Ruhr area via Schelde Estuary up to 23:27 hours. Individual aircraft dropped their bombs also on Krefeld and Aachen.

A nuisance raid on Hamburg.

Beginning at 22:02 hours 30 Type Mosquito bomber aircraft intruded across the North Frisian islands, Husum, and Neumuenster into the area of Hamburg. They returned via Elbe Estuary up to 22:50 hours.

A courier aircraft flew to Switzerland. The aircraft approached by way of Dunkerk in south-eastern direction to the Lake of Constance and proceeded to Switzerland.

Two courier aircraft ^{came} ~~from~~ from Sweden across the Skagerrak and another courier aircraft flew to Sweden.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The British aircraft approaching across the North Sea were, at first presumed to be four-engine bomber stream. For this reason, 11 twin-engine fighter aircraft of the 2nd Fighter Division assembled for commitment. They were later committed over the coastal areas of the Heligoland Bight by "Himmelbett"-tactics.

- 82 -

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: In the sector of the 3rd Fighter Division 10/10 clouds, lower ceiling 150 meters, upper ceiling from 1500 to ~~20~~ 2000 meters. In the Heligoland Bight 0/10 to 5/10 clouds, lower ceiling 800 meters.

8.) British Mining Operations off the Dutch Coast on 7/8 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 181!)

Enemy Effort

During the period from 22:34 hours to 23:09 hours 40 British minelayer aircraft cruised over the sea and coastal area from the island of Vlieland to Bergen op Zoom at an altitude of 150 meters. They were observed returning in western direction from 22:58 hours on.

Individual aircraft, presumably "FN", penetrated via Northern Belgium in south-eastern direction into the area of St. Trond and returned by way of ~~the~~ Schelde Estuary.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

By "Himmelbett"-tactics 2 twin-engine fighters were employed by the 3rd Fighter Division over the coastal area of Northern Holland.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None

Weather Conditions: 5/10 thin layer of stratus clouds at altitudes from 500 to 1000 meters; at higher altitudes cloudless.

- 83 -

Special Information: The following officers were decorated on 8 April:

Hauptmann Schoenert, Commanding Officer of the 10th Night Fighter Group was awarded the addition of the oakleaf cluster to the knight cross of the iron cross, and

Hauptmann Fellerer, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Group, 5th Night Fighter Wing, and Oberfeldwebel Scherfling, 4th Group/1st Night ~~ix~~ Fighter Wing, were awarded the knight cross of the iron cross.

9.) British Nuisance Raids on Duisburg and Essen on 8/9 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1811)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

A nuisance raid against Essen with 50 Type Mosquito bombers. Beginning at 21:42 hours the aircraft intruded between Bergen op Zoom and Noordwijk by way of Nordhorn, Rheine, Muenster into the Ruhr area. From 22:16 hours ^{on} they returned in western direction. The aircraft left the air space between Schelde Estuary and Bergen op Zoom up to 23:10 hours. A few aircraft dropped bombs also on Bocholt and Oberhausen.

A nuisance raid on Duisburg with 30 Type Mosquito bombers. Beginning at 22:18 hours the aircraft intruded via Northern Holland, Groningen and Osnabrueck into the Ruhr area. They returned across the Dutch coast between Den Helder and Zandvoort up to 23:37 hours.

Nuisance operations conducted by individual aircraft from the British air base in Italy over Croatia into the area of Budapest. The aircraft returned ~~to their bases~~ in southern direction.

- 84 -

Commitment of the I Fighter CorpsThe following forces were employed:To repulse nuisance raids against the Ruhr area:

----- By the 3rd Fighter Division in "Himmelbett"-tactics: 4 twin-engine fighters (Types He 219 and Me 410).

----- aircraft
To repulse nuisance ~~raids~~ operations in Hungary:

By the 7th Fighter Division in pursuit operations: 16 twin-engine fighters (Types He 110 and Do 217). the aircraft assembled over the airfield of Parndorf and proceeded by way of ~~the~~ Lake Balaton to Budapest.

Total Effort: 20 twin-engine fighters.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: 8/10 to 10/10 upsloping clouds above 3000 meters.

10.) British Nuisance Raids on Cities in the Reich's Territory and Mining

Operations in the Bay of Danzig on 9/10 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement
182!)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

Nuisance raids on Duisburg and Osnabrueck with a total force of 30 Type Mosquito bombers. Beginning at 21:40 hours the aircraft approached

- 85 -

between IJmuiden and the island of Texel. They proceeded by way of Muenster, Osnabrueck, and in south-eastern direction into the Ruhr area. From 22:17 hours on the aircraft returned in western and north-western direction. They left the coast by way of the island of Vlieland and Schelde Estuary up to 23:00 hours.

Nuisance raids on Koeln and Mannheim with a total of 30 Type Mosquito bombers. Beginning at 22:08 the aircraft approached across the Channel coast between Dunkerq and Calais flying in eastern direction into the area of Koeln and in south-eastern direction into the area of the Rhine and Main Rivers. From 22:30 hours on the aircraft returned in western and north-western direction. They crossed the coast between Ostend and Calais up to 24:00 hours.

A nuisance raid on Hamburg with 20 Type Mosquito bombers. Beginning at 22:18 hours the aircraft approached roughly 50 kilometers north of the island of Terschelling flying in eastern direction north of the West and East Frisian islands into ~~the~~ Heligoland Bight from where they proceeded in south-eastern direction into the area of Hamburg. Beginning at 23:05 hours they returned in north-western direction into Heligoland Bight. The last aircraft left at 23:30 hours.

A mining operation in the Bay of Danzig with 80 aircraft. The aircraft approached across the North Sea about 150 kilometers west of Esberg at 22:58 hours. They crossed the coast between the island of Roem and Ringkoebing. From there they proceeded by way of the Kattegat and the Central Baltic into the Bay of Danzig. Beginning at 01:55 hours the aircraft returned on counter routes by way of Northern Jutland up to 04:45 hours.

Missions to drop agents were flown by a number of aircraft from the British

- 86 -

air base in Italy into the areas of Southern Poland and Upper Silesia. The aircraft approached by way of Croatia, Western Hungary, and Slovakia and returned on counter routes.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Against intruding Type Mosquito aircraft in the Ruhr area:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: 5 twin-engine fighter aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics over Holland.

Against mine-laying operations:

By the 2nd Fighter Division: A number of twin-engine fighter aircraft in "Himmebett"-tactics at the western coast of Jutland. They turned to the pursuit of the enemy aircraft in direction of the Kattafat. The Night Fighter Group "Stade" was committed for the pursuit. The pursuit operation was initiated by the radar station "Seehund" (English: seal). The pursuit operation was stopped when Swedish territory was reached.

Units of the 1st Fighter Division: The aircraft assembled over FF* 15. After the mine-laying aircraft had proceeded into the Central Baltic the friendly aircraft landed on the airfield of Kolberg.

In night fighter operations to pursue returning mine-laying aircraft:

Units of the 1st Fighter Division: The aircraft started from the airfield of

Note: * FF means

- 87 -

Kolberg and assembled over F.F. "Seehund" (English: seal) and turned to the pursuit of the enemy aircraft north-west of the radar station "Seehund".

Units of the 2nd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft which had made a stop at stade assembled over the radar station "Seehund" and turned to the pursuit of the enemy aircraft north-west of the radar station "Seehund".

Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Vechta: Y- guidance * to Jutland and turning to the pursuit of the enemy aircraft.

Units of the 3rd Fighter Division: The Ju 88 Groups "Twente" and "Langensalza" started in direction of the radar station "Seehund" and turned to the pursuit of the enemy aircraft in the area of the Kattagat.

Against aircraft carrying agents in Hungary:

By the 7th Fighter Division: A number of twin-engine fighter aircraft of the Fighter Commander Ostmark. The aircraft started from the airfield of Parndorf ~~xxx~~ in direction of Budapest and turned into the area of Lake Balaton.

Total Effort: 77 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 14 mine-laying aircraft were definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 3 aircraft were slightly damaged.

Losses of personnel: 5 wounded.

~~Kundtunoo Staschididoox~~

.....
Note: * Y-guidance means

- 88 -

Weather Conditions:

Holland and North-Western Germany: 10/10 clouds ~~at~~ ^{from the} altitude ~~from~~ ^{of} 500 meters up in several strata, partially rain. From 01:00 hours sudden approach of high-altitude fog.

Jutland and Baltic Sea area: 3/10 to 6/10 high clouds above 6000 meters.

Hungary: 10/10 clouds from the altitude of 1200 meters up; several thin strata up to the altitude of 2000 meters.

11.) British Nuisance Raids on Duisburg, Duesseldorf, and Hannover on

10/11 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 183!)

Enemy Effort

From 21: 50 hours on 30 Type Mosquito bombers penetrated across the Dutch coast between Bergen op Zoom and Zandvoort. Over the Zuider Sea they split up to proceed in eastern direction into the area of Hannover and in south-eastern direction into the Ruhr area. After having bombed Hannover, Duisburg, and Duesseldorf the Type Mosquito bombers left, from 23:05 hours respectively 22:31 hours on, the Ruhr area in western and north-western direction. Their return flights over the continent were terminated at 23:15 hours over Schelde and Estuary at the Dutch coast ~~and~~ between the island of Terschelling and Den Haag at 24:00 hours.

Simultaneously with the appearance of the Mosquito bombers off the Dutch coast a bomber stream from the area of Norwich approached the Channel coast between Westerschelde and Ostend ^{flying} in south-eastern direction. The bombers attacked in the stallations of railroad station in Gent and began their return flight.

- 89 -

At midnight a Type Mosquito aircraft flew across Schelde Estuary in south-eastern direction and reached the area of Kassel. From there the aircraft proceeded in northern direction into the area of Braunschweig from where it flew into the Heligoland Bight by way of Cuxhaven.

A British courier aircraft flew over the Skagerrak in direction of Sweden.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Against the Mosquito-bombers: A number of twin-engine fighters of the 3rd Fighter Division in "Himmelbett"-tactics over the Ruhr area.

To repulse bomber aircraft intruding across the Channel coast:

Precautionary start of twin-engine fighter aircraft of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 7th Fighter Divisions. After the attack on Gent had been recognized the units which had started were ordered to land.

Total Effort: 112 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 1 Type Me 110 aircraft was damaged.

Weather Conditions: 3/10 cumulus clouds ~~from~~ at altitudes ~~of~~ from 500 to 2000 meters. Light scattered showers. Good visibility.

12.) British Attacks on Aachen and Hannover as well as Mine-Laying Operations over the Western Baltic on 11/12 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 184!)

- 90 -

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

A mine-laying operations north of the island of Laaland and south-east of the island of Zealand with a total strength of 100 aircraft.

Beginning at 21:06 hours the aircraft approached about 120 kilometers ~~west~~ ^{flying} west of Jutland in eastern direction. They crossed the coast between Esbjerg and Ringkoebing. They aircraft proceeded by way of Zealand and Fyn into the area north of Laaland and south-east of Zealand. From 22:45 hours on the aircraft returned in western direction. They left the coast between Ringkoebing and the island of Fance up to 00:25 hours.

Nuisance raids against Hannover as well as against the night fighter airfields of Venlo, St. Trond, and Deelen with a total force of 80 Type Mosquito ~~bombers~~ bombers. Beginning at 21:19 hours the aircraft intruded across the Dutch coast between Bergen op Zoom and Noordwijk in eastern direction into the area of Hannover. Individual aircraft circled over the night fighter airfields in Holland and Belgium. In addition, several aircraft penetrated into the area of Magdeburg, Nordhausen, Eisenach, and They returned from the area of Hannover in western direction from 23:00 hours on crossed the coast between Den Helder and Den Haag up to 00:05 hours.

A large-scale attack on Aachen with 250 four-engine bomber aircraft. Beginning at 21:44 hours the bomber stream approached across Schelde Estuary flying in south-eastern direction into the area fo Aachen. They returned by way of Schelde Estuary up to 23:50 hours. Except some erroneous bomb releases on the area ~~xx~~ around Dueren, Erkelenz, and Duisburg the at-

tack

- 91 -

was concentrated Aachen. The attack inflicted heavy damage on buildings and slight damage on industrial installations.

A nuisance mission flown by one Type Mosquito aircraft in the morning over Northern Belgium, Koblenz, and Muenster into the area of Wunstorf. The aircraft returned by way of Oldenburg in north-western direction.

Missions flown by a number of aircraft to deliver supplies to guerilla forces on Bosnian territory. The aircraft approached from the British air base in Italy.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Against the mine-laying aircraft:

By the 2nd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Westerland in pursuit operations.

Against Type Mosquito bombers:

By the 1st Fighter Division: Several twin-engine fighter aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics in the area of Magdeburg and Halberstadt.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Several twin-engine fighter aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics over Northern Holland.

the
To repulse ~~an~~ attack on Aachen

In night fighter pursuit operations:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Deelen and

- 92 -

St. Trond. The aircraft assembled over the airfields and were directed into the bomber stream over the radar stations in Northern Belgium.

In fighter operations to protect the target area:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Venlo. The aircraft assembled over F.F* "Ida" fighter Twin-engine aircraft from Twente. They were directed from their operations in "Himmelbett"-tactics to Aachen.

Single-engine fighter aircraft from Rheine, Bonn, and Wiesbaden-Erbenheim.

Total Effort: 101 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 9 bombers definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 2 aircraft of which one He 219 was shot down ~~xx~~ by FN** at 23:08 hours near Weert and one Me 109 of the 3rd Group/5th Night Fighter Wing was shot down by FN** over the airfield of Mainz-Finthen at an altitude of 300 meters.

3 aircraft damaged.

Losses of personnel: 4 wounded; 1 missing.

Weather Conditions: 5/10 to 8/10 thin formation of stratus clouds between the altitudes of 1000 and 3000 meters. Flying visibility of 10 kilometers.

Notes: * F.F. means

** FN means

- 93 -

13.) British Attacks on Osnabrueck and Budapest as well as Mine-Laying
Operations in the Heligoland Bight on 12/13 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1851)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

a.) From the air base in Great Britain:

Mining operations in the sea area of the West and East Frisian islands up to the Heligoland Bight with 50 aircraft during the period from 22:40 hour to 23:50 hours.

A nuisance raid against Osnabrueck with 120 Type Mosquito bombers. The aircraft penetrated from 22:05 hours on across the Dutch coast in a broad front between the island of Texel and Den Haag flying in eastern and south-eastern direction into the area of Osnabrueck. They returned on counter routes up to 23:25 hours.

Patrol missions with several FN were flown across the Zuider Sea into the area of Berlin, Stettin and across the Westerschelde, Brussels, and Kaiserslautern into the area of Munich and with a single Mosquito-aircraft via Northern France into the area of Saarbruecken and Strassbourg.

b.) From the air base on Italy:

An attack of medium intensity on Budapest with presumably 300 bomber aircraft. The aircraft approached by way of Croatia to Lake Balaton. There the bomber force split up to proceed in north-western direction towards the

- 94 -

area of Budapest and in northern direction to the Neusiedler See. It was not turned recognized in time that the bombers ~~changed their direction~~ over the Neusiedler See to fly towards the area of Budapest. They aircraft returned in southern direction. Budapest sustained heavy damage to transportation facilities and slight damage to industrial installations.

Missions were flown by a number of aircraft to deliver supplies to agents in the area of Warsaw. The aircraft approached and returned by way of Croatia, Western Hungary, Slovakia, and Southern Poland.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Against Mosquito-bombers: By the 3rd Fighter Division: 1 Type Me 410 aircraft

Against mine-laying aircraft : By the 2nd Fighter Division: 6 twin-engine fighter aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics in the Heligoland Bight.

Against British "FM" : By the 7th Fighter Division: 2 single-engine fighter aircraft in the area of Stuttgart.

To repulse the attack on Budapest: By the 7th Fighter Division (Fighter Commander Ostmark):

To provide protection over Vienna: Single-engine fighter aircraft from Seyring and twin-engine training fighter aircraft of the 2nd Group/ 101st Night Fighter Wing.
First commitment.

To provide protection over Budapest: Twin-engine fighter aircraft of the 2nd Group/ 101st Night Fighter Wing from Parndorf

- 95 -

at first over Budapest, later they were sent to Lake Balaton. Single-engine fighter aircraft from Seyring. Second commitment.
Total Effort: 36 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

In spite of weather conditions favorable for defensive action the commitment of the night fighter forces on 12/13 April was unsuccessful. In the whole sector of the I Fighter Corps there was only ^a ~~one~~ single aircraft (Type Me 410) suitable for action against Mosquito aircraft in operational condition. This demonstrated our weakness compared to the efficiency of the British nuisance raids. "Himmelbett"-tactics proved to be unsuitable for application against mine-laying aircraft because the British aircraft flew at low altitudes. The inadequate radar and aircraft warning system in Croatia and Hungary failed to provide a clear picture of the air situation when the British bombers approached towards Budapest. The committed night fighters of the 7th Fighter Division did not encounter British aircraft over Vienna and arrived too late to provide protection over Budapest.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: 3/10 thin formation of stratus clouds around 1500 meters, above this altitude cloudless. In the area of Berlin 5/10 to 10/10 clouds with scattered showers. Flying visibility from 10 to 20 kilometers.

14.) British Nuisance Raids on Berlin, Dortmund, and Aachen on 13/14

April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 186!)

- 96 -

Enemy EffortThe following targets were attacked:

Berlin by 20 Type Mosquito bombers. The aircraft approached from 22:20 hours on flying across the Zuider Sea in eastern direction. They returned on counter routes.

Dortmund and Aachen by a total strength of 20 Type Mosquito bombers. The aircraft intruded from 22:04 hours on between Dunkerk and Calais as well as from 22:22 hours on by way of Schelde Estuary flying in eastern direction. They returned in north-western direction.

In addition, 2 British courier aircraft coming from Sweden and 1 courier aircraft flying to Sweden passed the Skagerrak.

Commitment of the I Fighter CorpsThe following forces were employed:

To provide protection over Berlin: 6 single-engine fighter aircraft of the 1st Fighter Division.

Renewed attempts to operate ^{successfully} against Mosquito-aircraft with Type Me 109 single-engine fighter aircraft without equipping the latter with an engine of higher efficiency failed again.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: In Holland and in the Ruhr area 8/10 to 10/10 rain clouds at altitudes from 500 to 6000 meters, partially

- 97 -

with thunder storms. In the rest of the Reich's territory: 3/10 ice clouds above 7000 meters. Flying visibility from 10 to 20 kilometers.

15.) British Air Operation on 14/15 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1871)

Enemy Effort

30 aircraft intruding from the British air base in Italy by way of Croatia and Hungary reached the area of Budapest; a few of them also reached the area of Southern Poland. The operation presumably served to deliver supplies to agents. The aircraft returned on counter routes.

During the period from 22:40 hours to 23:12 hours a British courier aircraft crossed the Skagerrak in direction of Sweden.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed to provide protection over Budapest: By the 7th Fighter Division (Fighter Commander Ostmark): 14 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 1 aircraft.

2 aircraft damaged.

Weather Conditions: Croatia and Hungary: 0/10 to 3/10 clouds above 3000 meters. High-altitude visibility from 20 to 50 kilometers.

- 98 -

16.) British Air Operation on 15/16 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 187!)

Enemy Effort

40 aircraft from the British air base in Italy penetrated by way of Croatia, Hungary, and Slovakia into the area of Warsaw to deliver supplies to agents. A number of aircraft circled singly over the area of Budapest.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed to provide protection over Budapest:
By the 7th Fighter Division (Fighter Commander Ostmark): 7 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: 3/10 thin formation of stratus clouds above 1000 meters;
5/10 to 8/10 upsloping clouds above 5000 meters.
High-altitude visibility: 20 kilometers.

17.) British Nuisance Raid on Budapest on 16/17 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 187!)

Enemy Effort

Budapest was attacked by 30 aircraft. The aircraft approached and returned by way of Croatia and the area of the Danube River in Southern Hungary. Returning to their bases, individual aircraft crossed Lake Balaton flying in southern direction.

- 99 -

Commitment of the I Fighter CorpsThe following aircraft were employed:

By the 7th Fighter Division (Fighter Commander Ostmark)
to provide protection over Vienna: 4 single-engine fighter aircraft,
to provide protection over Budapest: 4 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Total Effort: 8 aircraft.Enemy Losses: 1 aircraft definitely shot down.Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: 10/10 stratus clouds at altitudes from 4500 to 7000
meters; underneath 3/10 thin formation of clouds at
an altitude of around 1000 meters.

18.) British Nuisance Raid on Koeln and Mine-laying operations in the Bay
of Kiel on 17/18 April 1944

(See sketch; home air defense, supplement 1871)

Enemy EffortThe following operations were conducted by the RAF:

A nuisance raid on Koeln with 20 Type Mosquito bombers. The
aircraft approached by way of Schelde Estuary and left via Den Haag.

A mine-laying operation in the Bay of Kiel with 40 aircraft.
The aircraft approached by way of the North Sea and the island of Fyn.
They returned in western direction.

- 100 -

2 aircraft coming from Sweden crossed the Skagerrak on courier missions.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

Owing to weather conditions the corps was not employed.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None

Weather Conditions: 7/10 to 10/10 stratus clouds at altitudes from 500 to 1500 meters. Above these altitudes formation of light clouds.

19.) British Nuisance Raids on Berlin and Osnabrueck as well as Mine -Laying in the Stettiner Haff on 18/19 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1871)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

Nuisance raids on Berlin and Osnabrueck with a total strength of 40 Mosquito-bombers. The aircraft penetrated by way of the Zuider Sea in eastern direction into the area of Berlin and in south-eastern direction into the area of Osnabrueck. They returned on counter routes.

A mine-laying operation in the Stettiner Haff with 100 aircraft. The aircraft approached via The North Sea, Westerland, Bay of Kiel, Bay of Luebeck, and Bay of Swinemuende. They returned in north-western ~~direction~~, later in western direction by way of the island of Fyn.

On 19/20 April ^{a single aircraft} flew along the coast in the area of Schelde Estuary.

- 101 -

Commitment of the I Fighter CorpsThe following forces were employed:

By the 2nd Fighter Division: The Twin-Engine Fighter Group Westerland in
 on
 "Himmelbett"-tactics ~~along~~ the western coast of Jutland. The group was later
 diverted to pursuit missions.

Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Stade, Nordholz, and Vechta to pursue re-
 turning mine-layer aircraft. They were directed into the enemy flying for-
 mation in the area of Fehmarn.

Total Effort: 61 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 2 aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: 0/10 to 3/10 clouds above 500 meters. High-altitude visi-
 bility from 10 to 20 kilometers.

20.) British Attacks on Koeln, Berlin, and Osnabrueck on 20/21 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1881)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

In the first half of the night:

An attack on Brussels. A bomber stream of medium strength intru-
 ded across the Westerschelde flying in south-eastern direction into the area
 of Brussels. The aircraft returned in north-western direction via Ostend.

- 102 -

A number of Type Mosquito aircraft left the bomber stream and proceeded into the area of Koeln.

Nuisance raids on Berlin and Osnabrueck with a total strength of 45 Mosquito-bombers. The aircraft intruded across the Zuider Sea in eastern direction into the area of Berlin and in south-eastern direction into the area of Osnabrueck. They returned in western direction.

A nuisance mission flown by a single aircraft over the North Sea into the area of Heligoland. The aircraft may have been a weather reconnaissance plane.

In the second half of the month:

A heavy attack on Koeln with 300 four-engine bomber aircraft. The approaching bomber stream was not located by the radar stations until it had reached the air space 40 to 50 kilometers north-west of Schelde Estuary. There were no previous reports of the German radio intercept service available. German bomber aircraft simultaneously returning from the area of the Island of Britain made it difficult to keep track of the ~~course of flight~~ ^{course of flight} of the bomber stream.

The British bombers flew in south-eastern direction across the southern section of Schelde Estuary into the area east of Namur where they turned to the North for the attack on Koeln. They returned in north-western direction via Southern Holland.

The effects of the attack on Koeln: Heavy damage caused to buildings and transportation facilities; slight damage inflicted on industrial installations.

- 103 -

Nuisance raids with a few Mosquito-bombers against the night fighter airfields of Twente and Vechta. The aircraft approached simultaneously with the bomber stream via Northern Holland.

Several "FN"*-aircraft carried out patrol flights over Dutch territory. They approached at the same time when the bombers returned to their bases.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

In the first half of the night:

By the 1st Fighter Division: a number of single-engine fighter aircraft to operate against Type Mosquito aircraft over Berlin.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: The Ju-88 units assembled over the airfields. When the beginning of the attack on Brussels was recognized the night fighters were ordered to land.

In the second half of the night:

By the 1st Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Stendal, Brandis, and Werneuchen. The aircraft assembled over F.F.** 12. Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Erfurt. They started in direction of F.F.** Ida.

Notes: * FN means

** F.F. means

- 104 -

After the attack on Koeln was over all night fighters were ordered to land; they did not reach the British bombers.

By the 2nd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Westerland, Stade and Vechta. They started in direction of F.F. Ludwig. When the British bombers left the area of Koeln all units were ordered to land; they had not been engaged in combat.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Mainz-Finthen and Langendiebach. They started in direction of F.F. Ida. The aircraft were then directed to provide protection over Koeln. These were the only night fighters which could ~~engage~~ contact the enemy. Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Venlo. They were employed in "Himmelbett"-tactics over the area of the German-Dutch border. Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Leeuwarden. They started in direction of F.F. Kurfuerst ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and pursued returning bombers. Ju-88 groups from Twente, Kassel, and Langensalza. They started in direction of F.F. Kurfuerst too late, since the aircraft were not yet ready to start after they had flown their first mission.

By the 7th Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Echterdingen, Leipheim, and Illersheim. They started in direction of F.F. Otto. After the attack on Koeln had started the units were ordered to land; they had not been engaged in combat.

- 105 -

Total Effort: 165 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

The night fighter operation on 20/21 April failed for the following reasons:

Failure of the German radio interception service in the second half of the night.

Confusion of the picture of the air situation by returning German bombers.

British multi-bomber stream tactics.

Bad visibility over Koeln.

Almost all of the night fighter aircraft were committed too late. Consequently, it was impossible to reach the British bomber stream over Koeln. The German losses were brought about mainly by the precipitated commitment.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 6 aircraft.

Losses of personnel: 4 killed,
4 wounded,
5 missing.

Weather Conditions: Holland: 2/10 to 5/10 thin formation of stratus clouds.

North-Western Germany and the plains of Frankfurt:

7/10 to 10/10 stratus clouds between the altitudes of 500 and 3000 meters. Area of Berlin: Bright.

21.) British Nuisance Raid on Koeln on 21/22 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 189!)