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Enemy EffortThe following operations were conducted by the RAF:In the first half of the night:

A number of aircraft flying singly at low altitudes penetrated into the sea areas around the island of Terschelling, off the western coast of Holstein, and off Schelde Estuary. The aircraft may have been mine-layers.

In the second half of the night:

A nuisance raid on Koeln with 30 Type Mosquito bombers. Beginning at 04:05 hours the aircraft penetrated via Schelde Estuary in south-eastern direction into the area of Koeln and Duesseldorf. They returned from 04:30 hours on in north-western direction. The last aircraft crossed the coast at 05:15 hours.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The corps was not operationally employed owing to bad weather conditions.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.Losses of Friendly Forces: None.Weather Conditions: A bad weather front moving from Holland to the East.

10/10 stratus clouds at altitudes from 500 to 6000 meters, light rain. East of the bad weather front almost cloudless.

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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

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 190!)

Enemy Effort

The Bomber Command conducted large-scale attacks on Braunschweig and Duesseldorf with a total strength of 600 bombers and 50 Type Mosquito aircraft during new moon. The operations were carried out by four separate bomber streams which were observed taking the following flight courses:

1st bomber stream: The aircraft intruded from the area south of London in south-south-eastern direction into the area north of Paris to attack Leon. They returned in north-north-western direction by way of Calais.

2nd bomber stream: The aircraft approached from the area of Canterbury flying at first in southern direction; from 24:00 hours on, when crossing the coast between Abbeville and Le Treport, they turned to south-eastern direction to proceed into the area of Chantilly, Compiègne, and Soissons. From there they proceeded in east-north-eastern direction into the area west of Koblenz and linked up with the 3rd bomber stream. A small Mosquito-unit left the 2nd bomber stream to carry out a nuisance raid against Mannheim.

3rd bomber stream: The aircraft intruded from the area of Norwich in south-eastern direction across Schelde Estuary and by way of Liège and Namur into the area of Koblenz. After linking up with the 2nd bomberstream they proceeded in northern direction to attack Duesseldorf from the South-East. In the area of Brussels a Mosquito-unit left the 3rd bomber stream to carry out

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nuisance raids on Muenchen-Gladbach and Krefeld and attempted to conceal the route of the proceeding bomber stream. The bombers returning from the area of Duesseldorf and Krefeld flew across Schelde Estuary.

4th bomber stream: The aircraft approached from the area of Lincoln flying in eastern direction. At 00:25 hours their position was roughly 100 kilometers west of the island of Texel. They crossed the coast between the islands of Schiermonnikoog and Texel in eastern direction into the area of Groninger

From there the aircraft proceeded in south-eastern direction into the area south of Hannover. They attacked Braunschweig from the South-West. The aircraft returned, from 02:00 hours on, in western and north-western direction.

They crossed the coast between the island of Texel and IJmuiden up to 03:45 hours.

The 1st and 3rd bomber streams crossed the Channel coast at the same time when the 2nd bomber stream flew over the area of Compiègne.

The Effect of the Attack: Heavy damage caused to buildings and industrial installations in Duesseldorf.

Medium damage caused to buildings and industrial installations in Braunschweig.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

In night fighter pursuit operations:

By the 1st Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Stendal in direction of F.F. Philipp. The aircraft were directed into the 4th bomber stream north of F.F. Philipp.

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Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Erfurt in direction of F.F. Ida. The aircraft were directed into the 3rd bomber stream in the area of Bonn.

By the 2nd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Westerland, Nordholz, Stade, and Vechta in direction of F.F. Ludwig. The aircraft were rerouted into the area of Emden and directed into the 4th bomber stream.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Ju-88 groups from Langensalza, Kassel,<sup>and</sup> Langendiebach in ~~the~~ direction of F.F. Ida where they were directed into the bomber stream.

A Ju-88 group from Gilze-Rijen. The aircraft were directed into the bomber stream over F.F. Meise.

Twin-engine fighters from Mainz-Finthen which were directed into the bomber stream over F.F. Ida.

Twin-engine fighters from St.Trond which were directed into the bomber stream over F.F. Kuecken  
(English:chicken)

Twin-engine fighters from Venlo which were directed into the bomber stream over F.F. Marmeltier  
(English:marmot)

By the 7th Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighters from Ingolstadt, Munich-Riem, Echterdingen, Illesheim, and Leipheim in direction of F.F. Otto. The aircraft were directed into the last elements of the bomber stream over the area of Koblenz.

To provide fighter protection:

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By the 1st Fighter Division: Single-engine fighter aircraft from Jüsterbog and Ludwigslust to L.Gr.#Braunschweig.

By the 2nd Fighter Division: Single-engine fighter aircraft from Oldenburg to Duesseldorf.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Single-engine fighter aircraft from Dortmund, Bonn, and Wiesbaden-Erbenheim to Duesseldorf.

By the 7th Fighter Division: Single-engine fighter aircraft from Gross-Sachsenheim via L.F.\*\* Otto to Duesseldorf.

Single-engine fighter aircraft from Neubiberg to L.Gr. Stuttgart.

In addition, night fighter aircraft of the Third Air Fleet stationed on French territory were employed against the 2nd bomber stream.

Total Effort: 294 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

The fighter operations were hindered by bad weather conditions.

Enemy Losses: 42 bomber aircraft definitely shot down.

12 bomber aircraft shot down by night fighters of the Third  
Air Fleet.

Total: 54 aircraft.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 9 aircraft.

Losses of personnel: 4 wounded,  
10 missing.

Weather Conditions: South of the general line: Amsterdam - Erfurt - Berlin:  
cloudless.

North of this line: 7/10 to 10/10 light stratus clouds above 4000 meters. Flying visibility impaired by haze and ice clouds.

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Notes: \* L.Gr. means

\*\* L.F. means

The bombing raid on Duesseldorf was carried out after the target area was ground-marked by pathfinder aircraft which did the initial marking and renewed the markers.

The attack on Braunschweig was, in contrast to other attacks on German cities, conducted according to the pattern of the moonlight ~~xxxx~~ raids against transportation facilities in France.

It was found that in the attack on Braunschweig a 13-kg liquid fire jet bomb (German: Flammenstrahlbombe) with a thermite-gasoline filling and a 225-kg incendiary bomb with <sup>an</sup> ~~x~~ oil-magnesium-powder filling were for the first time used.

23.) British Nuisance Raid on Mannheim and Mine-Laying Operations in the  
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Stettiner Haff on 23/24 April 1944  
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(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1911)

Enemy Effort  
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The following operations were conducted by the RAF:  
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A nuisance raid on Mannheim with 60 Type Mosquito bomber aircraft.

A small bomber unit approached from the area of Norwich flying at first in southern and later in eastern direction across Schelde Estuary into the area of Antwerp. The aircraft returned in north-western direction.

At the same time the Mosquito-bombers intruded, from 22:35 hours on,

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in south-eastern direction by way of Antwerp and the area south of Koblenz into the area of Mannheim. The aircraft returned via Luxembourg, Brussels, and Ostend up to 00:35 hours. The bombs were dropped on open terrain in the area of Mannheim without causing any damage.

A mine-laying operation in the sea area of the Baltic along the coast from the Bay of Luebeck to the Stettiner Haff with a total strength of 120 aircraft. The aircraft approached from the area of Hull flying over the North Sea in eastern direction. They crossed the coast from 22:25 hours on between Esbjerg and the island of Roem and proceeded in south-eastern direction across the Belts and the Bay of Kiel into the area of Baltic Sea coast from the Bay of Luebeck to the Stettiner Haff. The aircraft returned on counter routes. They left the western coast of Jutland up to 01:45 hours.

Patrol missions were flown by a number of "FN" aircraft over Dutch territory.

A nuisance ~~raid~~ mission flown by a single Type Mosquito aircraft across Belgium into the area of Frankfurt on the Main and Mannheim. The aircraft returned via Northern France.

A nuisance raid on Budapest with a small bomber unit. The unit approached and returned across the Adriatic Sea and Croatia.

#### Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

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Note: \* FN means

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By the 2nd Fighter Division: A twin-engine fighter group from Westerland in "Himmelbett"-tactics in the area of the western coast of Jutland; later the aircraft turned to the pursuit of the enemy aircraft in south-eastern direction.

Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Nordholz, Stade, and Vechta in pursuit operations in the area of Flensburg.

By the 7th Fighter Division: The Do-217 training group from Parndorf to provide protection over Budapest. (Fighter Commander Ostmark)

Total Effort: 56 twin-engine fighter aircraft

Enemy Losses: 6 mine-layer aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 1 Type Me 110 aircraft.

Weather Conditions: In the area of the North Sea and partially in Jutland:

Formation of high-altitude clouds.

Baltic Sea area and Reich's territory: Bright.

High-altitude wind: 310 degrees, 80 kilometers per hour

24.) British Attacks on Munich, Karlsruhe, and Mannheim on 24/25 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 192!)

Enemy Effort

During the night of 24/25 April 1944 the RAF operated with 1000 bomber aircraft against the Reich's territory and attacked Munich, Karlsruhe and Mannheim. German air intelligence keeping track of the enemy flight



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courses reported the following picture of the British offensive operations:

1st bomber stream (5th Bomber Group):

The aircraft intruded from the area of London in southern direction. ~~They~~ Beginning at 22:00 hours they crossed the coast between Fecamp and Dieppe flying in southern direction into the area of Orleans and Blois. At this stage the equipment and the aircraft reporting centers keeping track of the enemy flight courses failed. Radio bearing indicated that the enemy aircraft were proceeding in south-eastern direction into the area of Pontarlier, Lake of Geneva, and then across Switzerland in north-eastern into the area of Vorarlberg and into the area of Fuessen and Reutte. From here the enemy force proceeded in northern direction for the attack on Munich. Beginning at 01:43 hours the bombers returned in north-western direction by way of Belgium and Northern France. The last elements crossed the coast at 04:30 hours.

2nd bomber stream:

Beginning at 22:25 hours the bomber aircraft crossed the coast between Dieppe and Le Treport flying in south-eastern direction into the area of Chalons sur Marne, ~~and~~ Troyes, and St. Dizier. They proceeded in eastern direction across the area of Toul, Epinal into the area of Strassbourg and from here in northern and north-eastern direction into the area of Karlsruhe, Stuttgart, and Crailsheim. From 01:00 hours on the bombers returned in north-western direction. It is possible that a part of the 2nd bomber stream flew from the area of St. Dizier in south-eastern direction via Switzerland into the area of Munich.

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3rd bomber stream:

The bomber aircraft approached from the area The Wash flying in north-eastern direction. Their position at 23:00 hours was roughly 100 kilometers north-west of the island of Vlieland. The aircraft proceeded in easter direction into Heligoland Bight and passed 50 kilometers west of the island of Sylt. They presumably carried out mine-laying missions in this sea area. The force returned in western direction from 24:00 hours on. The position of the last returning mine-laying aircraft was about 80 kilometers north of the East Frisian islands.

4th bomber stream (1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 8th Bomber Groups):

The aircraft approached from the area of Norwich flying in eastern direction. Beginning at 23:15 hours they crossed the coast in south-eastern direction flying over Schelde Estuary. The bombers proceeded into the area of Koblenz and Trier. Proceeding from here the bomber stream widened and eventually extended over the large area of Frankfurt on the Main, Wuerzburg, Nurenburg, Crailsheim, Stuttgart, and Karlsruhe. *merged in this area,* ~~In this area~~ The 2nd and 4th bomber streams ~~merged~~ <sup>merged in this area,</sup> Beginning at 01:00 hours the aircraft returned flying in a broad front across Belgium and Northern France. The last elements crossed the coast at Calais at 03:15 hours. 30 Mosquito-bombers left the 4th bomber stream over the area of Northern Belgium and proceeded by way of Roermond to attack Duesseldorf.

Effect of the Attack:

In Munich: Heavy damage to buildings and slight damage to industrial installations.

In Karlsruhe: Medium damage to buildings and heavy damage to transportation facilities.

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In Mannheim: Medium damage to buildings and slight damage to industrial installations.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed :

Against the mine-layer unit (3rd bomber stream):

By the 2nd Fighter Division: The 4th Group (Twin-engine fighters)/3rd Night Fighter Wing from Westerland in "Himmelbett"-tactics in the area of Northern Holstein; the unit was assembled for pursuit operations.

Against the 4th bomber stream:

For night fighter pursuit operations:

By the 1st Fighter Division: 4 twin-engine fighter groups in direction of F.F. Philipp. The force was rerouted to F.F. Otto and directed into the bomber stream in the area of Frankfurt on the Main.

By the 2nd Fighter Division: 3 twin-engine fighter groups in direction of F.F. Ludwig. The force was rerouted to F.F. Otto and directed into the bomber ~~stream~~ stream in the area of Frankfurt on the Main.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Ju-88 units from Gilze-Rijen. The units were directed into the bomber stream south of the airfield. Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Twente and Deelen. The aircraft assembled over F.F. Kurfuerst and proceeded to F.F. Ida



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Total Effort: 228 single-engine and twin-engine as well as marker (German: Beleuchter) aircraft.

Evaluation by the Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps

The 4th bomber stream was considered as the main force. Over Belgian territory it ran into a bad weather front and, proceeding in south-eastern direction, it was confronted with the same difficulties brought about by bad weather as the friendly units were exposed to. Night fighter units which had started in the area of Bonn and Kassel flew through dense clouds with strong icing ranging from 300 to 8400 meters. Friendly night fighters were flying within the British bomber stream over the area south of Frankfurt, which was indicated by the strong cross-winds caused by the propellers. Flying through the clouds ~~Strafkom~~ <sup>British</sup> and German aircraft could not fight each other. The dispersion of the bomber stream in the area of Frankfurt on the Main, Nurenburg, and Stuttgart was probably caused by the weather and icing conditions. The 4th bomber stream would have been over Munich simultaneously with the 1st bomber stream if it had proceeded beyond Nurenburg. For this reason it was assumed that the Bomber Command had planned a large-scale <sup>of</sup> attack on Munich with two bomber streams. The limited successes ~~and~~ the night fighters and the comparatively heavy German losses resulted from the unfavorable weather conditions.

Enemy Losses: 20 bomber aircraft definitely shot down.

2 bomber aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 17 aircraft.

Losses of personnel: 3 killed,  
~~3 wounded~~  
 1 wounded,  
 29 missing.

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Weather Conditions: A bad weather zone 300 kilometers broad in Northern Germany moved in south-eastern direction. The improvement of weather conditions in the coastal area which had started at 22:00 hours ~~was not~~ had extended to Brussels by 02:00 hours.

In the bad weather zone 10/10 clouds, lower ceiling from 200 to 500 meters, upper ceiling 8000 meters, partially above that altitude; icing above 2500 meters. In the area of Frankfurt: 10/10 clouds from 3000 to 8000 meters, lower ceiling falling. To the South scattering of the clouds to densities of 8/10 to 3/10. South of the Danube River cloudless.

Special Information:

It was during the attack on Munich that the term "Dead Point" was heard for the first time. The "Dead Point" was a point where the bombers assembled before reaching the target. This tactical measure was ordered to insure that, in spite of the long approach flight, the bombers arrived over the target at the same time thus securing a concentrated effect of the attack on the target. At the "Dead Point" the bombers awaited orders from the air officer commanding the attacking force for the approach to the target.

25.) British Nuisance Raid on Koeln on 25/26 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 193!)

Enemy Effort

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The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

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A nuisance raid on Koeln with 15 Mosquito-bombers. The aircraft approached between Calais and Schelde Estuary and returned on counter routes.

Patrol missions flown by a number of "FN"-aircraft over Dutch territory.

A nuisance mission flown by one Type Mosquito aircraft into the area of Frankfurt on the Main and Kassel. The aircraft intruded across Belgium and returned in western direction by way of Den Haag.

Courier missions were flown to and from Sweden across the Skagerrak by one aircraft respectively.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The corps was not operationally employed owing to bad weather.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: Showers with 5/10 to 10/10 cumulus clouds at altitudes from 500 to 2500 meters, formation of individual cumulus clouds up to 4000 meters. Numerous showers.

26.) British Large-Scale Attacks on Essen and Schweinfurt as well as a

Nuisance Raid on Trier on 26/27 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1941)

Enemy Effort

According to German reports the RAF employed 900 bomber aircraft

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operating in two bomber streams for the large-scale attacks on Essen and Schweinfurt.

1st bomber stream:

The aircraft approached from the area north of London flying in southern direction. They crossed the coast between Dieppe and Le Havre and proceeded in south-eastern direction into the area of Chartres and Orléans. From there the aircraft proceeded in eastern direction by way of Troyes, Neufchâteau, Strassbourg into the area of Stuttgart. From here the aircraft continued their flight in north-eastern direction for the attack on Schweinfurt. A small unit proceeded by way of the area of Ellwangen and Heidenheim. The aircraft returned from the area of Schweinfurt in south-western and western direction across the lines Bonn - Saarbruecken, Liège - Metz, and Lille - Reims. The 1st bomber stream was followed by a second wave of four-engine aircraft which penetrated into the area of Orléans using the same flight path; these aircraft then proceeded to the area of Paris and returned in northern direction.

2nd bomber stream:

The aircraft approached from the area of Norwich flying in north-eastern direction into the area off the island of Texel. They proceeded in eastern direction into the area of the island of Borkum where the aircraft turned into south-eastern direction and proceeded into the north area of Muenster. They approached for the attack on Essen flying in south-western direction with a tail wind of 100 kilometers per hour.

The majority of the bombers returned via the area of Duesseldorf



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Koeln and Schelde Estuary. In the area of Borkum a Mosquito-unit left the bomber stream to proceed in eastern direction into Heligoland Bight and tried to conceal the turning of the bomber stream into the Ruhr area by conducting a nuisance raid on Hamburg.

In addition, 50 Mosquito-bombers carried out a nuisance raid against the area of Trier. The aircraft approached via Ostend flying in south-eastern direction and returned on counter routes.

bombers  
While the ~~xxxxx~~ intruded there were intensive British long-range night fighter activities over the air bases of the German night fighters in the areas of North-Western and Southern Germany. During these activities six long-range night fighter radio frequencies instead<sup>of</sup> the two hitherto known were intercepted.

Effects of the Attacks:

In Essen: Heavy damage to industrial installations and extremely heavy damage to buildings.

In Schweinfurt: Heavy damage to buildings and slight damage to industrial installations.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

Against the 1st bomber stream:

For night fighter pursuit operations:

By the 1st Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Werneuchen,

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Stendal, and Erfurt. The aircraft assembled over F.F. Schellfisch (English: Haddock) and proceeded in direction of F.F. Ludwig where they were rerouted to fly in direction of Schweinfurt. They were directed into the bomber stream over the area of Schweinfurt by means of the "Y" \* - control method.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Mainz-Finthen and Langendiebach. The aircraft assembled over L.Gr. Stuttgart. They were directed into the bomber stream in the area of Stuttgart.

By the 7th Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Echterdingen, Illesheim, and Kitzingen in direction of F.F. Christa. They were directed into the bomber ~~xxxx~~ stream in the areas of St. Dié and east of Baden-Baden.

Twin-engine training units from Ingolstadt and Schleissheim. The aircraft assembled over F.F. Dagmar and were directed into the bomber stream over L.Gr. Stuttgart.

Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Parndorf in direction of Munich. The aircraft were directed into the bomber stream over L.Gr. Stuttgart.

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 Note: \* "Y" means

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To provide night fighter protection:

By the 3rd and 7th Fighter Division: Single-engine fighter aircraft from Wiesbaden-Erbenheim, Gross-Sachsenheim, Neubiberg, and Seyring (transferred to Neubiberg in the evening of 26 April). The aircraft assembled over L.Gr. Stuttgart and proceeded to Schweinfurt.

The 1st Group (Marker Aircraft)/7th Night Fighter Wing: The aircraft assembled over F.F. 10 and were directed via radio beacon Dagmar and L.Gr. Stuttgart to Schweinfurt.

Against the 2nd bomber stream:

For night fighter pursuit operations:

By the 2nd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Westerland. The aircraft assembled over F.F. Hummer (English: lobster) and were directed into the direction of Borkum. The group did not reach the bomber stream any more.

Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Stade and Nordholz. The aircraft assembled over the airfields and proceeded in direction of Kiel. There, they turned into the direction of F.F. Quelle (English: spring) and were directed into the bomber stream in the area of Osnabrueck.

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Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Vechba. They assembled over the airfields and were directed into the bomber stream in the area of Meppen.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Twente. The aircraft assembled over the airfield and were directed into the bomber stream in the area of Lingen. The radio frequency assigned to the group was used in directing the aircraft.

Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Gilze-Rijen in direction of F.F. Quelle. They were directed into the bomber stream in the area of Meppen.

Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Deelen. They were directed into the bomber stream over F.F. Ludwig.

Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Langensalza and Kassel. The aircraft assembled over F.F. Quelle. They were directed into the bomber ~~xxx~~ stream in the area of Emden and Meppen.

To provide night fighter protection:

By the 2nd Fighter Division: Single-engine fighter aircraft from Oldenburg. The aircraft assembled over L.Gr. Bremen and proceeded to Essen.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Single-engine fighter aircraft from Dortmund. The aircraft assembled over L.Gr. Bremen and were directed to Essen.

Single-engine fighter aircraft from Bonn. The

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aircraft assembled over L.Gr. Dortmund and were directed to Schweinfurt.

In "Himmelbett"-tactics:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Venlo and St. Trond in the area of Southern Holland - Belgium. The aircraft were rerouted to pursue returning bombers.

Total Effort: 308 single-engine and twin-engine fighters as well as marker aircraft (German: Beleuchter).

The British command controlling the night air operations had succeeded in dispersing the night fighter operations in the home air defense by the application of multi-bomber stream tactics and concealment. Through various rerouting and complicated approach maneuvers of the night fighters ~~had~~ the German command ~~did~~ not succeed in directing the night fighters committed into the bomber streams in time. In addition, the night fighter operations were hindered by bad high-altitude visibility.

Enemy Losses: 24 bombers were definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 11 aircraft of which 1 Me 110 was shot down by a friendly single-engine fighter.

Losses of personnel: 1 wounded,  
19 missing.

Weather Conditions:

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In Northern Germany: 7/10 to 10/10 stratus clouds from 3000 to 7000 meters. Flying visibility reduced by dense high-altitude haze.

In Southern Germany: Bright and often cloudless.

Special Information:

On 26/27 April 1944 Oberfeldwebel Frank of the 2nd Squadron/3rd Night Fighter Wing was killed in action. He had been credited with 44 enemy aircraft brought down in night fighter operations and had been awarded the knight cross of the iron cross. Oberfeldwebel Frank's Type Me 110 aircraft was hit by the broken pieces of a bomber shot down by him so that his aircraft crashed in the area of Eindhoven. The aircraft radio operator and the aircraft mechanic could save their lives by bailing out with parachutes.

Photo of Oberfeldwebel Frank, 2nd Squadron/3rd Night Fighter Wing, killed in action on 26/27 April 1944.

27.) British Attacks on Friedrichshafen and Aachen on 27/28 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 195!)

Enemy Effort

A number of aircraft intruded singly from the British air base in Italy by way of Croatia into the areas of Budapest and Warsaw, presumably to deliver supplies to agents.

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A total number of roughly 700 bomber, 100 mine-layer, and 100 Mosquito-bomber aircraft operated from the air base in Great Britain against the Reich's territory. These operations conducted by the RAF consisted of:

Large-scale attacks on Friedrichshafen and the railroad station of Montzen near Aachen.

Secondary attacks on the area east of Florennes in Belgium, and a mine-laying mission in the sea area of the East Frisian islands.

The following enemy forces were observed:

1st bomber stream:

The aircraft approached from the area north of London flying in southern direction. They crossed the coast in the area of Le Havre flying in south-eastern direction into the area of Montargis and Auxerres. The aircraft proceeded in eastern direction across the lines: North of Dijon - Chaumont, Colmar - Strassbourg. After crossing the Rhine River the aircraft turned to <sup>south-</sup>eastern direction for the attack of Friedrichshafen. The majority of the bombers returned in north-western direction by way of Lorraine, small elements flew across Northern Switzerland and Northern France. In the area of Strassbourg a Mosquito-unit left the bomber stream to conduct a nuisance raid on Stuttgart and ~~to conduct a nuisance raid on Stuttgart and~~ tried to distract the attention from the primary target of the attack.

2nd bomber stream:

aircraft

The ~~xxxx~~ aircraft approached from the area of Norwich flying in north-eastern direction an hour after the 1st bomber stream had left the Island of Britain. <sup>A small component</sup> ~~They proceeded~~ proceeded to the North Sea up to the area off the

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island of Ameland. From there the aircraft proceeded in south-eastern direction into the sea area of the island of Juist. In this area they presumably dropped mines. The aircraft returned in western direction. The mine-laying operation was early recognized as a diversion maneuver. Soon after leaving the Island of Britain the main bomber stream had ~~started~~ changed its route to proceed in south-eastern direction to Aachen by way of the northern section of Schelde Estuary. The bomber aircraft returned in north-western and western direction via Holland and Belgium.

3rd bomber stream:

An hour after the 2nd bomber stream had left Great Britain the aircraft of the 3rd bomber stream approached from Thames Estuary flying in eastern direction up to the middle of the Channel; from there they proceeded in south-eastern direction by way of Ostend into the area east of Florennes. The aircraft returned on counter routes.

4th bomber stream (Mosquito-unit):

While the 3rd bomber stream was returning to its bases, the aircraft of the 4th bomber stream approached from Thames Estuary flying in south-eastern direction by way of Dunker<sup>east of</sup>k into the area of Florennes. The aircraft returned at first in southern direction, later in north-western direction across Somme Estuary.

Effects of the Attack:

In Friedrichshafen: Extremely heavy damage to buildings and industrial installations.



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Railroad Station of Montzen near Aachen: Medium damage to rails and station buildings.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

Against nuisance raids from the South:

By the 1st Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Erfurt.

The aircraft assembled and were directed into the bomber stream over F.F. Christa.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Mainz-Finthen, Langendiebach, Langensalza, and Kassel-Rothwesten. The aircraft assembled and were directed into the bomber stream over F.F. ~~St~~ Christa.

By the 7th Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Illesheim, Echterdingen, and Hagenau. The aircraft assembled and were directed into the bomber ~~xx~~ stream over F.F. Christa.

To provide night fighter protection:

By the 3rd and 7th Fighter Divisions: Single-engine fighter aircraft from Neubiberg, Gross-Sachsenheim, and Wiesbaden-Erbenheim. The aircraft assembled over L.Gr. Stuttgart and proceeded to Friedrichshafen.

Against returning bomber aircraft: A twin-engine fighter group from Twente

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and small elements of the Me-110 units of all fighter divisions flying a second mission. The aircraft assembled and were directed into the bomber stream over F.F. Kuli.

The 1st Group (Marker Aircraft)/7th Night Fighter Wing: The aircraft assembled over F.F. Otto and proceeded to Karlsruhe and Stuttgart. The aircraft the landed because the weather conditions offered little prospect of success for air operations over Friedrichshafen.

To repulse the attack against the railroad station of Montzen:

For night fighter pursuit operations:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Twente, Deelen Venlo, and St. Trond. The aircraft were directed into the bomber stream by way of the radio beacons of radar stations near the coast in Holland.

In "Himmelbett"-tactics:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: A few twin-engine fighter aircraft over the coastal area of Holland. The aircraft were later engaged in pursuit operations.

To provide night fighter protection:

By the 1st Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Stendal and Werneuchen. The aircraft assembled over F.F. Ida and proceeded to Aachen. Single-engine fighter

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aircraft from Jueterbog and Ludwigslust. The aircraft assembled over L.Gr. Dortmund and proceeded to Aachen.

By the 2nd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Westerland, Stade, Nordholz, and Vechta. The aircraft assembled over F.F. Ludwig and proceeded to Aachen. Single-engine fighter aircraft from Oldenburg. ~~XXXXXX~~ The aircraft assembled over L.Gr. Dortmund and ~~pro~~ proceeded to Aachen.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Single-engine aircraft from Dortmund to Aachen. Single-engine aircraft from Bonn. The aircraft assembled over L.F. Ida and proceeded to Aachen.

Total Effort: 296 single-engine and twin-engine fighter as well as marker aircraft.

The majority of the night fighter aircraft committed to provide ~~XXXX~~ protection over Aachen arrived over the target area to be protected too late.

Enemy Losses: 42 bomber aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 26 aircraft of which one Type Me 109 aircraft was shot down by a British "FN"-aircraft at an altitude of 400 meters while the former was about to ~~land~~ land.

Losses of personnel: 1 killed,  
4 wounded,  
32 missing.

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Weather Conditions: West of the line Amsterdam - Munich: cloudless.  
 East of this line: 8/10 to 10/10 stratus clouds from  
 1000 to 2000 meters.  
 In the North good high-altitude visibility, in the  
 South high-altitude haze.

28.) British Nuisance Raid on Hamburg on 28/29 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1931)

Enemy Effort

Hamburg was attacked by 25 Mosquito-bombers. The aircraft intruded across the North Sea and returned in western direction by way of Emden and Northern Holland.

A number of "FN"-aircraft operating singly flew nuisance missions over the area of Berlin and over North-Western Germany.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

By the 1st Fighter Division: 4 single-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: 6/10 to 8/10 stratus clouds between 1000 and 2000 meters. Good high-altitude visibility.

29.) British Nuisance Raids on Koeln - Muelheim and Oberhausen on 29/30

April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 1931)

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Enemy Effort

Oberhausen and Koeln-Muelheim were attacked by a total strength of 50 Mosquito-bombers. The aircraft approached between the Zuider Sea and the Schelde Estuary and proceeded into the Ruhr area. They returned in western direction.

In the sea area off Den Helder and in the area of the West and East Frisian islands up to the island of Norderney 30 British aircraft conducted mine-laying operations.

A British courier aircraft crossed the Skagerrak in direction of Sweden.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: 4 twin-engine fighter aircraft, and  
3 single-engine fighter aircraft.

Total Effort: 7 aircraft.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: North-west of the line Frankfurt on the Main - Hamburg:  
10/10 clouds between 300 and 4000 meters; partially light rain.  
East of this line: 5/10 to 10/10 clouds between 500 and 2000 meters. High-altitude winds at 5000 meters: 360 degrees, 100 kilometers per hour.

Study 9 to 11, Volume IIIaChapter III  
\*\*\*\*\*

Day Activities in the Period from

1 May 1944 to D-Day (6 June 1944)1.) Surveya.) American Offensive Activities

The daytime air warfare over the Reich's territory had become considerably more intensive in May 1944. During the period covered by this report the American air forces operated with a total strength of 30 000 aircraft of which <sup>one</sup> ~~two~~ half <sup>were</sup> ~~xxx~~ heavy bombers. The maximum strength of aircraft employed in an attack had risen to 1100 bombers and 1600 fighters. These air forces, considerably superior to the German forces employed in the home air defense, conducted their offensive operations extremely systematically and effectively thus demonstrating, for the first time in history, the strategic importance of a modern instrument of air-power vital to the over-all war effort. In view of the simultaneous and extensive Allied air activities in the rest of Europe, especially in France, the strength and striking power particularly of the American air forces became evident. Moreover, the American operations against the Reich's territory <sup>definitely</sup> in May established the perfection of the American air armament system as well as justified the American strategic principles and offensive tactics. Despite many setbacks and heavy

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losses, the purposeful action and the perseverance of the American air command led to success: The American air forces maintained the air supremacy over the Reich's territory in daytime. They had won freedom of operation in March and April and could now, operating in daytime with bomber forces of the same strength, obtain ~~the~~ in a shorter period of time better effects in their attacks than the British night bomber <sup>groups</sup> did.

The following operations were conducted by the American air forces against targets in the Reich's territory during May:

17 large-scale attacks from the British air base and

4 large-scale attacks from the Italian air base.

Low-level strafing attacks by fighter forces against 164 villages and ~~small towns~~ <sup>kommando</sup> in the sector of the XI Luftgau (air force administrative command) and in the western part of the sector of the III Luftgaukommando and against 32 industrial targets including

6 aircraft factories,

1 mineral oil plant,

4 power plants.

The bombs were dropped:

In the cases of 15 attacks with visual observation of the ground,

in the cases of 3 attacks with limited visual observation of the ground,

and

in the cases of 2 attacks without visual observation of the ground.

A planned large-scale attack on 4 May failed owing to bad weather.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ It was on three days that the American air forces stationed in Great Britain <sup>and in Italy</sup> presumably operated in directly coordinated action.

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Owing to bad weather conditions no large-scale air operations were conducted during the periods from 2 to 6 and from 14 to 18 May.

The following operations were conducted during these periods:

On 6 days only reconnaissance missions,  
on 3 days low-level attacks carried out by fighters and fighter-bombers against airfields ~~and transportation facilities~~,  
on 4 days low-level attacks carried out by fighters and fighter-bombers against airfields and transportation facilities,  
on 1 day no reconnaissance and offensive activities.

For the period from 1 June 1944 to D-day (6 June 1944) there is no German documentary material available which provides information on the American air operations against the Reich's territory. Since weather conditions were unfavorable<sup>for flying purposes</sup> during the week before the beginning of the invasion it can be assumed that the American air activities were confined to reconnaissance missions and low-level attacks with fighters and fighter-bombers against airfields and transportation facilities. Information on the effects of such attacks is contained in the document of the Generalluftzeugmeister (Chief of the Luftwaffe Special Supply and Procurement Service) (GL/A No. 3232 Top Military Document):

"By air raids against airfields and industrial establishments the following aircraft were destroyed in the period from 31 May to 3 June:

1 Me 109,  
15 FW 190,  
41 Ju 88.

The daytime air operations against the Reich's territory revealed the following objectives of the American air command:





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raids in May on installations of the German fuel production is illustrated by the following data\*:

Aircraft fuel supply of the Luftwaffe at the beginning of May 1944:

540 000 tons,

monthly output of the German aircraft fuel production up to 1 May 1944:

180 000 tons,

German aircraft fuel production in May 1944:

120 000 tons,

Average

monthly German aircraft fuel consumption during the first half of 1944:

roughly 150 000 tons,

aircraft fuel drawn from the German aircraft fuel supply stocks in May (consequences of the American air attacks):

32 000 tons.

At the end of May 1944 the German High Command could estimate ~~that~~ by calculation that the aircraft fuel supplies would be depleted after 17 months, i.e. approximately ~~about~~ by the end of the year 1945. This calculation was based on the assumption that the American air effort as well as the German aircraft fuel consumption would remain constant and the aircraft fuel supply stocks would not be subjected to air attack.

The American bombardments in May did not succeed in destroying the so-called vital centers of the hydrogenation and mineral oil plants under .....

Note: \* The data have been taken from a study of the former Department of Military Science of the Luftwaffe, ~~which~~ prepared in autumn, 1944, and from a report of the specialist for fuel supply with the Wehrmacht High Command - Wehrmacht Operations Staff, dated June, 1944.

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attack and impaired the supply of the German Wehrmacht with fuel for motor vehicles and fuel oil to a negligible extent only. However, the American air attacks on the oil base in the Balkans as well as the ~~mining~~ mining of the Danube River by British air forces brought about a considerable disturbance of the crude oil ~~supply~~ <sup>delivery</sup> to the Reich's territory, which ~~was~~ <sup>constituted</sup> a serious danger for the securing of the fuel supply to the German Wehrmacht.

Aircraft plants and repair as well as manufacturing establishments for aircraft incurred heavy damages by the American air attacks. A great number of aircraft was lost. Only during the period from 20 to 29 May, 133 aircraft were destroyed and 54 aircraft were damaged in the manufacturing establishments of the industry. On the whole, the manufacturing process and the repair activities ~~in the German aircraft industry~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~xxx~~ seriously hampered and the expansion of this industry was visibly delayed. Also the manufacture of the night fighter type He 219 in the area of Vienna came almost to a deadlock and the output of the fighter aircraft type Me 109 with special Type Fu 16 ZY instrument set was delayed by a period of four weeks. It is, however, particularly worth mentioning that, in spite of the heavy American air attacks in April and May 1944, the German air armament succeeded in increasing its output of single-engine and twin-engine fighter as well as ground-attack aircraft ~~by a wider dispersion and transfer of ~~xxx~~ manufacturing establishments; ~~ix~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ some of them were located underground.~~ <sup>its.</sup>

The American low-level attacks carried out by fighter aircraft ~~against~~ <sup>against</sup> airfields in connection with the consequences of the American air supremacy, of the numerous air alerts and with the general insecurity in the air space over the Reich's territory brought about an extensive disturbance of the flight training at the flying schools and of the formation

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of the day and night fighter units thus weakening the striking power of the Luftwaffe in the long run. In April and May 1944, 67 aircraft were shot down ~~during~~ while the latter were on training, transfer, or travel flights over the Reich's territory or over the western territories occupied by Germany. The majority of these losses was sustained over Southern Germany.

The American bomber attacks in May on the transportation facilities in North-Western Germany and in the western frontier areas caused heavy damages especially to railroad stations and brought about the destruction of a great number of rolling stock. The Allied command, however, did not succeed in considerably <sup>or completely stopping</sup> hindering the supply traffic from the Reich's territory to the western areas occupied by Germany. The Allied command had failed to direct its attacks against the bottlenecks in all the east-west ~~xxx~~ supply routes and to sustain the effect once obtained by repeated attacks. The dense German railway network permitted detouring. The German railway administration which functioned excellently cleared blocked stations and tracks in a short period of time.

Four American large-scale attacks directed against the city area of Berlin in May 1944 inflicted heavy damages on buildings, especially in the central section. The damage caused to industrial installations was slight. Any demoralizing effect of a larger extent, however, could not yet be obtained. Similar as in London in the autumn of 1940 a growing will of the population to resist could be observed. In May 1944 the total losses of the population of Berlin amounted to:

1021 dead,  
2645 wounded, and  
121 676 ~~xxxxxx~~ homeless.

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The over-all effect of the American daytime air attacks on targets in the Reich's territory and in the Balkans ~~were~~ <sup>was</sup> great. In view of the high expenditures of aircraft and air-drop explosives it was beyond any doubt that a maximum effect to ~~bring about~~ <sup>speed up</sup> ~~accelerate~~ the German collapse was not achieved. The American air command did not seem to have the tendency of placing particular emphasis on certain objectives ~~but rather~~ during the operations in May but rather selected a number of various targets. If ~~it~~ <sup>had been</sup> ~~done~~ already in May 1944, all American large-scale attacks ~~would~~ directed exclusively against the installations of the German oil industry, the American air warfare would have been considerably more economical, which means that the German resistance in Europe would have ~~ended~~ <sup>collapsed</sup> earlier.

In May 1944, the American offensive operations had reached a certain degree of perfection in respect to the assemblies over the air bases, the echelonment of the approaching and returning bomber divisions in respect to time, the offensive and bomb release tactics, ~~as well as~~ as well as to the cooperation between bomber and fighter aircraft. It was because of the superiority of the American air forces to the German air defense forces that the former did not carry out feint, diversion, and outflanking maneuvers when they conducted their daytime operations against the Reich's territory. The bomber divisions operating independently almost ever attacked a great number of targets in the respective areas under attack. The American fighter forces of which the strength had considerably increased were in a position to demonstrate their superiority in the air in various respects. Especially impressive was the perfect and accurate cover provided by them for the bomber forces as the latter approached and returned to their bases. The fighter cover flying up to an hour ahead of the bombers made the commitment of the German defense forces against the bombers extremely difficult

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and sometimes even impossible at all. This was especially so since the total duration of flight of the German fighter aircraft was extremely limited. The American fighter cover missions flown in the flanks of the approaching bombers often prevented the approach of the German fighter units to the bomber streams. The systematic operations of the American fighters released from their bomber escort mission against the German defense forces ~~by~~ in the form of low-level attacks on airfields also deep in the Reich's territory ~~xxxxxx~~ produced a considerably paralyzing effect on the organization of the German defenses. The numerous individual operations of the American fighters outside the large-scale bomber attacks which were conducted in the form of strafing and fighter-bomber attacks against airfields, transportation facilities, and industrial installations<sup>clearly</sup> demonstrated, in addition to their destructiveness, the American air supremacy by ~~xxxxxxx~~ their nuisance effects on the German economy. It was sometimes observed that American fighters~~xxxxxxx~~ conducting ~~x~~ low-level attacks became distracted and uneasy due to antiaircraft fire. Sometimes the effectiveness of the light antiaircraft guns was reduced by low-level flight.

b.) Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

In spite of the ~~mostly of~~ weather conditions mostly favorable for defense purposes and unchanged numerical strength of the fighter units the German defensive operations in May 1944 scored only little success. Although on four days of large-scale attacks heavy losses could be inflicted on the American attacking forces, the American total losses did not even amount to 2 per cent. The German total losses, however, were heavy and the number of damaged aircraft was considerable. It was not possible to increase the operational readiness and the striking power of the German day fighter forces

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by intensifying the supply of aircraft and crews.

The American superiority in the air was demonstrated by the following relations of forces:

American total effort	:	German total effort
(Bombers and fighters)		(single- and twin-engine fighters)
7,7		1
American fighter effort	:	German total effort
3,8		1

In view of this American supremacy the German fighters had neither succeeded in preventing bomber attacks nor in preventing bombers from aiming accurately in releasing their bombs.

The centralized command of the I Fighter Corps had not been able to concentrate the day fighter forces deployed all over the Reich's territory in respect to time and space to commit them against each American large-scale attack. Owing to the long periods required for assembly and the long distances to be covered in the approach flights the fighter units often arrived over the target areas too late or were forced to land as a result of fuel shortage. This applied primarily to those cases in which the American bombers operated exclusively over the periphery of the Reich's territory, in the North, West, and South. The German day fighter forces ~~can~~ rarely now could ~~approach~~ approach the attacking bomber units ~~can~~ since the former were caught by surprise by American fighters sometimes already during their assembly but mostly on their approach flight. Whenever German fighter units succeeded in attacking an American bomber stream it was surprising in what a short period of time the American fighter forces were concentrated in the area in which the bombers were under attack.

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On the other hand, the outstanding prudence and cleverness of the ground control staffs of the German fighter divisions should be particularly noted. When the picture of the air situation was clear they succeeded, in a real cat and mouse play, in covering the fighter units flying in close formation against early attack by American fighters operating at high altitudes by rerouting them through voice-radio communication.

The heavy losses as well as the great physical and psychological strain imposed on the German fighter pilots reduced the combat value of the units in April and May 1944. The young replacements showed deficiencies in the fields of flight and radio engineering training. They lacked combat ~~exp~~ experience, in particular in respect to high-altitude operations. Time and opportunities for training in the operational units was lacking to an increasing extent. The shortage of qualified ~~unit~~ commanders for flying formations increased. The excessive strain caused by almost uninterrupted commitment resulted in combat weariness in the units. ~~Experienced~~ Experienced fighter pilots reached the limits of their efficiency. They were worn out by the many missions they had flown and needed a rest. All these factors together formed the reason for a number of misdirected missions and failures.

For the first time, authorized and unauthorized agencies of the Wehrmacht, Luftwaffe, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ government and party unjustifiedly reproached the fighter units of the home air defense for cowardness. In view of these reproaches it should be noted that the inferior German day fighter forces which fought bravely were, especially in May, subjected to the heaviest strain which admittedly reduced their substance of personnel and matériel yet did not seriously obstruct the overall structure of these forces.



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The limited American offensive activities against the Reich's territory in the first week of June offered the day fighter forces of the home air defense a brief respite for regeneration. Thus it ~~was~~<sup>was</sup> possible that the day fighter wings of the home air defense were relatively intact and ready for defensive operations against the invasion in France.

c.) Special Information

It is worth mentioning that the Supreme Commander of the Wehrmacht and the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe reproached the day fighter forces of the home air defense for their failing to repulse the American bomber attacks on the Reich's territory; these reproaches were made in view of the dangerous effects<sup>which</sup> these bomber attacks had on the fuel situation of the German Wehrmacht. Both commanders in chief, however, had not recognized the necessity to equip the day fighter forces with<sup>a fighter</sup> aircraft type of technical superiority which offered the possibility of regaining the air supremacy over the Reich's territory and of bringing the American day attacks to an end. At a time when the day fighter forces of the home air defense were in a critical situation the Supreme Commander of the Wehrmacht took a decision which speeded up, perhaps even brought about, the German collapse. The records of the former Branch of Military Science of the Luftwaffe contain the following passage regarding the teletype message: "Reichsmarschall Adj., No. 1441/44" :

" On 28 May 1944 the Reichsmarschall directed, in compliance with a Fuehrer directive, that the Type 262 aircraft was to be employed as super-speed bomber exclusively. For the time being, the aircraft was not to be used as<sup>a</sup> fighter. This type of aircraft was withdrawn from the sphere of responsibility of the General of<sup>the</sup> Fighter Forces and was immediately put

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under the direction of the General of the Bomber Forces. All the material collected by the General of the Fighter Forces as well as the total personnel detailed by the General of the Fighter Forces for testing etc. purposes was put under the control of the General of the Bomber Forces."

This decision put a temporary stop to the purposeful endeavor of the General of the Fighter Forces to bring about a turn in the daytime air warfare by speedy employment of the technically superior jet fighter aircraft Me 262 in the home air defense.

d.) Successes and Losses in May 1944

In May 1944, the average total strength of day fighter aircraft in operational condition in the sector of the I Fighter Corps amounted to:

450 single-engine and  
150 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

A study of the former Branch of Military Science of the Luftwaffe however, contains the following statement:

"On 23 May 1944, the number of fighter aircraft committed in the area of the Air Fleet Command Reich amounted to a total of 777. The flight personnel available amounted to 994. To raise the strength of ~~the~~ <sup>these</sup> fighter forces the transfer of personnel from the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ First to Sixth Air ~~Fl~~ <sup>Commands</sup> Fleet ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ as well as from the Air Fleet Command South-East was ordered.

The twin-engine fighter forces of the Air Fleet Command Reich consisted, on 24 May 1944, of a total strength of 208 aircraft and 208 crews."

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The author does not doubt the correctness of these numerical data which were presumably taken from the documents of the Luftwaffe High Command. The following were the reasons for the differences between the data from the war diary of the I Fighter Corps\* and those from the Branch of Military History of the Luftwaffe:

The Corps Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps quoted the average strength of single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft ready for operational employment during May.

The Branch of Military History of the Luftwaffe (Luftwaffe High Command) quoted all the aircraft and crews listed in the records of the Luftflottenkommando Reich on 23 respectively 24 May 1944.

Consequently, these figures also ~~included~~ included:

Aircraft and crews assigned to the Air Fleet Command Reich<sup>but</sup> which had not arrived yet,  
 aircraft which were in the repair installations of the units because of minor damages or exchange of engines ( maintenance platoons or air base workshops),  
 aircraft of which the radio equipment was not intact,  
 aircraft and crews ~~which~~ of those units which were withdrawn from operational employment for a short period for regeneration purposes,  
 new crews who were not yet fit for operational employment,

.....

Note: \* In May 1944, the headquarters of the I Fighter Corps was the only command staff in the area of the Air Fleet Command Reich which had day fighter aircraft at its disposal.

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crews on leave or temporarily sick,  
 crews who, as a result of an emergency landing or parachute jumping,  
 could not have yet returned to their units.

From the various numerical data the following degrees of operational readiness ~~were~~ were calculated for the 23 respectively 24 May 1944:

58 % in the case of single-engine fighter aircraft and  
 71 % in the case of twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Moreover, this shows that general numerical data on strengths were ~~assessment~~ assessment not suited for an ~~evaluation~~ evaluation of the striking power of the respective day fighter units of the home air defense. On principle, the degree of operational readiness of air units is dependent, among other factors, on the respective war theater, the strain imposed upon these units, and on technical as well as training standards. Attention is called to the great fundamental ~~and~~ ~~submitted~~ confusion which can be caused by numerical data if they are ~~submitted~~ without detailed explanation of their origin.

Finally, it should be noted that the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe, in full recognition of the questionable value of general numerical data, had the the Corps Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps inform him daily in the morning and in the evening on the state of operational readiness of the single-engine and twin-engine fighter units.

Total number of day fighters committed in the sector of the I Fighter Corps  
 in May 1944: 3618 aircraft

Total losses of aircraft in the sector of the I Fighter Corps in May 1944:  
 384 aircraft which is 10,7% of the total effort

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Enemy losses over the Reich's territory in the sector of the I Fighter Corps in May 1944:      530 aircraft not including those shot down by anti-aircraft artillery.

This figure represents 1,9 % of the estimated total effort against the ~~Reich~~ Reich's territory in May 1944 amounting to 27 700 American aircraft of which about 13 000 were fighter aircraft. The effort from the American air base in Italy is included in this estimate.

In addition, incomplete records of the former Branch of Military Science of the Luftwaffe show the following figure for the American losses of aircraft over the Reich's territory due to antiaircraft fire in May 1944:

111 aircraft definitely shot down by antiaircraft artillery.

Thus, the American total losses over the Reich's territory in May 1944 amounted to the following figures:

Losses due to fighter aircraft:	530 aircraft, which is 1,9%
Losses due to antiaircraft artillery:	111 aircraft, which is 0,4%
<u>Total losses:</u>	<u>641 aircraft, which is 2,3%</u>

2.) American Attack on Transportation Facilities and Industrial Installations in the Area of Metz and Saargemuend on 1 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 196!)

Enemy Effort

The transportation facilities and the installations of the

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heavy industry in the area of Metz and Saargemuend were attacked by 300 bombers which were escorted by 150 single-engine fighters.

The aircraft approached across the Channel coast between Ostend and Dunkirk flying in south-eastern direction into the area of Metz, Nancy, and Saarbruecken. They returned in north-western direction via Belgium and Schelde Estuary.

Results of the Attack: In the area of Metz and Saargemuend:

Heavy damage to transportation facilities and slight damage to industrial installations.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: The 1st Fighter Wing in direction of Luxembourg  
The Fighter Wing for Special Employment in  
direction of Metz.

Total Effort: 97 Fighter Aircraft

Approaching the target area the fighter aircraft of the 3rd Fighter Division were engaged in fierce air combat with American fighters. The war diary of the I Fighter Corps does not contain any information on the commitment of the units of the Third Air Fleet Command.

Enemy Losses: 2 aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 6 aircraft.

(As of 2 May 1944, 12:00 hours)

Losses of personnel: 5 wounded,  
1 missing.

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Weather Conditions: The weather was favorable for defense purposes.

3.) American Reconnaissance Operations on 2 and 3 May 1944

Enemy Effort

On 2 and 3 May a small number of American aircraft flew reconnaissance missions over the Reich's territory.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The corps was not operationally employed owing to bad weather conditions.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

4.) American Bomber Operation on 4 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 197!)

Enemy Effort

The American air force stationed in Great Britain started an operation against the Reich's territory with 400 bombers, 250 single-engine and 150 twin-engine fighters. It was presumably the intention of this force to attack targets in central Germany. The bomber units penetrated across the Dutch coast between Den Haag and Schelde Estuary in eastern direction. When the first elements had reached the area of Muenster, Osnabrueck, and Rheine they changed to return routes. The majority of the bombers changed to western course over Dutch territory. Returning they released a number of single bombs on open terrain and on the empty airfield of Bergen op Zoom in Holland. The majority of the bombs was released

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during the return flight over sea. Elements of the American escort fighters penetrated into the area of Oschersleben and Eisenach. While the attacking forces were approaching the German radio intelligence repeatedly intercepted orders from the American air command in Great Britain calling the units back. The Corps Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps assumed that the American operations were broken off because of a sudden break in the weather over Great Britain. In view of the existing weather situation the returning attacking forces could have released their bombs on German cities as alternate targets. It could, therefore, be assumed that the American bomber units had been directed to bomb only military or other targets important for the armament effort. However, it likewise could have been possible that because of the break in the weather over the Island of Britain, the American units were speedily heading for their bases and for this reason desisted from approaching occasional targets, which would have been time consuming.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

By the 2nd Fighter Division: A combat unit of the 11th Fighter Wing after assembly over Bremen in direction of Osnabrueck.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: A combat unit of the 1st Fighter Wing in direction of Hildesheim. A combat unit of the Fighter Wing for Special Employment in direction of Paderborn. The wing did not engage in combat.

Total Effort: 197 fighter aircraft



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Enemy Losses: 8 Type Thunderbolt fighters definitely shot down.

2 Type Thunderbolt fighters probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 1 aircraft.

5 aircraft received over 60% damage.

(As of 5 May 1944, 11:00 hours)

Losses of personnel: 1 killed,

1 wounded,

1 missing.

5.) American Reconnaissance Operations on 5 May 1944

Enemy Effort

On 5 May only a few American reconnaissance aircraft appeared over the Reich's territory.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The corps was not operationally employed.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Special Information: Hauptmann Tratt, the former Commanding Officer of the 2nd Group/26th Twin-Engine Fighter Wing, was later awarded the addition of the oakleaf cluster to the knight cross of the iron cross.

6.) American Low-Level Attacks on Airfields on 6 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 198!)

Enemy Effort

The American air force stationed in Great Britain conducted the following operations:

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strafing  
 Low-level attacks against 5 airfields in the area of Quakenbrueck, Osna -  
 brueck, and Bremen with 25 fighter aircraft during the period from 18:23  
 18:43 hours.

Low-level strafing attacks against airfields in the area of Aal-  
 borg with 3 Type Mustang fighter aircraft during the period from 18:44 to  
 19:34 hours.

Low-level attacks with 20 aircraft on a German shipping convoy  
 in the sea area near the island of Borkum during the period from 18:35 to  
 19:09 hours.

A reconnaissance mission with a single aircraft over the area of  
 Schelde Estuary and Antwerp during the period from 19:44 to 20:00 hours.

Results of the Attacks:

Air base Aalborg-East: 1 Type He 111 aircraft destroyed, 2 wounded. Other-  
 wise only slight damages on the attacked airfields.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

By the 2nd Fighter Division: 4 fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 1 aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

7.) American Attack on Berlin on 7 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 199!)

Enemy Effort

Beginning at 06:45 hours the German radio intelligence observed

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the assembly of the three American bomber divisions in the area of Norwich. The bomber units which were protected by strong fighter forces left the island from 08:25 hours on and crossed the Zuider Sea in eastern direction. The 2nd Bomber Division changed to <sup>a</sup>southern course over the area of Quakenbrueck and attacked Osnabrueck and Muenster without visual observation of the ground. The aircraft returned in north-western direction via Holland. The 1st and 3rd Bomber Divisions flew from the area of Osnabrueck in eastern direction into the area of Stettin and Berlin. The Reich's capital was bombed from the North-East without visual observation of the ground. A number of bombs was dropped on <sup>S</sup>Stettin. The bombers left the target area flying initially in southern, later in north-western direction into the area of Stendal from where they returned ~~to their bases~~ in western direction to their bases. In addition to the fighter units which penetrated on escort missions into the area of Stettin and Berlin, other fighter forces intruded across the North Sea coastal area into the area of Rostock and across Schelde Estuary into the area of Aachen. According to German reports the total strength of the American forces committed against the Reich's territory on 7 May amounted to 700 bombers, 300 single-engine and 150 twin-engine fighters. Medium damage to buildings and slight damage to industrial installations were caused in Berlin.

#### Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

Owing to weather conditions the commitment of fighter aircraft was not possible. ~~The 2nd Group/26th Twin-Engine Fighter Wing was assembled~~  
The 2nd Group/26th Twin-Engine Fighter Wing of the 1st Fighter Division was assembled over Frankfurt on the Oder for the case that American bomber units had proceeded ~~in excess~~ beyond Berlin in eastern direction without fighter escort.

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Total Effort: 28 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: Fighter units could not start because of the extremely dense cloud cover throughout the entire Reich's territory. Even in the cases of cloud breaks of 2/10 in the area south of Berlin the aircraft could not take off, since it could not be predicted with certainty that adequate cloud breaks would exist when the aircraft were returning to land. The start of fighter aircraft ~~would~~ from the Main River area around Frankfurt would have been possible but of ~~little~~ no importance for the air situation in respect to the repulsion of intruding aircraft.

Over the target areas during the bomber attack: 10/10 stratus clouds at altitudes from 500 to 2000 meters, good high-altitude visibility, orientation by visual observation of the ground was not possible.

Special Information:

Results of the Attack on Berlin:

During the period from 10:34 to 11:44 hours 1100 demolition bombs, 55 000 incendiary bombs equipped with a special sting at their points (German: Stabbrandbomben), and 1200 liquid-incendiary bombs were dropped mainly and on the north-western on the central sectors of the city.

Damage to material and losses of personnel:

282 buildings totally destroyed,

1942 buildings damaged,

380 killed,

592 wounded, and 17 500 homeless.

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Fire in the Reich's chancellery. "Haus der Flieger" (German: House of the Flyers) and the police headquarters ~~XXXX~~ hit.

Sections of the city especially hit by the attack:

Alexander -Square, Pankow, Horst Wessel - Square, Lichtenberg, Treptow, Oberschoeneweide, Schoeneberg, and Zehlendorf. The streetcar traffic ~~XXXX~~ partially interrupted, the South - Ring blocked. The water and gas supply in the central sector of the city partially interrupted. Power plant of Rummelsburg hit.

#### 8.) American Attack on Berlin and Braunschweig on 8 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 200!)

#### Enemy Effort

Berlin and Braunschweig were the targets for <sup>an</sup> ~~the~~ attack by a total force of 750 bombers which were escorted by 500 single-engine and 200 twin-engine fighters. The bombs were again released on both cities without visual observation of the ground. For this reason the attacks caused primarily damage to buildings, in Berlin medium and in Braunschweig slight damage to industrial installations.

The offensive operations were conducted as follows:

The assembly of the American bomber divisions could be intercepted from 06:30 hours on. The attacking forces ~~approach~~ started their approach flight over the Island of Britain at 08:15 hours in eastern direction. After flying across the Zuider Sea the bombers reached at first the area north of Hannover. Here the 2nd Bomber Division and elements of the 3rd Bomber Division flew across the areas of Parchim, Neustrelitz,

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and Frenzlau and changed to south-western courses to attack the Reich's capital. All bomber units had direct fighter protection up to and beyond the target areas. In addition, a strong fighter cover to the South penetrating up to the area of Central Germany was observed. The offense forces returned in western direction across the Dutch coastal area.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

For weather reasons, only the areas of North-Western Germany and south of Frankfurt on the Main were suited for assembling.

The following forces were employed:

Units of the 1st Fighter Division: After assembly over Hamburg in direction of Hannover.

Units of the 2nd Fighter Division: After assembly over Stade in direction of Hannover.

Units of the 3rd Fighter Division: A combat unit of the 1st Fighter Wing after assembly over Muenster in direction of Nienburg.

A combat unit of the Fighter Wing for Special Employment after assembly over Mannheim in direction of Hannover.

Small combat units of the 1st to 3rd Fighter Divisions started for a second mission against returning bomber units.

The following units could not be employed owing to bad weather:

Units of the 7th Fighter Division and the 26th Twin-Engine Fighter Wing of the 1st Fighter Division.

Air combat causing losses to both sides took place in the area of Hannover and Braunschweig.

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Total Effort: 400 fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 62 bomber and 17 fighter aircraft;

that is: 79 aircraft definitely shot down.

2 bomber and 3 fighter aircraft;

that is: 5 aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 43 aircraft.

(As of 10 June 1944, 14:00 hours)

Losses of personnel: 15 killed,

14 wounded,

10 missing.

Weather Conditions: Area of the 1st Fighter Division: Dense stratus clouds,

lower ceiling 150 meters, upper ceiling 3500 meters.

Area of Frankfurt: Lower cloud ceiling 1000 meters.

West of the general line Luebeck - Hannover: Weather conditions favorable for defensive operations.

High-altitude winds: 20 degrees, 50 kilometers per hour to 70 kilometers per hour.

Special Information:

a.) Results of the Attack on Berlin

During the period from 10:38 to 11:36 hours, 1600 demolition bombs, 40 000 incendiary bombs equipped with a special sting at the point (German: Stabbrand-bombe), and 1100 liquid-incendiary bombs were dropped.

Damage to material and losses of personnel:

425 buildings totally destroyed,

1798 buildings damaged,

253 killed,

349 wounded, and

26 385 homeless.

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Sections heavily hit: Karlshorst, Koepernick, Treptow, Oberschoeneweide, Neukoelln, Rummelsburg, Moabit, Schoeneberg, Tiergarten, Prenzlauerberg, and Gesundbrunnen.

Damage to the AEG (German: Allgemeine Elektrizitaetsgesellschaft) - plants in Treptow, Gesundbrunnen, Oberschoeneweide, and Koepernick.

Bomb hits in : Water-works of Rummelsburg, arms factory in Treptow, railroad passenger and freight stations in Stettin. Interruptions of the ~~subway and streetcar~~ subway and streetcar traffic, subway ~~tunnels~~ caved in which caused heavy losses of personnel.

b.) On 8 May 1944 Leutnant Muenster, Commanding Officer of the 5th Squadron/3rd Fighter Wing (Assault group) was killed in action ramming an American bomber. Leutnant Muenster was credited with 93 enemy aircraft shot down at all theaters of war and was posthumously awarded the addition of the oakleaf cluster to the knight cross of the iron cross.

9.) American Attacks on Transportation Facilities in the Area of Luxembourg  
-----  
and Diedenhofen on 9 May 1944  
-----

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 201!)

Enemy Effort

The attack of 200 American bombers, 200 single-engine and 100 twin-engine fighters was directed to transportation facilities and industrial installations in the area of Luxembourg and Diedenhofen. The attacking forces approached and returned via the Belgian Channel coast, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

Results of the Attack:

In the city of Luxembourg: Medium damage to buildings and transportation facilities.



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In Diedenhofen: Medium damage to buildings and industrial installations.  
 On the airfield of Diedenhofen-Niederjeutz: Damage to grounded aircraft.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: A combat unit of the 1st Fighter Wing in direc  
~~tion of Bonn.~~ tion of Bonn.

A combat unit of the Fighter Wing for Special  
 Employment in direction of Trier.

The units employed did not engage in combat.

Total Effort: 114 fighter aircraft

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

10.) American Attack on Wiener-Neustadt on 10 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 202!)

Enemy Effort

From 05:05 hours on American bombers were observed assembling over the Island of Britain. At 08:10 hours the first units started from the area of Norwich to fly their their offensive mission in eastern direc- tion. Shortly before reaching the Dutch coast the broke off their opera- tions, presumably because of weather conditions, and changed to western ~~xxx~~ courses. Only a few small fighter units intruded across the Zuider Sea into the area of Oldenburg.

A number of Type Mosquito aircraft approaching across the Baltic flew

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reconnaissance missions over the area of Berlin, ~~XXXXXXXX~~ moreover over the Ruhr area and over the area of Frankfurt on the Main.

At 07:45 hours it was observed that American units began assembling over Foggia in Italy. The bombers ~~started~~ started from the Italian base at 08:40 hours. After they had, being escorted by strong fighter forces, reached the area off Ancona they changed to north-eastern courses and proceeded, flying in two streams, via the area of Agram to the eastern corner of Lake Balaton and to the Neusiedlersee. From these areas and approaching from the South-East in many small waves at considerably different altitudes they attacked they aircraft factories in Wiener-Neustadt. After the attack they returned in southern direction to Italy. Strong fighter forces had flown ahead of the bombers into the target area. The total strength of the forces participating in the attack on Wiener-Neustadt amounted to 600 bombers, 300 single-engine and 200 twin-engine fighters according to German reports. The aircraft factories in Wiener-Neustadt sustained heavy damages.

#### Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

To repulse British forces intruding across the North Sea:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Combat units of the 1st Fighter Wing and the Fighter Wing for Special Employment. The aircraft assembled over Kassel. After the American bomber had broken off their operations, both combat units were ordered to land.

To repulse the attack on Wiener-Neustadt:

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By the 7th Fighter Division: The 1st Group/5th Fighter Wing and the 3rd Group/3rd Fighter Wing. After assembly over Passau the aircraft proceeded in direction of Wiener-Neustadt. The 1st and 4th Groups/27th Fighter Wing of the Fighter Commander Ostmark as well as the 1st Group/53rd Fighter Wing (temporarily stationed in the sector of the Fighter Commander Ostmark). After assembly over Bruck on the Mur the aircraft proceeded in direction of Lake Balaton.

Elements of the units of the 7th Fighter Division started on a second mission directed against returning bombers.

Total Effort: 175 fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 21 bomber and <sup>3</sup> fighter aircraft;  
that is: 24 aircraft definitely shot down.

3 bomber aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 3 aircraft  
7 aircraft received over 60% damage.  
(As of 11 May 1944, 10:00 hours)  
Losses of personnel: 5 killed,  
1 wounded,  
3 missing.

Weather Conditions: Croatia: Light stratus clouds above 1000 meters.

North-Western Hungary: cloudless.

Area of Munich: 5/10 to 7/10 high upsloping clouds at an altitude of 7000 meters, hazy.

Area of Vienna: 3/10 upsloping clouds at an altitude of 7000 meters. High-altitude winds at 5000 meters: 270 degrees, 50 kilometers per hour.

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11.) American Attacks on Transportation Facilities in the Area of Muelhausen, Luxembourg, and Saargemuend on 11 April 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 203!)

Enemy Effort

Although in the late afternoon the assembly of all three American bomber divisions was recognized, only the units of the 2nd Bomber Division left, from 12:30 hours on and coming from the area south of London, the Island of Britain flying in southern direction. Over the area south of Paris they changed to south-eastern courses and flew ~~xxxxxx~~ by way of Dijon, Besançon into the area of Belfort and Muelhausen where they bombed transportation facilities. The aircraft returned in north-western direction via Châlons sur Marne and Somme Estuary to Great Britain.

Beginning at 16:00 hours the German radio intelligence reported the assembly of the 1st and 3rd Bomber Divisions in the area north of London. At 17:25 hours the units of both divisions started their flight over Thames Estuary. This force was divided as follows:

About 150 bombers flew across ~~the~~ Schelde Estuary in eastern direction into the area of Gilze-Rijen and Eindhoven where they changed to southern courses to attack transportation facilities in the area of Liège.

A small bomber unit crossed Schelde Estuary in south-eastern direction and directed its attack against transportation facilities in the area of Brussels.

The majority of the bomber aircraft of the 1st and 3rd Divisions crossed the Channel coast in the area of Ostend and Dunkirk and penetrated in south-eastern direction into the area of Trier, Saargemuend, and Luxembourg.

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In this area mainly transportation facilities were bombed. All bomber units returned in north-western direction.

A total force of 400 bombers, 300 single-engine and 100 twin-engine fighter aircraft took part in the operations on 11 May in the afternoon. Medium damage was caused by the bombing raids to transportation facilities and industrial installations in the areas of Muelhausen, Brussels, Liège, Trier, Luxembourg, and Saargemuend.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Against the 2nd Bomber Division:

By the 3rd and 7th Fighter Divisions: The Fighter Wing for Special Employment, the 3rd Group/3rd Fighter Wing, and the 1st Group/5th Fighter Wing on the first mission. The aircraft landed after the bombers had left the area of Muelhausen.

Against the 1st and 3rd Bomber Divisions:

By the 2nd Fighter Division: A combat unit of the 11th Fighter Wing in direction of Koblenz. The wing did not reach the American attacking units.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Combat units of the 1st Fighter Wing and of the Fighter Wing for Special Employment on a second mission. After assembly over Bonn the aircraft engaged in air combat over the area of Liège and Trier.

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ground , Oesau was thrown out and found dead near the burned aircraft. His death was caused by a fracture of his skull. The corpse of the brave commanding officer was, for the first time, placed on a bier in Bocholt Castle near St. Vith. The funeral took place on 20 May 1944 in Meldorf in Dithmarschen, the home of Oberst Oesau.

Photo of Oberst Oesau, killed in action on 11 May 1944

12.) American Attacks on Hydrogenation Plants in Central Germany on

12 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 204!)

Enemy Effort

On 12 May 1944 the American air forces started the air operations against the German fuel industry. They operated with three bomber divisions from the British air base with a total strength of 900 bomber aircraft. The strength of the escort fighters employed reached a maximum of 800 single-engine and 400 twin-engine fighter aircraft, which sums up to 1200 fighter aircraft.

The German command succeeded, for the first time, in concentrating all day fighter forces of the home air defense against the American air armada. By committing a total force of 470 single-engine and twin-engine fighters the Corps Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps achieved the maximum defense effort in the strategic air war over the Reich's territory from 1943 to 1945.

In the extensive air space over the Rhine - Main plains a

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By the 7th Fighter Division: The 1st Group/5th Fighter Wing and the 3rd Group  
/3rd Fighter Wing on a second mission. After  
assembly over Heilbronn the aircraft proceeded  
in direction of Kaiserslautern.

Total Effort: 131 fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 4 bomber and 5 fighter aircraft;

that is: 9 aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 7 aircraft

(12 May 1944, 11:00 hours) 2 aircraft received over 60% damage.

Losses of personnel: 1 killed,

4 wounded,

7 missing.

Weather Conditions: West of the Maas : 7/10 to 10/10 ice clouds above 7000  
meters.

Within the Reich's territory: cloudless, light haze.

Special Information:

On 11 May 1944, Oberst Walter Oesau, Commanding Officer of the 1st Fighter Wing, was killed in air combat against enemy forces of numerical superiority. He was credited with 117 enemy aircraft shot down and had been awarded the addition of the oakleaf cluster with swords to the knight cross of the iron cross.

Flying alone south-east of Liege Oberst Oesau was attacked by five American fighters at 18:00 hours. It was observed that, after long air combat, Oberst Oesau's aircraft dived at a steep angle flattening out shortly before reaching the ground apparently making a belly-landing. When the aircraft hit the

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fierce air battle developed which wound up with heavy losses on both sides. The considerably inferior German defense forces, however, had not succeeded in preventing the American bomber force from penetrating to the central area of the German Reich. The American bombers struck deep wounds into the fuel producing armament base in Central Germany.

The American offensive operations were conducted as follows:

According to reports of the German radio reconnaissance the American assembly maneuvers over the area of Norwich began at 08:30 hours.

At 10:40 hours the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bomber Divisions left the area of the Island of Britain in south-eastern direction.

The aircraft crossed the coast between Dunkirk and Ostend and proceeded in south-eastern direction into the area of Koblenz and Frankfurt on the Main.

Small bomber units dropped their bombs on Koblenz and on Frankfurt on the Main and returned in north-western direction.

The majority of the bombers proceeded in eastern direction by way of Schweinfurt into the area north of Bayreuth.

Leaving this area the bomber forces split to fly in northern direction for the attack on industrial targets and airfields in the area of Halle, Naumburg, Jena, and Leipzig (American main effort), and in north-eastern direction for the attack on targets in the area of Zwickau, as well as, with about 150 four-engine aircraft, in eastern respectively in northern direction by way of Eger and the area 50 kilometers west of Prag for the attack on the hydrogenation plant in the area of Bruex.



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The bombers returned in western direction.

All bombers were, when approaching the target areas, protected by strong fighter forces except when they flew over the area of Eger, Bruex, and Karlsbad.

In addition to the fighter forces directly protecting the bombers the following forces were observed:

As northern cover: Strong fighter forces intruding across Schelde Estuary, the area of Guetersloh, and Paderborn to meet the bombers over Central Germany and to carry out low-level strafing attacks on airfields.

To meet returning bombers: A number of fighter units intruding by way of Dunkirk in south-eastern direction into the area of Mannheim, Frankfurt on the Main, and Koeln.

Targets and Results of the Attacks: (First reports on 12 May 1944)

a.) Bomber Attacks:

Urban districts of Koblenz, Frankfurt on the Main, Halle, Naumburg, and Weissenfels. Slight damage to buildings was caused in all cities.

"Leuna"-works: Filtration plant hit, operation discontinued.

"Elisabeth-Leonhard-and Weissenfels"-mines in the area of Halle and Merseburg damaged.

Filtration plants at Wintershall near Luetzendorf damaged.

"Erabag"-works in Boehlen near Leipzig damaged.

Aircraft repair plant in Zwickau completely out of operation.

Filtration plant at Bruex - Maltheusen damaged.

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Photo of the Hydrogenation Plant at Bruex prior to the American Air Attack  
 -----  
 on 12 May 1944  
 -----

Airfields of Merseburg, Zwickau, and Schafstedt near Halle.

b.) Strafing Attacks:

Airfields of Weimar - Nohra, Koelleda, and Langensalza.

Strong ~~AMERICAN~~ offense forces intruded from the American air base in Italy in northern direction. It was not ~~until~~ until these forces changed to southern courses over the area of Genova and Milano between 10:00 and 11:00 hours that the units of the 7th Fighter Division in Southern Germany and Austria obtained freedom of operation to repulse the American forces from the British air base.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

By the <sup>st</sup>1st Fighter Division: A combat unit of the 3rd Fighter Wing in direction of Frankfurt on the Main. The units of ~~the~~ the 1st Fighter Division successfully engaged in combat over the area of Frankfurt and shot down 30 bombers.

The 26th Twin-Engine Fighter Wing in direction of Dresden. The wing engaged in combat with bomber units operating without fighter escort over the area east of Karlsbad.

By the 2nd Fighter Division: A combat unit of the 11th Fighter Wing in direction of Frankfurt on the Main. After

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successful repulsion of American fighter attacks  
this unit shot down 17 bomber aircraft.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: The 1st Fighter Wing and the Fighter Wing for Special Employment. The planned assembly over Giessen could not be materialized. In climbing, both wings were attacked by American fighters and involved in fierce air combat over the areas north of Giessen and west of Mannheim.

By the 7th Fighter Division: The 1st Group/5th Fighter Wing in direction of Frankfurt on the Main. Air combat with enemy fighter aircraft over the area of Frankfurt on the Main.

The 3rd Group/3rd Fighter Wing in direction of Frankfurt on the Main. Air combat with enemy fighter aircraft over the area of Mannheim.

A combat unit of the 27th Fighter Wing. After assembly over Passau the aircraft proceeded in direction of Frankfurt on the Main. Successful air combat with enemy fighters over the area east of Eschhorn.

Against returning bomber aircraft on second missions:

By all fighter divisions: Fighter aircraft reconditioned for operational employment from the area of Frankfurt. Air combat with enemy fighters over the area of Frankfurt and over the area of Koblenz.

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By the 3rd Fighter Division: Single-engine night fighters against the last bombers returning from the area of Karlsruhe without fighter escort which were reported to the 1st Fighter Division by aerial reconnaissance Air combat over the area of Siegen.

Total Effort: 1st mission: 419 single-engine and twin-engine fighters,  
 2nd mission: 51 fighters and single-engine night fighters.  
Total: 470 aircraft

Enemy Losses: 72 bombers and 9 fighters;  
 that is: 81 aircraft definitely shot down.  
 9 bombers probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 34 aircraft.  
 31 aircraft received over 60% damage.  
 (13 May 1944, 11:00 hours) Losses of personnel: 10 killed,  
 18 wounded,  
 34 missing.

Weather Conditions: 0/10 to 3/10 thin cumulus cloud cover above 1000 meters.

Special Information:

a.) American bomber flight formation

During the attack on 12 May a new bomber flight formation, <sup>was observed</sup> The reinforcement of the individual bomber squadrons up to a strength from 25 to 30 aircraft probably had confronted the American command with the task of employing more aircraft than hitherto, which resulted in the attempt to change the flight formation. In the new formation 42 aircraft of one group and 20 aircraft of another group formed a combat wing; the conventional

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method of upward stepping was retained.

b.) The results of the attack on the hydrogenation plants on 12 May 1944:

(Source: report of the officer in charge of the fuel supply with the Wehrmacht of High Command - Wehrmacht Operations Staff ~~xxxxx~~ June 1944).

"The following plants were temporarily put out of operation:

Plant Bruex	-	100 per cent,
Plant Troeglitz	-	100 per cent,
Plant Boehlen	-	50 per cent, and
Plant Leuna	-	60 per cent.

According to reports received later the damage was even heavier."

Photo of Hydrogenation Plant Bruex after the American Air Raid  
on 12 May 1944\*

13.) American Attacks on Stettin and Osnabrueck on 13 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 2051)

Enemy Effort

Since 10:20 hours the German radio intelligence intercepted American offense forces assembling over the Island of Britain. At 12:00 hours the units of the 1st and 2nd Bomber Divisions left the area of Norwich in north-eastern direction. The bombers changed to eastern courses over the sea  
.....

Note: \* The evaluation is not convincing.

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area north of the island of Texel. They crossed the west coast of Jutland between the island of Sylt and Heide. The aircraft then proceeded via the Bay of Kiel, the Bay of Luebeck, the area of Stralsund and Rostock for the attack on Stettin and Tutow. After the attack the majority of the bombers returned in north-western direction by way of Nordschleswig into the North Sea area. Only a small bomber unit proceeded from Stettin in southern direction into the area of Frankfurt on the Oder and changed at first to an eastern course to proceed into the area of Poznan<sup>and</sup> then to a north-western course to return via the ~~North~~ Baltic Sea. Its attack was directed against the aircraft plants in Poznan.

The units of the 3rd Bomber Division appeared at 13:00 hours flying over the Zuider Sea in eastern direction. They proceeded into the ~~xxx~~ area of Hannover where they changed to western courses for the attack on Osnabrueck. For their return flight they chose the air route via Schelde Estuary.

Strong American fighter forces escorted the bombers up to the target areas. A portion of the American fighters attacked airfields in the sector of the 2nd Fighter Division or circled over German fighter airfields.

Results of the Attack: In Stettin medium damage to buildings and heavy damage to industrial installations, moreover considerable damage to transportation facilities.

Bomber units from the American air base in Italy had penetrated into the area of Bolzano. Thereby the fighter units of the 7th Fighter Division were tied up in Southern Germany up to 12:30 hours.

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Commitment of the I Fighter CorpsThe following forces were employed:To repulse bombers intruding across the North Sea:

By the 1st Fighter Division: A combat unit of the 3rd Fighter Wing. After assembly over the Mueritzsee the aircraft proceeded in direction of Stralsund. Air combat in the area of Anklam and Demmin.

The 26th Twin-Engine Fighter Wing. The aircraft assembled over Stettin and proceeded in direction of Frankfurt on the Oder to be committed against the bomber units intruding to the area of Poznan.

By the 2nd and 3rd Fighter Divisions: All units assembled over the airfield of Rotenburg and proceeded in north-eastern direction. Air combat in the area of Kiel.

To repulse an attack on Osnabrueck:

By the 7th Fighter Division: The 3rd Group/3rd Fighter Wing and the 1st Group/5th Fighter Wing in direction of the ~~Brocken~~ Brocken in the Harz. The units could not start until the aircraft intruding from the South had changed their course. They arrived in the area of Northern Germany too late to engage in combat with the 3rd Bomber Division and landed on the airfield of Burg near Magdeburg.

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Against bomber aircraft returning from the area of Stettin:

By the 7th Fighter Division: Units from Burg on a second mission in direction of Nordechleswig. Owing to difficulties encountered in restoring readiness for action on the airfield of Burg only 6 aircraft could fly a second mission (See special information).

It was intended to commit a second time the fighter aircraft of all fighter divisions which had landed within the sector of the 2nd Fighter Division. However, American fighters which controlled German airfields by flying at low altitudes prevented the second start of the units.

The units of the Fighter Commander Ostmark could not be committed because of bad weather conditions in Austria.

Total Effort: 253 single-engine and twin-engine fighters.

Enemy Losses: 10 bombers and 16 fighters;

that is: 26 aircraft definitely shot down.

3 bombers and 3 fighters;

6 aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces:

16 aircraft.

(As of 14 May 1944, 10:00 hours)

14 aircraft received over 60% damage.

Losses of personnel: 6 killed,

12 wounded,

18 missing.

Weather Conditions: Northern Germany: cloudless.

In the area of Stettin: 2/10 to 8/10 several strata of cumulus clouds.



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Special Information:

The difficulties encountered in the second commitment of units of the 7th Fighter Division in the sector of the 1st Fighter Division are described in the following teletype message:

Teletype message of the Corps Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps to the 7th Fighter Division: "On 13 May 1944 the take-off of the combat unit of the 7th Fighter Division for a second mission was delayed to such an extent that only some elements of this unit could be actually committed.

According to a report of the 1st Fighter Division 11 aircraft were ~~xxxxxxx~~ <sup>fuelled</sup> in 10 minutes, further aircraft were fuelled in 20 minutes and the rest of the aircraft were fuelled in 40 minutes. The following report of the 1st Fighter Division is given for information purposes:

- a.) After being taken over from the 7th Fighter Division the unit was correctly guided by the "y"-method by the 1st Fighter Division.
- b.) After it was noticed that the unit would arrive too late for commitment against bombers proceeding in eastern direction, the aircraft were directed to land at Salzwedel to be on hand as far in the West as possible for commitment against returning enemy aircraft.
- c.) Without corresponding order from the 1st Fighter Division and without correspondingly informing this division the unit ~~xxx~~ flies over the airfield

.....

Note: \* "y"-method means

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of Burg and lands there at a time when there was still sufficient fuel available ~~xxxxxxx~~ proceeding to ~~xxxxxxx~~ Salzwedel.

d.) The air base of Burg had been directed by the 1st Fighter Division to recondition grounded units for take-off by all possible means.

e.) Reconditioning took the unit from 14:48 hours, when the last aircraft ~~xxx~~ landed, to 15:52 hours, when the last aircraft took off again. The reasons for this delay were the following: The pilots leave the aircraft to receive rations. Afterwards they do not know whether their aircraft are fuelled or not. The aircraft of the formation leader is the last one to be fuelled. The pilots are not familiar with the change from "Y"\* to Reich's fighter frequency. The "y\*\*"-aircraft was put out of action. After landing the pilots ~~did~~ did not comply with the orders for refuelling signalled to them. For this reason speedy refuelling at prepared refuelling stations was not possible. Finally, the fighters started singly since the landing field was unknown.

The 7th Fighter Division will investigate to what extent the unit was at fault and whether any other failure was involved. The result of the investigation will be reported immediately. (Corps Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps, Operations Officer (T), No. 1827/44, secret, dated 16 May 1944)."

14.) American Reconnaissance Activities over the Reich's Territory During the Period from 14 to 20 May 1944, not Including the Large-Scale Attack on

Berlin on 19 May 1944.

Notes: \* "y"-frequency means

\*\* "y"-aircraft means

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(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 206!)

Enemy Effort

On 14, 15, and 20 May, only a small number of aircraft flew reconnaissance missions over the Reich's territory.

On 16 May, 2 American fighter aircraft conducted a strafing attack against the airfield of Parow near Stralsund. They shot down 5 German training aircraft while the latter were landing, destroyed 2 training aircraft on the ground, and damaged 2 more training aircraft.

On 17 May, 6 Type Mustang fighter aircraft conducted a strafing attack against the air base of Aslborg. During this attack 8 German training aircraft were destroyed and 2 were damaged.

On 18 May, no American aircraft appeared over the Reich's territory.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

On 17 May 1944: 4 fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 1 Type Mustang fighter aircraft on 17 May 1944.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

15.) American Attack on Berlin and Braunschweig on 19 May 1944

(See sketch; home air defense, supplement 207!)

Enemy Effort

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On 19 May 1944, The American air force stationed in Great Britain directed its attacks against Berlin and Braunschweig. A small number of bombs was dropped on Kiel and several airfields in Northern Germany. According to German reports 900 bombers, 750 single-engine and 250 twin-engine fighters took part in these offensive operations.

Results of the Attacks:

In Berlin: Heavy damage to buildings and slight damage to industrial installations.

In Braunschweig: Slight damage to buildings and medium damage to industrial installations.

By low-level attacks against airfields: 5 aircraft destroyed and 13 aircraft damaged.

The operations were conducted as follows:

According to German radio intelligence reports the aircraft began assembling at 09:00 hours.

At 11:45 hours the aircraft began their approach flight over the Island of Britain in eastern direction.

The flight course of the 1st Bomber Division: Approach <sup>flight</sup> from the area of Norwich, north-eastern course across the southern section of the North Sea up to the area of Heligoland, south-eastern course via Elbe Estuary and along the Elbe River up to Berlin. Return flight in northern direction into the area of Greifswald, from there by way of the island of Fehmarn, Schleswig, and Husum. The flight course of the 2nd Bomber Division: Approach flight from the area of Great Yarmouth via the northern section of the Zuider Sea in eastern direction up to the area of Braunschweig. Return flight in western direction via

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Bielefeld, the area north of Muenster, and Den Haag.

The flight course of the 3rd Bomber Division: Approach across the southern section of the Zuider Sea in eastern direction into the area south of Braunschweig. The aircraft proceeded via the area of Magdeburg to Berlin. They returned like the units of the 1 Bomber Division.

~~xxxxxx~~ A small unit of the 1st Bomber Division intruded from the area of Heligoland in eastern direction to attack Kiel at 13:44 hours.

Strong escort fighter units operated up to the target areas, some of them even before the bombers arrived. In addition, during the bomber operations fighter aircraft which provided a broad cover <sup>currently</sup> penetrated between the islands of Borkum and Texel across the North Sea coast into the area of Northern Germany. Low-level strafing attacks were carried out against airfields and transportation facilities in Mecklenburg and against the air bases of Burg and Stendal.

#### Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

##### Against the 1st Bomber Division:

By the 1st Fighter Division: A combat unit of the 3rd Fighter Wing. The aircraft assembled over the Mueritzsee and proceeded in western direction. Air combat over the area of Parchim.

The 26th Twin-Engine Fighter Wing. Precautionary assembly over Landsberg on the Warthe for commitment against bombers which might possibly, coming from Berlin, proceed in eastern direction.

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Against the 2nd Bomber Division:

By the 2nd Fighter Division: A combat unit of the 11th Fighter Wing. After assembly over Bremen the aircraft proceeded in direction of Osnabrueck. Air combat over the area north of Vechta.

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Combat units of the 1st Fighter Wing and the 1st Fighter Wing for Special Employment. After assembly over Minden the aircraft proceeded in direction of Osnabrueck. The wings succeeded, after detouring the American fighter cover, in attacking American bomber units with good success over the area north of Osnabrueck.

Against the 3rd Bomber Division:

Units of the 7th Fighter Division: The 1st Group/5th Fighter Wing and the 3rd Group/3rd Fighter Wing. After assembly over Herzogenauech the aircraft proceeded in direction of the Brocken in the Harz. Air combat in the area of Braunschweig.

A combat unit of the 27th Fighter Wing of the 7th Fighter Division proceeded in direction of Magdeburg. Successful air combat in the area northwest of Braunschweig.

Against returning bombers:

By the 1st and 2nd Fighter Divisions: 26 fighter aircraft on a second mission in direction of the island of Fehmarn and Kiel.

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Total Effort: 451 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

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Enemy Losses: 52 aircraft definitely shot down.

---

8 aircraft probably shot down.

In addition, by antiaircraft artillery:

18 aircraft definitely shot down.

8 aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 42 aircraft

---

16 aircraft received over 60% damage.

Losses of personnel: 10 killed,

12 wounded,

8 missing.

Weather Conditions: Reich's territory: Bright

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North-of the line Husum - Kiel: Bad weather.

Special Information:

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a.) Bomber flight formations on 19 May 1944

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bomber

The first unit approached in loose formation and in groups of about 20 to 30 aircraft keeping a time interval of 5 to 10 minutes. The following units formed a tight formation each and were stronger, generally they formed 3 groups of 40 aircraft each keeping a distance of 3 to 5 kilometers. Of 14 returning bomber units 6 flew close together while the rest flew in a loose formation. The strongest formation consisted of 8 groups of 22 to 27 aircraft each; these groups were followed by single aircraft which apparently could no longer keep pace with the speed of the ~~tight~~<sup>closed</sup> formation. No <sup>American</sup> fighter aircraft were observed escorting this ~~great~~ strong formation.

b.) On 19 May 1944, the German radar system succeeded in taking a bearing on

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the new American Meddo-set and ~~unsuccessfully~~ in intercepting with good success the American ~~pathfinder~~ airborne pathfinder equipment.

c.) Antiaircraft fire on 19 May 1944

The following units fired:

In the area of Braunschweig: 16 heavy batteries with 78 ~~guns~~ <sup>guns</sup> 3200 rounds.  
2 light batteries with 14 guns 269 rounds.

In the area of Berlin: 80 batteries with 152 guns 17 121 rounds.

The great flying altitude of the bombers reduced the effect of the 88 - millimeter antiaircraft batteries.

d.)

The results of the attack on Berlin on 19 May 1944

During the period from 13:50 to 14:20 hours about 1200 demolition bombs, 50 000 incendiary bombs equipped with a special sting at the point (German: Stabbrandbombe), and 10 000 liquid-incendiary bombs were dropped. Damage to material and losses of personnel:

393 buildings totally destroyed,  
2517 buildings damaged,  
171 killed,  
440 wounded, and  
28 000 homeless.

17.) American Attack on Kiel on 21 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 208!)

Enemy Effort

During the period from 12:53 to 13:03 hours Kiel was attacked by 480 bombers protected by strong fighter forces. American fighter units



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with a total strength of 300 aircraft simultaneously penetrated into the area of North-Western, Northern, and Central Germany. They conducted strafing raids against 36 air industrial bases, among them the work airfields at Rutenberg near Prenzlau, at Redlin at near Wittstock, and Schkeuditz with good success.

Results of the attack on Kiel: Heavy damage in the Navy shipbuilding yards and considerable damage to buildings in the city area.

Damages caused by low-level fighter attacks:

57 aircraft destroyed; two thirds of them were training aircraft.

52 aircraft damaged.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed to repulse the attack on Kiel:

By the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 7th Fighter Divisions: 186 fighter aircraft of which 101 engaged in combat.

The bomber operation against Kiel was initially considered as a secondary action. This opinion of the Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps was based on a report of the 2nd Fighter Division according to which bomber units proceeded from the area of Luebeck in south-eastern direction. This report resulted in a commitment of the units of the 1st Fighter Division in direction of Berlin. Later it was revealed that the fighters mentioned in the report of the 2nd Fighter Division had been friendly aircraft.

Activities of the antiaircraft artillery

The following ammunition was discharged without any success:

In the area of Kiel: 68 heavy batteries with 338 guns fired 2424 rounds and  
4 light batteries with 17 guns fired 417 rounds.

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Enemy Losses: 13 aircraft definitely shot down.

3 aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 7 aircraft destroyed,

2 aircraft missing,

4 aircraft damaged.

Losses of personnel: 3 killed,

2 wounded,

4 missing.

Weather Conditions: 5/10 to 8/10 cumulus clouds at 2500 meters.

Special Information:

The 20 - millimeter antiaircraft guns employed on the air field of Schkeuditz ~~did~~ <sup>did</sup> not fire at the Type Mustang aircraft which approached at an altitude of 5 meters in order not to endanger friendly installations.

18.) American Fighter Attacks on 22 and 23 May 1944

Enemy Effort

On 22 and 23 May 1944, small American fighter units carried out bombing and strafing attacks without scoring considerable success against a number of airfields and transportation facilities in North-Western Germany.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The corps was not operationally employed.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

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19.) American Attacks on Berlin and Vienna on 24 May 1944

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(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 209!)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the American air forces:

From the air base in Great Britain:

During the period from 10:58 to 11:20 hours 600 bomber aircraft carried out a heavy attack on Berlin and fighter forces flew low-level attacks against 11 air bases and 41 targets of the transportation system, among them 36 trains in the area of Western and North-Western Germany. The bombers intruded by way of Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg.

A total strength of 450 bombers of the 5th, 7th, and 340th Bomber Wings attacked the the southern section of the city area of Vienna and Wiener-Neustadt.

Results of the attacks:

In Berlin: The following explosives were dropped: 2500 demolition bombs, 70 000 incendiary bombs equipped with a special sting at the point (German: Stabbrandbombe), and 10 000 liquid-incendiary bombs.

Main damage in: City center, Prenzlauer Berg, Horst-Wesselplatz, and Siemensstadt.

Damage to material and losses of personnel:

596 buildings destroyed,	617 wounded, and
2680 buildings damaged,	35 000 homeless.
182 killed,	

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At air bases 7 aircraft were destroyed and 3 aircraft were damaged.

In the area of Vienna: The Rax-works in Wiener-Neustadt were heavily damaged.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

To repulse the attack on Berlin:

Units of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 7th Fighter Divisions with a total strength of 255 single-engine and 31 twin-engine fighters of which 222 fighters engaged in combat.

To repulse the attack on Vienna:

By the Fighter Commander Oetmark: The 27th Fighter Wing and the 1st Group/302nd Fighter Wing as well as Hungarian fighter forces; the total strength of these forces amounted to 111 single-engine and 35 twin-engine fighters of which 124 aircraft engaged in combat.

Total Effort: 432 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Activities of the antiaircraft artillery:

The following amount of ammunition was discharged:

In the area of Northern Germany: 462 heavy batteries fired 39 655 rounds of which 19 039 rounds were fired by 87 heavy batteries in the area of Berlin.

In the areas of Vienna and Bruck on the Mur: 622 guns of heavy batteries fired 20 361 rounds.

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Enemy Losses:In Northern Germany: 37 bomber and 13 fighter aircraft;

that is: 50 aircraft definitely shot down.

7 aircraft probably shot down.

In addition, the following aircraft were shot down by  
antiaircraft artillery:

8 bomber and 5 fighter aircraft;

that is: 13 aircraft definitely shot down.

4 aircraft probably shot down.

In the area of Vienna: 22 bomber and 1 fighter aircraft;

that is: 23 aircraft definitely shot down.

2 aircraft probably shot down.

In addition, the following aircraft were shot down by  
antiaircraft artillery:

8 bomber aircraft definitely shot down.

2 aircraft probably shot down.

Total losses: 94 aircraft definitely shot down.

15 aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces:

In Northern Germany: 17 aircraft destroyed,

13 aircraft missing,

18 aircraft damaged.

Losses of personnel: 4 killed,

8 wounded,

14 missing.

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In the area of Vienna: 3 aircraft destroyed,

7 aircraft missing,

6 aircraft damaged.

Losses of personnel: 2 killed,

3 wounded,

7 missing.

Total losses:

20 aircraft destroyed,

20 aircraft missing,

24 aircraft damaged.

Losses of personnel: 6 killed,

11 wounded,

21 missing.

Weather Conditions:

Northern Germany: Cloudless.

Area of Vienna: 3/10 to 9/10 clouds.

20.) American Fighter Attacks on 25 and 26 May 1944

Enemy Effort

On 25 and 26 May 1944, small American fighter units conducted bombing and strafing attacks against airfields in Western Germany without scoring any success.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The corps was not operationally employed.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

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21.) American Attacks on Cities and Railroad Installations in South-Western Germany, in Alsace - Lorraine as well as in the Saar Area on 27 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 210!)

Enemy Effort

During the period from 12:00 to 12:50 hours, strong American bomber units (900 aircraft?) attacked the following targets:

Strassbourg, city area and freight station,  
 Karlsruhe, transportation facilities,  
 Mannheim, transportation facilities,  
 Ludwigshafen, city area and industrial establishments,  
 Saarbruecken,  
 Metz, and  
 Trier.

Results of the attack: Considerable damages to transportation facilities and  
in industrial establishments. In addition, the following  
 damages were caused on three airfields by low-level attacks by American fighters: 9 aircraft destroyed and 6 aircraft damaged.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Units of the 7th Fighter Division with a total strength of 89<sup>fighter</sup> aircraft.

The forces of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Fighter Divisions could not be committed owing to bad weather conditions.

There are no data available on the commitment of units of the Third Air Fleet Command.

Activities of the antiaircraft artillery

The following amount of ammunition was discharged:

72 heavy batteries fired 16 660 rounds.

Enemy Losses: 11 bomber and 3 fighter aircraft;

that is: 14 aircraft definitely shot down.

In addition, the following aircraft were shot down by anti-aircraft artillery:

13 bomber and 1 fighter aircraft;

that is: 14 aircraft definitely shot down.

2 aircraft probably shot down.

~~Enemy Losses: 11 bomber and 3 fighter aircraft;~~  
~~that is: 14 aircraft definitely shot down.~~

Total Losses: 28 aircraft definitely shot down,

2 aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 14 aircraft destroyed,

2 aircraft missing,

11 aircraft damaged.

Weather Conditions: Several strata of clouds, partially dense.

22.) American Attacks on Installations of the Fuel and Armament Industry in

Central Germany on 28 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 21)

Enemy Effort

On 28 May 1944, 1000 bomber aircraft of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bomber Divisions escorted by extremely strong fighter forces operated from



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the British air base against the area of Central Germany. During the period from 13:00 to 16:00 hours they attacked the following targets:

Magdeburg, hydrogenation plant and armor depôt,  
 Dessau, Junkers-aircraft factories,  
 Schwarzheide near Ruhland, hydrogenation plants,  
 Leuna, hydrogenation plants,  
 Wintershall A.G., hydrogenation plants,  
 Laucha, motor factories,  
 Nockritz, cellulose factories,  
 Troeglitz, hydrogenation plant.

About 40 Fortress-bombers conducted a secondary attack on Koeln. Outside the city area protected by antiaircraft artillery they ~~dropped~~ released glider mines (German: Gleitminen) which dropped at a flat gliding angle ~~xxxxxx~~ at a measured ~~xxxxxx~~ velocity of 180 meters per second and detonated on the ground only after repeated bouncing.

American fighter units directed low-level attacks against airfields and transportation facilities in Central Germany.

Results of the attacks: Various damages were caused. Heavy damages were caused

in:

Magdeburg, armor depôt,  
 Dessau, sugar refinery, and in the  
 hydrogenation plants of Schwarzheide,  
 Troeglitz, and Wintershall.  
 On airfields: 6 aircraft destroyed and  
 11 aircraft damaged.

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Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

forces

The following aircraft were employed:

Units of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Fighter Divisions and of the Fighter Commander Schlesien with a total strength of 333 single-engine and twin-engine fighters of which 266 fighter aircraft engaged in combat.

Activities of the antiaircraft artillery:

The following amount of ammunition was discharged:

399 heavy batteries fired 32 000 rounds and

63 light batteries fired 16 770 rounds.

Enemy Losses: 36 bomber and 11 fighter aircraft;

that is: 47 aircraft definitely shot down.

5 aircraft probably shot down.

In addition, the following aircraft were shot down by antiaircraft artillery:

20 aircraft definitely shot down.

Total Losses: 67 aircraft definitely shot down,

5 aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 39 aircraft destroyed,

5 aircraft missing,

34 aircraft damaged.

Losses of personnel: 15 killed,

16 wounded,

3 missing.

Weather Conditions: Bright to cloudless.

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23.) American Attacks on Armament Plants and Airfields in Central and Eastern Germany, the Hydrogenation Plant of Poelitz near Stettin as well as on Armament Plants in the Area of Vienna on 29 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 212!)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the American air forces :

From the air base in Great Britain:

A large-scale attack with 1100 bomber aircraft of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bomber Divisions escorted by strong fighter forces against armament targets at Leipzig, Cottbus, Sorau, Krsesinki near Poznan, and ~~awdoox~~ <sup>against the</sup> hydrogenation plant of Poelitz near Stettin during the period from 12:24 to 13:25 hours.

Low-level attacks with a number of fighter units against airfields and the railway traffic in Eastern Germany. Elements of American fighter units penetrated into the area of Frankfurt on the Oder.

From the air base in Italy:

An attack against armament plants in the area of Vienna and in the area of Wiener-Neustadt with 600 bomber aircraft of the 5th, 47th, 55th, and 304th Bomber Wings during the period from 10:25 to 10:45 hours. The Fortress- and Liberator-units were protected by strong fighter forces (Lightning- and Mustang-fighters).

Photo of the Armament Plant of Krsesinki near Poznan prior to the American Attack on 29 May 1944

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Results of the attack:By forces intruding from the North:

Considerable damages in the armament <sup>plants</sup> ✓ of Eastern Germany; hydroge-  
 netion plant put out of operation (see special information); heavy  
 damages in the production establishments and on the airfields by  
 high-altitude and low-level attacks; among other damages 90 aircraft  
 were destroyed and 53 aircraft were damaged.

Damage caused to the railroad traffic by low-level attacks: 16 en-  
 gines damaged.

By forces intruding from the South:

Lasting effects on the attacked factories in the area of Vienna and  
 in Wiener-Neustadt.

Among other damages: 9 aircraft and a great number of aircraft en-  
 gines destroyed as well as 4 aircraft damaged.

Commitment of the I Fighter CorpsThe following forces were employed:To repulse the forces intruding from the North:

By the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Fighter Divisions: 275 single-engine and twin-engine  
 fighter aircraft,

by the Fighter Commander Ostpreussen : 22 single-engine fighter aircraft,

by the Fighter Commander Schlesien : 54 single-engine fighter aircraft.

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 Total : 351 single-engine and twin-engine  
 -----  
 fighter aircraft of which 208  
 -----  
 fighter aircraft engaged in combat.

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Photo of the Armament Factory of Leipzig-Heiterblick  
after the American Air Attack on 29 May 1944

To repulse the forces intruding from the South:

By the 7th Fighter Division (Fighter Commander Ostmark): 4 single-engine and  
1 twin-engine fighter groups with a total strength  
of 101 aircraft.

Total Effort: 452 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Activities of the antiaircraft artillery:

The following amount of ammunition was fired:

In the target area of the forces intruding from the North:

85 heavy batteries fired 14 342 rounds and

2 light batteries fired 543 rounds.

In the area of Vienna and in the area of Bruck on the Mur:

89 heavy batteries fired 3860 rounds and

1 light battery fired 376 rounds.

Enemy Losses:

Forces intruding from the North: 97 aircraft definitely shot down,

9 aircraft probably shot down.

In addition, the following aircraft were  
shot down by antiaircraft artillery:

19 aircraft definitely shot down,

9 aircraft probably shot down.

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Forces intruding from the South: ? aircraft definitely shot down,

? aircraft probably shot down.

In addition, the following aircraft were shot down by antiaircraft artillery:

9 aircraft definitely shot down,

3 aircraft probably shot down.

Total Losses: 118 aircraft definitely shot down,

21 aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces:

Caused by forces intruding from the North: 25 aircraft destroyed,

6 aircraft missing,

16 aircraft damaged.

Losses of personnel : 15 killed,

15 wounded,

6 missing.

Caused by forces intruding from the South: 21 aircraft destroyed,

1 aircraft missing,

2 aircraft damaged.

Losses of personnel : 21 killed,

7 wounded,

3 missing.

Total Losses: 46 aircraft destroyed,

7 aircraft missing,

18 aircraft damaged.

Losses of personnel: 36 killed,

22 wounded, and

9 missing.

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Weather Conditions: In Northern Germany almost cloudless.

Special Information:

Results of the attack on the hydrogenation plant at Poelitz near Stettin:

On 29 May 1944, the hydrogenation plant at Poelitz which had a capacity of 47 000 moto and worked mainly for the Luftwaffe was damaged to such an extent that it was unable to operate for at least two months. (Source: report of the officer in charge of fuel supply in the Branch of ~~xxxx~~ Supply and Administration of the Wehrmacht Operations Staff of June 1944).

Photo of the Armament Plant of Krsesinki near Poznan after  
the American Air Attack on 29 May 1944

24.) American Attacks on Armament Plants in the Area of Central Germany,  
on Airfields in Northern Germany, and on Industrial Installations in Austria  
on 30 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 2131)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the American air forces:

From the air base in Great Britain:

Attacks with 650 bomber aircraft on industrial installations in the area of Halberstadt, Dessau, Oschersleben, and on 6 airfields in Northern Germany during the period from 10:43 to 11:15 hours.  
with several fighter units.  
Strafing attacks against railroad targets.

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From the air base in Italy:

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Attacks with 500 bomber aircraft of the 5th, 47, 49, 55, and 304th Bomber Wings on industrial targets in the area of Vienna, Wiener-Neustadt, Linz, and on airfields in the area of the Upper and Lower Danube during the period of 10:22 to 10:50 hours. In this operation the bombers detoured the area of ~~Speyer~~ Steyr which was protected by antiaircraft artillery.

Results of the Attacks:

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In Central and Northern Germany: Slight damage in the industrial installations. On the airfields 48 aircraft were destroyed and 39 aircraft were damaged. In addition, 8 locomotives and 9 railroad cars were damaged by 14 strafing attacks.

In Austria: Slight damage to industrial installations. 18 aircraft were destroyed and 4 aircraft were damaged in an aircraft factory. Airfield installations at Wels were heavily damaged.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

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forces

The following ~~units~~ were employed:

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By the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Fighter Divisions 185 fighter aircraft of which 142 fighters engaged in combat.

To repulse an attack on Austria:

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By the 7th Fighter Division (Fighter Commander Ostmark) 57 fighter aircraft of which 19 fighters engaged in combat.



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Total Effort: 242 fighter aircraft

Activities of the antiaircraft artillery:

The following amount of ammunition was discharged:

To repulse an attack on Central Germany:

164 heavy batteries fired 13 206 rounds.

To repulse an attack on Austria:

39 heavy batteries fired 17 010 rounds.

Enemy Losses:

In Central Germany:

7 bomber and 8 fighter aircraft;

that is: 15 aircraft definitely shot down.

3 aircraft probably shot down.

In addition, the following aircraft were shot down

by antiaircraft artillery:

6 bomber and 2 fighter aircraft;

that is: 8 aircraft definitely shot down.

4 aircraft probably shot down.

In Austria:

? aircraft definitely shot down,

? aircraft probably shot down.

In addition, the following aircraft were shot down

by antiaircraft artillery:

11 aircraft definitely shot down.

Total Losses:

34 aircraft definitely shot down,

7 aircraft probably shot down.

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Losses of Friendly Forces:

In Central Germany: 32 aircraft destroyed,

5 aircraft missing,

13 aircraft damaged.

Losses of personnel: 27 killed,

21 wounded,

5 missing.

In Austria:

4 aircraft destroyed,

6 aircraft missing,

3 aircraft damaged.

Losses of personnel: None.

Total Losses: 36 aircraft destroyed,

11 aircraft missing,

16 aircraft damaged.

Losses of personnel: 27 killed,

21 wounded,

5 missing.

Weather Conditions: Northern Germany and Austria: Bright to cloudless.

Special Information: On 30 May 1944, an air base in Western Germany was at -

tacked by lightning-fighters with fragmentation bombs

of 9,6 kilograms each.

Photo of the Armament Plant of Oschersleben after the

American Air Attack on 30 May 1944.

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25.) American Attacks on Transportation Facilities in Western and Southern  
-----  
Germany on 31 May 1944  
-----

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 2141)

Enemy Effort

During the period from 10:59 to 11:30 hours, 850 bomber aircraft of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bomber Divisions protected by strong fighter forces attacked transportation facilities and airfields in Western and Southern Germany.

The main targets for the attacks were: Osnabrueck, Hamm, Schwerte, and Geske. Intruding American fighters reached the area of Northern Germany up to the Elbe River.

Results of the Attacks: Considerable damages to the installations of the Reich's railway system.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

Units of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 7th Fighter Divisions (Fighter Commander Ostmark) with a total strength of 376 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Owing to bad weather (approaching thunder storms) the units employed did not engage in combat.

Activities of the antiaircraft artillery:

The following amount of ammunition was discharged:

88 heavy batteries fired 4221 rounds and  
2 light batteries fired 2099 rounds.

Enemy Losses: 1 bomber aircraft shot down by antiaircraft artillery.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 8 aircraft destroyed,

6 aircraft damaged,

Losses of personnel: 3 killed,

3 wounded.

The losses were not due to enemy action.

Weather Conditions: At first cloudless and very hazy. Later cumulus clouds  
with thunder storms.

#### Chapter IV

\*\*\*\*\*

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

#### 1.) Survey

#### a.) British Offensive Activities

In May 1944, the Bomber Command transferred the main effort of its night operations to France and Belgium. It was only during three nights that targets in the Reich's territory were attacked by heavy British bombers.

The obvious strategic objective of the RAF was the destruction of transportation facilities in Northern France, Belgium, and North-Western Germany. The selection of targets made in the pursuance of this objective revealed a cooperation of the Allied air commands.

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conducted by Mosquito-bombers  
The British nuisance raids against targets in the Reich's territory had been intensified in respect to the number of aircraft committed and total missions flown.

The British mine-laying operations were maintained on the same scale and extended mainly over the coastal waters of the North Sea and the Baltic. A special mission ~~directed~~ against the floodgate installations of the "Kaiser Wilhelm"-canal failed.

The mine-laying operations over the Danube River were conducted with comparatively small forces from the British in Italy. These operations produced considerable effects inasmuch as the German crude oil supply from Rumania suffered serious interruptions, which delayed the fuel production in the Reich's territory. The aerial-delivered mines had, at first, such a delaying effect on the river navigation since at the beginning of the mine-laying operations over the area of the Danube ~~river~~ any mine-sweeping organization did not yet exist.

The total effect of the British night attacks against targets in the Reich's territory in May 1944 was relatively slight as compared to the preceding months. The greatest damage was inflicted on the attacked railroad stations and transportation facilities. Among other objects the Rhine bridge near Duisburg was destroyed. Broadly speaking, the British night bombardments of targets in the Reich's territory ~~interrupted~~ <sup>disrupted</sup> the German <sup>supply</sup> traffic from the Reich to the western areas occupied by Germany only to a negligible extent.

The transportation facilities under attack in Belgium sustained heavy damages by which a number of transit stations of the railroad system were, for a short period of time, put out of operation.\*

.....  
Note:\* The total effect of the Allied air operations against the communication network in the western areas occupied by Germany is treated in the work "The Air War in the West" of the study 9-11.

The transfer of the main effort of the British offensive operations to Belgium and Northern France was conspicuous fact. It gave rise to the presumption on the part of the German Command that an invasion was imminent. This was expressed, among other statements, in the German Wehrmacht report of 13 May, the day after the British night attack against transportation facilities in Belgium, as follows: "The continual heavy attacks by British and North American bombers against the western areas occupied by Germany can be considered as a preparation for the invasion".

According to German observation the British air operations in May 1944 consisted of:

- 3 large-scale attacks against targets in the Reich's territory,
- 5 large-scale attacks against targets in Belgium,
- 4 large-scale attacks against targets in France.
- 20 nuisance raids with Mosquito-bombers against targets in the Reich's territory; 6 of these raids were directed against Berlin,
- 2 nuisance raids from the British air base in Italy against targets in Austria and Hungary,
- 15 mine-laying operations in the sea areas of the Heligoland Bight and the Baltic,
- a number of mine-laying operations over the Danube River of which only one operation ~~was~~ exactly observed,
- 6 missions to carry or supply agents from the British air bases in Great Britain and Italy to Holland, Jutland, and Southern Poland, numerous patrol missions with Type Moquito aircraft.

German documentary data providing information on the British air activities over the Reich's territory during the period from 1 to 6 June 1944.

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Since there was unfavorable flying weather during this period, it was presumed that the British operations were restricted to nuisance missions with Type Mosquito aircraft.

b.) British Offensive Tactics

Particular changes in the tactics applied in the British night attacks against targets in the Reich's territory could not be observed during May. In conducting their Mosquito operations the British showed the endeavor to carry out, using flare equipment, the nuisance raids in a concentrated form as well as in a short period of attack and to ~~improve~~ improve the effect by ~~increased~~ loading increased amounts of explosives, in particular aerial mines.

c.) Commitment of the German Night Fighter Forces

During May the majority of the British bomber streams intruded across the Channel area in southern and south-eastern direction into the area of Northern France and Belgium. Frequently Mosquito-units left the bomber stream to proceed into the Reich's territory which made it difficult for the German night fighter command to form a picture of the air situation in respect to intruding aircraft. This command could never anticipate whether the respective bomber stream intruding across the Channel would operate only up to the western areas occupied by Germany or would proceed into the Reich's territory. Consequently, the Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps was under the necessity, whenever a British bomber stream approached, to commit all night fighter forces of the home air defense, as a precautionary measure, in such a manner that, should the bombers proceed into the Reich's territory, the <sup>former</sup> could engage in combat as far in the West as possible and, above all, in time.

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The result of this fact was that in cases when the British bombers attacked <sup>in</sup> targets Belgium and Northern France the majority of night fighter units of the home air defense committed did not reach the bomber stream. The night <sup>which were</sup> forces of the I Fighter Corps deployed in Holland and Belgium represented an exception; this was especially so when they could ~~start~~ <sup>take off</sup> very early.

This was possible only when the German radio intelligence adequately established the point of time when the assembly of the bomber aircraft was completed, or the point of time when the first elements of the bomber streams started their approach flight over the Island of Britain. Thus it was hardly possible that the night fighter forces of the home air defense could score ~~sizeable~~ <sup>sizeable</sup> successes in their defensive operations against night attacks on targets in the western areas occupied by Germany. In spite of ~~weather~~ <sup>weather</sup> conditions moderately suited for defensive action, the successes of the night fighters in their defensive operations against night attacks on targets in the Reich's territory were of normal extent.

<sup>compared to</sup>  
The German weakness ~~in the case of~~ the British Mosquito operations continued to exist. In May, this weakness was manifested by the fact that <sup>of</sup> ~~during~~ a British ~~large-scale~~ <sup>total</sup> effort of 950 Mosquito-aircraft against the Reich's territory only 4 Mosquito-aircraft were shot down, while the <sup>German</sup> losses ~~amounted to~~ <sup>amounted to</sup> 11 aircraft.

The British mine-layer aircraft in the area of the Danube River had initially been considered as aircraft carrying or supplying agents or as nuisance aircraft. It was not until the first shipping losses on the Danube River were sustained, that the British objective was revealed. Since the mine-layer aircraft which flew at low altitudes could not be intercepted by the ground radar stations, the night fighters of the 8th Fighter



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Division which were inexperienced in operations against mine-layer aircraft encountered difficulties.

had been

After it ~~was~~ revealed already in the first third of the month of May that the RAF directed its main effort against targets in Belgium and Northern France and in view of the short summer nights which presumably made any penetration of heavy bombers deep into the Reich's territory impossible, the Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps ~~submitted~~<sup>suggested</sup>, through the Air Fleet Command Reich to the Luftwaffe High Command that the majority of the twin-engine fighter aircraft be transferred from the Reich's territory to Belgium and Northern France. This suggestion was turned down by the Luftwaffe High Command which pointed out that it was the primary task of the I Fighter Corps to repulse night attack against the Reich's territory.

d.) Successes and Losses in May 1944

The average total strength of night fighter aircraft in operational condition in the sector of the I Fighter Corps during May 1944 amounted to:

300 twin-engine fighter aircraft and  
140 single-engine fighter aircraft.

The total number of the night fighter aircraft employed in the sector of the I Fighter Corps during May 1944 amounted to:

1266 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

The total losses of night fighter aircraft in the sector of the I Fighter Corps during May 1944 amounted to:

41 aircraft which is 3,1% of the total effort.

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

Losses due to fighters: 163 aircraft which is 4,7%  
 Losses due to antiaircraft artillery: 19 aircraft which is 0,5% (incomplete information).

-----  
 Total losses: 182 aircraft which is 5,2% of the estimated total effort of the RAF against the Reich's territory in May 1944  
 -----

-----  
 Estimated total effort of the RAF against the Reich's territory during May 1944:  
 -----

3476 aircraft of which 950 were Mosquito bombers  
 -----

In addition, the following enemy forces were observed by the Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps in May 1944:

Effort of the RAF against targets in Belgium: about 2500 aircraft,  
 Effort of the RAF against targets in Northern France: about 2500 aircraft.

e.) Special Information:

As a result of the failure of the aircraft reporting service in respect to visual observation and acoustical location on 24 January 1944 and of the demand of the Headquarters of the I Fighter Corps of the same day \* that all stations concerned with enemy flight course determination should be placed under the control of a centralized command, the Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe had decided to reorganize the aircraft reporting service which was expressed by the directive "Luftwaffe Operations Staff, Chief NW No. 10222/44, top secret military document", dated 28 February 1944.

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continued:

Note: \* See Study 9 to 11, Volume II, Chapter I, Section 8.

It was, however, not ~~before~~ until 9 May 1944 that the Commanding General of the I Fighter Corps was called to Potsdam-Eiche to report to the Luftwaffe High Command, Chief NW for a conference about the reorganization of the aircraft reporting service. The date at which the conference took place shows the delay in the modernization of the German aircraft reporting service. This conference revealed difficulties which would be encountered in the reorganization and the reluctance of this competent agency which was to ~~execute~~ <sup>carry out</sup> the reorganization of the aircraft reporting service.

2.) British Nuisance Raids on Saarbruecken and Dueren during the Night of  
30 April to 1 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 215!)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

Nuisance raids on Saarbruecken and Dueren with a total ~~force~~ <sup>strength</sup> of 80 Mosquito bombers. The aircraft approached across Schelde Estuary flying in south-eastern direction into the area of Aachen, Dueren, and into the area of Trier and Saarbruecken. They returned in north-western direction by way of Antwerp and Northern France.

A mine-laying operation conducted with a number of aircraft over the sea area of the North Frisian islands.

Patrol missions flown at low altitudes by several aircraft over Holland.

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Commitment of the I Fighter CorpsThe following aircraft were employed:

By the 3rd Fighter Division against Mosquito-bombers: 4 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: East of the general line Norderney - Black Forest: Low dense clouds between 200 and 3500 meters, partially with rain.

West of this line: Weather becoming bright, 5/10 high-altitude clouds.

3.) British Attack on Transportation Facilities in the Area of Brussels andNuisance Raid on Mannheim on 1/2 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 215!)

Enemy EffortThe following operations were conducted by the RAF:

Patrol missions over the Ruhr area and over Hooland with 10 Type Mosquito aircraft. Bombs were released on the night fighter airfields of Deelen and St.Trond. The aircraft intruded across Schelde Estuary and returned in western direction.

A large-scale attack on transportation facilities in the area of Brussels with 750 bomber aircraft. The bomber stream approached from Thames Estuary flying in eastern direction. The aircraft crossed the coast between

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Schelde Estuary and Dunkirk penetrating in south-eastern direction into the area of Brussels. The aircraft returned in western direction by way of Dunkirk and Boulogne sur Mer.

A nuisance raid against Mannheim with 20 Mosquito-bombers. The aircraft approached and returned via Northern France.

A courier mission flown by a single aircraft coming from Sweden across the Skagerrak.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

Against Mosquito-bombers:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: 4 twin-engine fighter aircraft (Types He 219 and Me 410)

To repulse the attack on Brussels:

To provide protection over Brussels:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Venlo, Deelen, and St. Trond. The aircraft assembled over F.F. St. Trond to proceed to Brussels. Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Mainz-Finthen in direction of F.F. Ida. The aircraft landed after the bomber aircraft turned back in direction of Brussels.

Total Effort: 41 twin-engine fighter aircraft

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Enemy Losses: 4 bomber aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: In the sectors of the 3rd and 4th Fighter Divisions:

7/10 to 10/10 high-altitude stratus clouds between 4000 and 8000 meters.

High-altitude winds at 5000 meters: 320 degrees, 70 kilometers per hour.

4.) British Nuisance Raid on Koeln on 2/3 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 2164)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

A nuisance raid on Koeln with 40 Mosquito-bombers. The aircraft approached across Schelde Estuary flying in south-eastern direction into the Ruhr area. They returned in western direction.

A mine-laying operation with several aircraft over the sea area of the West Frisian islands.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

Against Mosquito bombers:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: A number of twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Against four-engine bomber aircraft observed assembling over Great Britain:

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By the 3rd Fighter Division: A number of twin-engine fighter aircraft were, as a precaution measure, employed in "Himmelbett" tactics over the coastal area of Holland. Later it was observed that a bomber stream was proceeding to France.

Total Effort: 10 twin-engine fighter aircraft

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: 2/10 to 5/10 thin formation of cloud covers between 2000 and 7000 meters.

5.) British Nuisance Raids against Duesseldorf and Mannheim on 3/4 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 2161)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

Nuisance raids against Mannheim and Duesseldorf with a total strength of 50 Mosquito bombers. The aircraft approached across Schelde Estuary and Belgium flying in south-eastern direction into the Ruhr area and into the area of Mannheim. They returned on counter routes.

A mine-laying operation with a number of aircraft over the sea area of the West Frisian islands.

A reconnaissance mission flown by one Type Mosquito aircraft across ~~Schelde Estuary~~ the Zuider Sea in eastern and south-eastern direction into

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the area of Dessau.

A reconnaissance mission flown by one Type Mosquito aircraft ~~xxxxxx~~ across Schelde Estuary and by way of Koblenz into the area of Plauen. The aircraft returned in north-western direction.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

Against Mosquito-bombers:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: 12 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: 2/10 to 4/10 decreasing cumulus clouds between 1000 and 2000 meters. High-altitudes winds at 7000 meters: 290 degrees, 120 kilometers per hour.

6.) British Nuisance Raids on Mannheim, Koeln, Leverkusen, and Budapest on

4/5 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 2161)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

Nuisance raids on Koeln, Leverkusen, and Mannheim with a total strength of 40 Mosquito bombers. The aircraft intruded across Schelde Estuary in south-eastern direction into the area of Koeln. 20 aircraft proceeded into



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the area of Mainz, Frankfurt on the Main, and Mannheim. The force returned in north-western direction. Heavy damages to industrial installations were caused by <sup>a few</sup> bomb hits in Leverkusen.

A nuisance raid on Budapest and missions to carry or supply agents into Slovakia and into the area of Prag. 40 aircraft approached from the British air base in Italy across the Adriatic east coast and Laibach. The majority of the aircraft proceeded in north-eastern direction into the area of Budapest. Several aircraft proceeded in northern direction into the area of Prag. All aircraft returned on counter routes.

A mine-laying operation over the sea area north-west of the East Frisian islands with a number of aircraft.

A courier mission flown by a single aircraft across the Skagerrak to Sweden.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

Against nuisance aircraft from the South:

By the 7th Fighter Division: 19 twin-engine fighter aircraft of the Fighter  
Commander Ostmark from Wiener-Neustadt and Parn-  
dorf to provide protection over Budapest.

Enemy Losses: 3 aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 1 aircraft.

Losses of personnel: 3 missing.

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Weather Conditions: In Western Germany: 10/10 stratus clouds, lower ceiling  
 in Holland 500 meters, in the Rhine-Main area 300 meters;  
 upper ceiling in general 7000 meters.  
 Austria and Hungary: 3/10 to 6/10 high upsloping clouds  
 above 6000 meters.

Special Information:

The following decorations were later awarded:

The addition of the oakleaf cluster to the knight cross of the iron cross to  
 Oberfeldwebel Vinke, formerly with the 11th Squadron/1st Night Fighter Wing,  
 and  
 the knight cross of the iron cross to Hauptmann Szameitat, formerly Commanding  
 Officer of the 5th Squadron/3rd Night Fighter Wing.

7.) British Operation to Mine the Danube River on 5/6 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 217!)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

A mine-laying operation over the Danube River in the sectors between  
 Duernstein and Tulln as well as between Bratislava and Komorn with a total  
 strength of 25 aircraft. The aircraft approached from the British air base in  
 Italy via Istria and Croatia and returned on counter routes.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following forces were employed:

By the 7th Fighter Division: 15 twin-engine fighter aircraft of the Fighter  
 Commander Ostmark.

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Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.  
-----

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.  
-----

8.) British Nuisance Raids on Koeln and Mannheim on 6/7 May 1944  
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(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 217!)

Enemy Effort  
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The following operations were conducted by the RAF:  
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Nuisance raids on Koeln and Mannheim with a total strength of 35 Mosquito bombers. The aircraft intruded across Schelde Estuary in south-eastern direction into the Ruhr area and into the area of Mannheim and Darmstadt. They returned in north-western direction.

A mine-laying operation (?) with 2 aircraft in the sea area of the island of Sylt.

Courier missions <sup>across</sup> ~~fixxxxxxxx~~ the Skagerrak with 3 aircraft to Sweden and with 2 aircraft from Sweden.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps  
-----

The following aircraft were employed:  
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Against Mosquito-bombers:  
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By the 3rd Fighter Division: A number of twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Against mine-layer aircraft:  
-----

By the 2nd Fighter Division: A number of twin-engine fighter aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics.

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Total Effort: 13 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 2 aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: Holland and Ruhr area: 0/10 to 5/10 rests of clouds above 5000 meters. Good flying and high-altitude visibility. High-altitude winds: 270 degrees, 70 kilometers per hour. Rhine-Main area: 10/10 stratus clouds from 500 to 4000 meters.

9.) British Nuisance Raids on Krefeld and Leverkusen on 7/8 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 217!)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

Nuisance raids on Krefeld and Leverkusen with a total strength of 70 Mosquito bombers. The force intruded across the Dutch coast between Haarlem and Den Haag in south-eastern direction into the Ruhr area; a small number of aircraft flew in eastern direction into the area of Hamburg. The aircraft returned across ~~the~~ Elbe and Schelde Estuaries.

A mine-laying operation in the sea area north of the island of Borkum.

Patrol missions flown by a number of "FN" aircraft <sup>over</sup> ~~in~~ the area of Holland and South-western Germany. The aircraft approached across Schelde Estuary.

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Missions of a number of aircraft carrying or supplying agents in Northern Jutland.

Courier missions across the Skagerrak with 2 aircraft to Sweden and with 4 aircraft from Sweden.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

Against Mosquito-bombers:  
By the 3rd Fighter Division: A number of twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Against mine-layer aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics over the Heligoland Bight :

By the 2nd and 3rd Fighter Divisions: A number of twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Against aircraft carrying or supplying agents:

By the 2nd Fighter Division: A number of twin-engine fighter aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics over Northern Jutland.

Total Effort: 19 aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 2 aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: 5/10 to 10/10 variable formation of stratus clouds between 500 and 1500 meters. High-altitudes winds: 360 degrees, 70 kilometers per hour.

10.) British Attack on Transportation Facilities in the Area of Namur and Charleroi and a Nuisance Raid on Osnabrueck on 8/9 May 1944

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(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 218)

Enemy EffortThe following operations were conducted by the RAF:During the first half of the night:

A nuisance raid on Osnabrueck with 20 Mosquito-bombers. The aircraft approached across the island of Terschelling flying in south-eastern direction into the area of Oldenburg from they proceeded in southern direction for the attack on Osnabrueck. They returned in western direction by way of Holland.

Patrol missions with a number of "FN"-aircraft over Holland, Central Germany, South-Western Germany, and Southern Germany. The aircraft ~~approach~~ approached across the Dutch coast.

Mine-laying operations in the sea areas of the East Frisian islands and off Schelde Estuary with a total strength of 30 aircraft.

During the second half of the night:

An attack against transportation facilities in the area of Namur and Charleroi with 500 bomber aircraft. The bomber stream intruded across the southern section of Schelde Estuary in south-eastern direction into the area of Namur and Charleroi. The aircraft returned in north-western direction via Northern France.

Courier missions across the Skagerrak with 3 aircraft to Sweden and with 1 aircraft from Sweden.

Commitment of the I Fighter CorpsThe following aircraft were employed:

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Against Mosquito-bombers:

By the 1st and 3rd Fighter Divisions: A number of single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Against mine-layer aircraft in the sea area of the East Frisian islands:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: 1 twin-engine fighter aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics over the northern coast of Holland.

To repulse the attack against the transportation facilities in Belgium:In night fighter pursuit operations:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from St. Trond. The aircraft assembled and were directed into the bomber stream over the airfield.

Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Venlo, Deelen, and Twente. As a precaution measure the aircraft assembled over St. Trond. They were ordered to land after the bombers had turned back over the area of Belgium.

Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Langendiebach and Mainz-Finthen. As a precaution measure they assembled over the airfields. The aircraft were ordered to land after the bombers had turned back over the area of Belgium.

Total Effort: 65 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

The German radio intelligence had failed during the second half of the night of 8/9 May. Since no early warning was given when the bomber-stream

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intruded across Schelde Estuary, the night fighters could not take off in time.

Enemy Losses: 5 bomber aircraft definitely shot down.

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Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

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Weather Conditions: Cloudless.

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11.) Penetration of British Bomber aircraft into Northern France and Nuisance

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Raid on Berlin on 9/10 May 1944

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(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 219!)

Enemy Effort

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The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

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During the first half of the night:

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A nuisance raid on Berlin with 40 Mosquito bombers; secondary attacks were ~~xxxxx~~ directed against Kiel and Braunschweig. The aircraft approached across Elbe Estuary shortly before midnight. They returned in western direction. Comparatively heavy damage to buildings and losses of personnel were caused in Berlin.

Nuisance missions with a number of Type Mosquito aircraft over the area of Holland

A mine-laying operation with 30 aircraft ~~xxxxx~~ in the Heligoland Bight.

During the second half of the night:

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An operation of 700 bomber and 120 Type Mosquito aircraft intruding into Northern France. The bomber stream approached from the area of Norwich across Thames Estuary flying in southern direction into the coastal area of Northern France. The aircraft returned on counter routes. The targets against which this operation was directed are not quoted in the war diary of the I Fighter Corps.

Patrol missions flown by a number of "FN"-aircraft up to South-Western and Southern Germany.

A courier mission flown by a single aircraft via Northern Jutland to Sweden.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were committed:

Against Type Mosquito aircraft:

By the 1st Fighter Division: A number of single-engine fighter aircraft over Berlin.

By the 2nd Fighter Division: One twin-engine fighter aircraft from Stade.

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

Against mine-layer aircraft:

By the 2nd Fighter Division: Several twin-engine fighter aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics over the Heligoland Bight.

Against the bomber force intruding into Northern France:

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By the 3rd Fighter Division: All twin-engine fighter aircraft took off as a precaution measure, since it was initially not clear in which direction the bomber stream would intrude. The units landed after the bombers changed their course over Northern France.

Total Effort: 74 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: Bright, 3/10 ice clouds above 7000 meters. High-altitude winds at 5000 to 7000 meters: 330 degrees, 50 kilometers per hour. Moon light.

Results of the Nuisance Raid on Berlin on 9/10 May 1944:

The following explosives were dropped: 9 aerial mines and 75 demolition bombs

Damage to material and losses of personnel: 34 buildings totally destroyed,  
 331 buildings damaged,  
 27 killed,  
 234 wounded, and  
 1650 homeless.

12.) British Bomber Operation into the Area of Brussels, Cambrai as well as Nuisance Raids on Frankfurt on the Main, Mannheim, and Budapest on 10/11

May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 220 4)

Enemy Effort

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The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

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During the first half of the night:

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800 bomber aircraft intruded into the area of Brussels and Cambrai, presumably to attack transportation facilities. The bomber stream approached, from 22:00 hours on, from the area of Norwich across Thames and Schelde Estuaries up to area of Brussels and Cambrai. They returned on counter routes.

Nuisance raids on Mannheim and Frankfurt on the Main with a total strength of 50 Mosquito bombers. The aircraft approached across the southern section of Schelde Estuary flying in south-eastern direction up to the area of Frankfurt on the Main and Mannheim. They returned on counter routes.

A mine-laying operation at about midnight in the sea area of the island of Heligoland with 20 aircraft.

A nuisance raid on Budapest with 30 aircraft. The aircraft approached from the British air base in Italy from 22:00 hours on flying across Croatia into the area of Budapest. They returned on counter routes.

During the second half of the night:

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A number of aircraft carrying or supplying agents appeared over the area of Holland. The aircraft approached via Schelde Estuary and returned via the Zuider Sea.

Courier missions were flown across the Skagerrak with 2 aircraft to Sweden and with 3 aircraft from Sweden.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

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The following forces were employed:

Against the aircraft intruding from the South:

By the 7th Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft of the Fighter Commander Ostmark from Wiener-Neustadt and Parndorf to provide protection at night over Budapest.

Against Mosquito-bombers:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: A number of twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Against the bomber stream intruding into Belgium:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: Twin-engine fighter aircraft from the area of Holland for pursuit operations over Belgium. The Fighters were directed into the bomber stream over Schelde Estuary. Twin-engine fighter aircraft from Langendiebach and Mainz-Finthen in direction of Brussels. The aircraft landed after the bombers had turned back over Brussels.

Total Effort: 82 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Bad high-altitude visibility hindered the night fighter operations over the area of Belgium.

Enemy Losses: 5 bomber aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 1 aircraft.

Losses of personnel: 1 killed,  
1 wounded.

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Weather Conditions: Hungary: Cloudless.

Northern France and North-Western Germany: 3/10 to 5/10  
high upsloping clouds from 4500 to 8000 meters, bad high-  
altitude visibility.

13.) British Attack on Transportation Facilities in the Area of Brussels on

11/12 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 221!)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

A large-scale attack with 500 bomber aircraft on transportation facilities in the area of Brussels. Beginning at 23:00 hours two bomber streams approached from the area north and south of Norwich flying in eastern, later in south-eastern direction. The bomber streams united in the area north of Schelde Estuary and proceeded into the area of Brussels. They returned in western and north-western direction.

A strong Mosquito -bomber force approached from the sea area east of Ipswich flying in eastern ~~direction~~, later in south-eastern direction, across Schelde Estuary into the area of Liège. The Mosquito-bombers flew ahead of the heavy bombers at the same altitude, presumably to distract attention from the main target of the attack. They returned together with the four-engine bombers. The altitude at which the heavy bombers approached was established 4000 to 4500 meters. They flew over the targets at altitudes from 2000 to 2500 meters.

The transportation facilities in the area of Brussels were heavily damaged by the British night attack.

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with 20 aircraft  
A mine-laying operation in the sea area of the West Frisian islands.

Patrol missions with a number of "FN"-aircraft over the area  
of Holland.

Courier missions flown by two aircraft which crossed the Skagerrak coming from Sweden.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

In night fighter pursuit operations against the bomber stream intruding  
into Belgium:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: 52 twin-engine fighter aircraft from the area  
of Holland. The aircraft were directed into  
the bomber stream over Schelde Estuary.

By the 2nd and 7th Fighter Divisions: As a precaution measure, 123 twin-  
engine fighter aircraft took off in direction  
of the Ruhr area for the case of a British  
large-scale attack against a target in North-  
Western Germany or in the Ruhr area. Because  
of the moonlight (increasing half moon) it  
could be anticipated that British aircraft  
penetrate a limited  
would ~~not penetrate~~ distance.

Total Effort: 175 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 12 bombers definitely shot down, 4 bombers probably shot  
down.

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Losses of Friendly Forces: 3 aircraft.

Losses of personnel: 4 killed,  
3 missing.

Weather Conditions: Belgium: 3/10 to 5/10 high upsloping clouds.

North-Western Germany: Cloudless.

High-altitude winds at 5000 to 7000 meters: 100 degrees,  
80 kilometers per hour.

14.) British Attack on Transportation Facilities in the Area of Liège on

12/13 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 2221)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

During the first half of the night:

with 500 bombers

A large-scale attack on transportation facilities in the area of south-Liège. The bomber stream approached from the area of Norwich flying in eastern direction across Schelde Estuary into the area of Liège. The aircraft returned in north-western and western direction. Results of the attack: Considerable damages to transportation facilities.

A mining operation in the Heligoland Bight with about 10 aircraft

Patrol missions flown by a number of "FN"-aircraft over the area of Holland.

A number of aircraft carrying or supplying agents flew to Jutland.

During the second half of the night:

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It was presumably the intention of the British Command to hit the day fighter units stationed in Fels on the Wagram in order to reduce the defensive power in the area of Vienna.

No data are available on the commitment of the night fighter units of the I Fighter Corps as well as on friendly and British losses of aircraft during the period from 23/24 to 29/30 May 1944.



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Mine-laying operations in the Heligoland Bight with 50 aircraft and off the Dutch coast with 10 aircraft. A number of aircraft of the mine-layer force operating in the Heligoland Bight proceeded into the area of the Kaiser-Wilhelm canal. In this area they attacked floodgate installations ~~xxxx~~ in the vicinity of Kiel and Brunsbuettel without causing remarkable damage.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

Against mine-layer aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics over the Heligoland Bight

By the 2nd Fighter Division: 9 twin-engine fighter aircraft without any success.

Against the bomber stream intruding into Belgium:

In night fighter pursuit operations:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: 56 twin-engine fighter aircraft from the area of Belgium and Holland. The aircraft were directed into the bomber stream from the "Himmelbett" stations ~~xxxxxx~~ in Holland and Belgium.

By the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 7th Fighter Divisions: 134 twin-engine fighter aircraft. As a precaution measure the aircraft took off <sup>in case</sup> ~~xxxxxx~~ <sup>had</sup> the bomber stream ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ penetrated into the Reich's territory.

Total Effort: 199 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 13 bomber aircraft definitely shot down.

3 bomber aircraft probably shot down.

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Losses of Friendly Forces: 2 aircraft.

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Losses of personnel: 1 wounded,  
4 missing.

Weather Conditions: Cloudless, thick high-altitude haze.

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High-altitude winds: 130 degrees, 40 kilometers per hour.

15.) British Air Activities on 13/14 May as well as British Nuisance Raids  
on Koeln and Duesseldorf on 14/15 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 223!)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

On 13/14 May:

Nuisance missions with 2 aircraft over the coastal area of Holland.  
Courier missions with 3 aircraft across the Skagerrak to Sweden.

On 14/15 May during the first half of the night:

A bomber operation into the area of Le Havre.

An operation conducted by a number of Type Mosquito aircraft across Schelde Estuary into the area of Aachen without dropping bombs.

A mine-laying operation with about 20 aircraft in the sea area west of Den Helder.

During the second half of the night:

Nuisance raids on Duesseldorf and Koeln with a total strength of 30 Mosquito-bombers. The aircraft approached across Schelde Estuary. They returned on counter routes.

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Results of the attack: Considerable damages to buildings of industrial installations.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed on 14/15 May:

Against Type Mosquito aircraft during the first and the second halves of the night:

By the 3rd Fighter Division: 10 twin-engine fighter aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics and with "Y"-guidance in Holland.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces:

Weather Conditions: On 14/15 May: Dense formation of clouds, lower ceiling 200 to 500 meters, upper ceiling 5000 to 7000 meters.

High-altitude winds: 290 degrees, 70 kilometers per hour.

16.) British Nuisance Raids on Mannheim and Koeln on 15 and 16 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 2241)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

During the first half of the night:

Nuisance raids with a total strength of 100 Mosquito bombers on Mannheim and Koeln. The aircraft intruded into the area of Koeln flying ~~across~~ across Ostend in eastern direction. They returned via Schelde Estuary.

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via Calais

The aircraft intruded<sup>v</sup> in south-eastern direction into the area of Mainz and Mannheim and returned on counter routes. They released bombs on open terrain where they did not cause any damage.

A mine-laying operation in the Bay of Kiel with 30 aircraft. The aircraft approached across Jutland and returned in western direction.

A number of aircraft carrying or supplying agents flew to Northern Jutland.

During the second half of the night:

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Reconnaissance missions flown by a number of aircraft along the Dutch coast to locate convoys.

A single aircraft flew on a courier mission across the Skagerrak coming from Sweden.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

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Against mine-layer aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics over Holstein:

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By the 2nd Fighter Division: A number of twin-engine fighter aircraft. Operating initially in "Himmelbett"-tactics these aircraft were guided by the "Y"-method against the mine-layer aircraft.

Against Mosquito-bombers:

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By the 3rd Fighter Division: A number of twin-engine fighter aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics over Holland as well as in night

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fighter pursuit operations with "Y"-guidance.

Total Effort: 23 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Enemy Losses: 4 mine-layer aircraft definitely shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: Belgium, Holland, and Northern Germany: Light cumulus

clouds at altitudes from 1000 to 2400 meters.

Ruhr area: 10/10 Stratus clouds from 1800 to 2300 meters

High altitudes winds ~~from~~ at 5000 to 7000 meters: 240

degrees, 50 kilometers per hour.

17.) Nuisance Raid on Berlin on 16/17 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 224!)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

A nuisance raid on Berlin with 45 Mosquito-bombers. The aircraft approached at midnight via Heligoland and Luebeck. They returned in north-western direction across North-Western Germany and the Zuider Sea. A <sup>small</sup> number of aircraft flew singly from Luebeck in eastern direction into the area of Anklam and returned in north-western direction.

A mine-laying operation with 30 aircraft in the sea area of the West and East Frisian islands.

During the second half of the night one Mosquito-reconnaissance aircraft appeared over Hamburg.

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Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

Against mine-layer aircraft:

By the 2nd and 3rd Fighter Divisions: 5 twin-engine fighter aircraft in "Himmelbett"-tactics over the coastal areas of Northern Holland and East Frisia.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

Losses of Friendly Forces: None.

Weather Conditions: 10/10 stratus clouds, lower ceiling 400 meters in ~~xxxxx~~ with rainfall; upper ceiling 6000 meters.

18.) British Nuisance Activities on 18/19 May and Nuisance Raid on Koeln on 19/20 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 225!)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

On 18/19 May:

Nuisance missions with several aircraft up to the area of Berlin and over the coastal area of Holland.

On 19/20 May:

A nuisance raid with a total strength of 40 Mosquito bombers



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After the aircraft intruding across Schelde Estuary had turned out to be a Mosquito unit and the four-engine bomber stream stayed within the area of France, all night fighters committed received orders for landing.

Enemy Losses: Enemy losses were not observed.

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Losses of Friendly Forces: 4 aircraft.

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Losses of personnel: 3 killed,  
6 wounded,  
2 missing.

Weather Conditions: Cloudless. High-altitude winds: 240 degrees, 60 kilometers per hour.

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19.) British Attack on Duisburg on 21/22 May 1944

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(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 226!)

Enemy Effort

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The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

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An attack with 500 bomber aircraft on Duisburg. The bomber stream could not be recognized until it had reached the middle of the Channel owing to strong radio interference by British jamming aircraft.

A nuisance raid with 40 Mosquito-bombers on Krefeld.

*screening*  
Diversion missions flown by Type Mosquito aircraft to North-Western Germany.

A mine-laying operation with Halifax-bombers in Danish waters.

Results of the Attacks: In Duisburg: The following amount of ammunition was

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dropped: 51 general-purpose bombs, 161 demolition  
bombs, 1000 *stick type* incendiary bombs equipped with a special  
~~sting at the point~~, 5540 phosphorus incendiary bombs,



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and 30 liquid fire jet bombs. Medium damage was caused to buildings. 17 factories damaged.

In Krefeld: 11 factories and 2 establishments of public utilities damaged.

the  
Commitment of I Fighter Corps

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The following aircraft were employed:

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Against the bomber stream in night fighter pursuit operations:

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By the 2nd and 3rd Fighter Divisions: 115 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Against mine-layer aircraft:

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By the 2nd Fighter Division: 26 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Total Effort: 141 twin-engine fighter aircraft.

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Activities of the Antiaircraft Artillery:

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The following amount of ammunition was discharged:  
with  
29 heavy batteries ~~fixed~~ 133 guns fired 7455 rounds.

Energy Losses: 24 bomber aircraft definitely shot down,  
definitely  
7 mine-layer aircraft ~~probably~~ shot down.

In addition, the following aircraft were shot down by anti-aircraft artillery:

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6 bomber aircraft definitely shot down.

Total Losses: 37 aircraft definitely shot down.

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Losses of Friendly Forces: 5 aircraft destroyed,  
3 aircraft damaged,  
Losses of personnel: 6 killed,  
1 wounded.

Weather Conditions: Dense formation of clouds.

20.) British Attack on Dortmund and Braunschweig on 22/23 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 2271)

Enemy Effort

The following operations were conducted by the RAF:

An attack with 400 bomber aircraft of the 3rd, 6th, and 8th Bomber Groups on Dortmund; the aircraft flew at altitudes from 5500 to 7500 meters. The bombers attacked in a concentrated formation regardless of the antiaircraft fire.

An attack with 200 bomber aircraft of the 1st and 6th Bomber Groups; the bombers attacked during the period from 01:18 to 01:40 hours flying at altitudes from 5000 to 6000 meters. After having sustained the first losses the formation of the bomber stream loosened up and widened. This presumably prevented a concentrated release of the bomb loads. The British Command tried to confuse the picture of the air situation by having the approaching bomber streams change their courses frequently and by having Type Mosquito aircraft operate by "Dueppel"-methods \*.

.....  
Note: \*"Dueppel" means

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A nuisance raid on Mannheim with a small Mosquito-unit.

Patrol missions with a number of "FN"-aircraft over North-Western Germany and Holland.

A mine-laying operation in the Kattegat.

Results of the Attacks: Considerable damage to buildings. Among other objects

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 11 industrial establishments in Dortmund were hit  
 and 2 industrial establishments in Braunschweig  
 incurred medium damage.

Commitment of the I Fighter Corps

The following aircraft were employed:

By the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 7th Fighter Divisions:

In fighter pursuit operations: 227 twin-engine fighter aircraft, and  
 to provide fighter protection: 64 single-engine fighter aircraft of which  
 157 aircraft were employed to repulse the attack on Dortmund and  
 134 aircraft were employed to repulse the attack on Braunschweig.

Total Effort: 291 single-engine and twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Activities of the Antiaircraft Artillery:

The following amount of ammunition was discharged:

257 heavy batteries fired 32 181 rounds.

Enemy Losses: 35 bomber aircraft definitely shot down,

7 bomber aircraft probably shot down.

In addition, the following aircraft were shot down by anti-  
 aircraft artillery:

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13 bomber aircraft definitely shot down.

Total Losses: 48 bomber aircraft definitely shot down,

7 bomber aircraft probably shot down.

Losses of Friendly Forces: 8 aircraft destroyed,

2 aircraft missing,

2 aircraft damaged.

Losses of personnel: 4 killed,

5 wounded,

2 missing.

Weather Conditions: 2/10 to 5/10 clouds.

21.) British Nuisance Raids on Berlin as well as Attacks on Aachen and on  
the Airfield of Fels on the Wagram During the Period from  
23/24 to 29/30 May 1944

(See sketch: home air defense, supplement 2281)

Enemy Effort

The Reich's capital was attacked:

On 23/24 May by a small number of Mosquito-bombers during the period from  
00:35 to 01:02 hours.

Results of the Attack: In the urban districts of Steglitz and Wilmersdorf

16 buildings were destroyed,

150 buildings were damaged,

4 persons were killed,

14 persons were wounded, and

600 persons became homeless.

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On 24/25 May by a small number of Mosquito-bombers.

Results of the Attack: A number of bombs was released on the central section  
of the city causing only slight damage.

On 27/28 May by 20 Mosquito-bombers.

Results of the Attack: There were only negligible results.

On 28/29 May by 20 Mosquito-bombers during the period from 01:01 to 01:15  
hours.

Results of the Attack: In the south-western section of the city  
12 buildings were destroyed,  
36 buildings were damaged,  
4 persons were killed,  
22 persons were wounded, and  
450 persons became homeless.

On 24/25 May a total strength of 500 British bomber aircraft which were  
divided into two <sup>separate</sup> bomber streams approaching at different times attacked the  
transportation facilities of Aachen.

The first attack took place during the period from 00:50 to 01:21 hours,  
the second attack took place during the period from 02:15 to 02:45 hours.

Results of the Attacks: Medium damage to transportation facilities.

Weather Conditions: Dense formation of clouds at altitudes from 1500 to  
5000 meters.

On 29/30 May 50 bomber aircraft from the British air base in Italy directed  
their attack against the air base of Fels on the Wagram in lower Austria.