



## Headquarters U.S. VIII Fighter Command Narratives of Operations

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

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

### Headquarters U.S. VIII Fighter Command Narratives of Operations Intelligence Summary # 172

VIII FC F.O. 321 - 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force F.O. 611  
65<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing F.O. 59 - 67<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing F.O. 21

**30 April 1944**

~~Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups~~      **Part I: Heavy-Bomber Attacks on A/Ds & Noball Targets in France**  
**Part II: Fighter-Bomber Attack on Tours A/D**  
**Part III: Fighter-Bomber Attack on Orléans/Bricy A/D**

#### Part I

#### Statistics of U.S. Fighter Groups:

<b>Heavy-Bomber Support Tasks:</b>	<b>Penetration</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Withdrawal</b>	<b>Type 16</b>	<b>Total</b>
VIII FC Missions by 11 Groups:	7	2	4	-	13
IX FC Missions by 2 Groups:	1	1	0	-	2
P-47 Sorties: -	137	-	131	-	268
P-38 Sorties: -	-	37	-	-	37
P-51 Sorties: -	156	92	-	-	248
<b>Total: -</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>553</b>
P-47 Thunderbolts Lost: -	-	-	-	-	0
P-38 Lightnings Lost: -	-	-	-	-	0
P-51 Mustangs Lost: -	2	2	-	-	4
P-47 Cat. E or damaged Cat. B: -	-	-	-	-	0
P-38 Cat. E or damaged Cat. B: -	-	-	-	-	0
P-51 Cat. E or damaged Cat. B: -	-	-	-	-	0
Personnel Casualties MiA: -	2	1	-	-	3
Personnel Casualties KiA: -	-	-	-	-	0
Personnel Casualties WiA: -	-	1	-	-	1
Personnel Casualties KiFAc: -	-	-	-	-	0
Personnel Casualties LiFAc: -	-	-	-	-	0
Combat Claims (Air): -	9-1-5	9-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	18-1-5
Combat Claims (Ground): -	8-0-17	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	8-0-17
Enemy Aircraft Seen: -	25	20	2	-	47*

U.S. Bombers seen Shot-down: - 1 0 0 - 1

\*Possible duplication as compiled from individual Group sightings.

Miscellaneous Ground-Targets: 2 ammunition-dump destroyed, 2 hangars and a dispersal-area damaged.

## 1. Summary of Fighter-Escort

### First Task Force (2 CW, 1<sup>st</sup> BD) Target: Lyon/Bron

The 78<sup>th</sup> 'A' Fighter Group rendezvoused at Cabourg, 08.57 hours, and escorted the bombers to north of Orléans, at 09.30 hours, two minutes after the 359<sup>th</sup> Group joined the bombers. The 78<sup>th</sup> 'A' Group engaged 20-plus FW 190s on the bomber-route at 09.20 hours. Group prevented an attempted attack on the bombers, and claim 4-1-1 for no loss. The 359<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group carried on escort from Chartres uneventfully to la Charité, at 09.45 hours, when relieved by P-51s. One squadron strafed Orléans/Bricy airfield, claiming 2-0-1 twin-engined aircraft and other ground-targets for no loss. The 363<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group (IX Fighter Command) escorted from Sancerre, 09.44 hours, to Roanne at 11.02 hours. Group observed excellent bombing of the target, and dispersed four Me 109Gs in the vicinity of Montargis, and claims 1-0-1 for the loss of one P-51, the pilot baling-out. The 354<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group (IX Fighter Command) escorted from north-west of Lyon, at 10.25 hours, to the north of Nevers at 12.00 hours. No enemy aircraft were seen. The 357<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group picked up the First Task Force when in the vicinity of St. Étienne, at 10.51 hours. One squadron stayed with them, the other two went on to the rendezvous with the Second Task Force. The First Task Force was attacked by 20 single-engined enemy fighters, nine of which the Group destroyed for the loss of one P-51 to fighters, and one due to engine-trouble. The 353<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group escorted from Conches to the English coast without incident. One squadron carried 14 x 100-lb. General-Purpose bombs, and made a dive-bombing attack on Romorantin airdrome, most bombs falling in the north-west hangar area. The 56<sup>th</sup> 'A' Fighter Group provided un-eventful support from Orléans, 12.12 hours, to the enemy coast, reached between 12.55 and 13.05 hours. The 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, on Freelance-Support, swept the Lyon-Valence area, and destroyed one Me 110 at 3,000 feet, when 20 miles north of Lyon. Five airdromes, and flying-boats on the water, were strafed by various sections for claims of 4-0-11. One P-51 was lost due to Flak. The 355<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, on Freelance-Patrol, made rendezvous at Nevers, at 09.45 hours, with four boxes of B-17s, and escorted these un-eventfully through the target, at Lyon, and out to Orléans, at 10.45 hours

### Second Task Force (2 CWs, 3<sup>rd</sup> BD) Target: Clermont-Ferrand

The 78<sup>th</sup> 'B' Fighter Group under Type 16 Control, receiving no vectors, escorted the bombers from Cabourg, 09.00 hours, to the south of Chartres. The 361<sup>st</sup> Fighter Group made rendezvous at 09.25 hours, when 10 miles south-west of Chartres; withdrew over Nevers, at 10.00 hours. The 352<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group met the bombers in the vicinity of Gien, at 09.44 hours. Escorted through the target, breaking-escort at Orléans, at 11.55 hours. Three FW 190s were seen in the Target-Area, and were destroyed. Group strafed the target airdrome after the bombing, claiming 2-0-5 for no loss. The 357<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group left one squadron at 10.51 hours, when in the vicinity of St. Étienne with the First Task Force, the other two squadrons made rendezvous with the Second Task Force to the north of Clermont-Ferrand, at 11.05 hours. Broke an un-eventful escort when 50 miles south of Paris. The 356<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group escorted from south-west of Nevers, at 11.40 hours: escorted three boxes of B-17s, one of the First and two of the Second Task Forces, to landfall-out Cabourg, at 12.58 hours. The 56<sup>th</sup> 'B' Fighter Group rendezvoused between Châteaudun and Orléans, at 12.15 hours, with two Combat-Wings of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bomb. Divisions; escort-broken 25 miles south of Beachy Head at 13.25 hours No enemy fighters seen.

### Third Task Force (1 CW, 2<sup>nd</sup> BD) Target: Noball

The 364<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group rendezvoused at Berck-sur-Mer, at 09.52 hours, escorted through the target. The 353<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group left the bombers at Siracourt to look over the airfields in the Cambrai-Beauvais-Abbeville area. The 384<sup>th</sup> and 385<sup>th</sup> Squadrons remained with the bombers and escorted-out to the enemy coast, Coxyde, at 10.17 hours. No enemy aircraft seen. Twenty-four R.A.F. Mustangs on a fighter-sweep in conjunction with the bomber mission saw no enemy aircraft in the air, but destroyed one aircraft on the ground and shot-up miscellaneous ground targets. One P-51 missing, reason unknown.

## 2. Bomber Report

Two bomber forces, totalling 240 B-17s, were dispatched against airfields in south-central France, and one force of 55 B-24s was assigned to attack a military installation in the Pas-de-Calais area. All targets were successfully attacked, with results assessed as fair to very good. About 40 enemy fighters, the maximum sighted by any force or its escort on this operation, were encountered by the bombers attacking Lyon/Bron, and these accounted for only one bomber lost. One hundred and fourteen B-17s dropped 277.5 tons of 1,000-lb. G.P. bombs on the Primary-Target at Lyon/Bron airfield with very good results. One hundred and eighteen B-17s dropped 294.5 tons of 1,000-lb. G.P. bombs on Clermont-Ferrand airfield. Good results. Fifty-two B-24s dropped 203.0 tons of 1,000-lb. G.P. on a military installation at Siracourt. Fair results.

### a. Penetration-Support 1<sup>st</sup> ATF 1<sup>st</sup> Division: Lyon/Bron



VIII FC 78<sup>th</sup> 'A' FG 32 P-47 Thunderbolt 08.04-11.00 F.O. 321 4 - 1 - 4 FW 190 No casualty H-BS: Lyon/Bron

(A) 78<sup>th</sup> 'A' Fighter Group, Major Gilbert leading (B) 32 P-47s, up 08.04 down 11.00 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 321 (E) nil (F) 1 Cat. unknown (G) nil (H) Claims 4-1-4 (air) (I) Made rendezvous with the bombers over Cabourg, 08.57 hours, at 22,000 feet. Received no vectors from 'Snackbar Control', so the escort was continued to the north of Orléans where the bombers were left at 09.30 hours, two minutes after other P-47s made their rendezvous. At 09.20 hours, 'Snackbar Control' reported enemy 'Bandits' ahead of us, on the bomber route, and the 83<sup>rd</sup> Squadron took position above and ahead of the leading-box. Twenty-plus FW 190s started a 12 o'clock attack on the low box; half split-ess'ed when 'bounced', the rest tried to continue the attack, but were engaged before the attack could be carried home. No bombers were in trouble. Fighter-to-bomber intercom. was good. One Ju 88 and one un-identified aircraft were observed on a grass field north of Dreux. No shipping seen. Crossed out St. Valéry-en-Caux, 10.10 hours, at 14,000 feet.

■ Claim 30.04.44	1/Lt. A.M. Juchheim	78 <sup>th</sup> FG	83 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	2 - 1 - 1	FW 190	Dreux
■ Claim 30.04.44	1/Lt. A.M. Juchheim	78 <sup>th</sup> FG	83 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	Dreux

■ Claim 30.04.44	1/Lt. A.M. Juchheim	78 <sup>th</sup> FG	83 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	Dreux
■ Claim 30.04.44	Maj. O.E. Gilbert	78 <sup>th</sup> FG	83 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	S.W. Paris
■ Claim 30.04.44	Lt. W.M. McDermott	78 <sup>th</sup> FG	83 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	FW 190	Dreux
■ Claim 30.04.44	Lt. F. White	78 <sup>th</sup> FG	83 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	FW 190	Dreux
■ Claim 30.04.44	Lt. L.R. Casey	78 <sup>th</sup> FG	83 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	Dreux
■ Claim 30.04.44	Lt. E.T. Kitley	78 <sup>th</sup> FG	83 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 2	FW 190	Dreux



VIII FC 359<sup>th</sup> FG 46 P-47 Thunderbolt 08.09-12.08 F.O. 321 2 - 0 - 1 Me 410 No casualty H-BS: Lyon/Bron

(A) 359<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Major Irvine leading (B) 46 P-47s, up 08.09 down 12.08 hours (C) 3 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 321 (E) 3 Cat.A, 2 Cat.AC (F) and (G) nil (H) Claims: 2-0-1 (ground): Ground and/or water targets claimed by Group (aircraft excluded): one ammunition-dump destroyed and one hangar damaged by Lt. Janney: one hangar damaged by Capt. Mosse: one dispersal area damaged by Lt. Burton: one dispersal area damaged by Capt. White; all pilots of 368<sup>th</sup> Squadron (I) Landfall-in between Dieppe and Le Tréport, 09.01 hours, at 19,000 feet. Saw the bombers off to the west, so altered course in that direction, making rendezvous at Chartres, 09.23 hours, at 24,000 feet. Bombers in good formation but stacked-up 3,000 to 4,000 feet higher than briefed, and not abreast. Un-eventful escort and broke-off over la Charité, 09.48 hours, at 25,000 feet when P-51s relieved us. Immediately thereafter, bombers were heard saying they were being attacked by twin-engined aircraft, so our lead-squadrons rejoined them. They were in no apparent trouble so we withdrew at 09.52 hours, when over Nevers at 25,000 feet. Our third squadron attacked Orléans/Bricy airdrome at 10.00 hours, with the above results. Ten-plus twin-engined aircraft seen on this airfield. Large airfield at Mondesir (Étampes) in good condition. Twenty camouflaged revetments observed. Twenty dummy single-engined aircraft parked at Beauvais airfield. Made landfall-out Dieppe to Le Tréport, 10.57 hours, at 15,000 feet. Flak intense, heavy and accurate at Chartres. Vertical visibility obstructed by haze.

↓ Claim 30.04.44	Capt. C.E. Mosse	359 <sup>th</sup> FG	368 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 410	10.00: Orléans/Bricy
↓ Claim 30.04.44	Lt. R.B. Janney	359 <sup>th</sup> FG	368 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 410	10.00: Orléans/Bricy
↓ Claim 30.04.44	Lt. R.B. Janney	359 <sup>th</sup> FG	368 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 410	10.00: Orléans/Bricy



IX FC 363<sup>rd</sup> FG 53 P-51 Mustang 08.24-13.15 F.O. 195 1 - 0 - 1 Me 109G 1 Cat.E H-BS: Lyon/Bron

(A) 363<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group, IX Fighter Command (B) 53 P-51s, up 08.24 down 13.15 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 195: IX Fighter Command (E) 1 Cat.E lost (F) nil (G) Lt. C.H. Moore, baled-out (H) Claims: 1-0-1 Me 109 (air) (I) Landfall-in Le Tréport, 09.00 hours, at 12,000 feet. Rendezvoused with bombers near Sancerre, 09.44 hours, at 18,000 feet. Left bombers in the vicinity of Roanne, 11.02 hours, at 18,000 feet. Landfall-out Cabourg, 12.18 hours, at 16,000 feet. Rendezvoused with B-17s with triangle with 'J' in the middle. Flew briefed course, escorted bombers over the target. Observed bombing at 10.45 hours, from 21,000 feet. Bombing results excellent; concentrated hits by three boxes of bombers observed in hangar and buildings area, on south-western and north corners of the field. Fires observed and subsequent black oil-like smoke. Direct-hits seen on runway and buildings in west side of field. Four Me 109s attacked the rear portion of B-17 box, from above, near Montargis. Dispersed with the resulting claims. Two army camps observed four miles west of Thury-Harcourt, another at Bretteville-Surl. One B-17 seen going down near Ambigny: seven chutes seen.

– Cat.E 30.04.44	2/Lt. Charles H. Moore: MiA	363 <sup>rd</sup> FG	380 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	P-51B-10: 42-106643	Me 109s ↓ Montargis
■ Claim 30.04.44	Pilot wanting	363 <sup>rd</sup> FG	380 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G Montargis
■ Claim 30.04.44	Pilot wanting	363 <sup>rd</sup> FG	380 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G Montargis

#### b. Target-Support 1<sup>st</sup> ATF 1<sup>st</sup> Division: Lyon/Bron



IX FC 354<sup>th</sup> FG 47 P-51 Mustang 08.47-13.30 F.O. 195 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Lyon/Bron

(A) 354<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, IX Fighter Command (B) 47 P-51s, up 08.47 down 13.30 hours (C) no abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 195: IX Fighter Command (E) nil (F) 3 Cat.A (G) and (H) nil (I) Landfall-in north of Dieppe, 09.10 hours, at 17,000 feet. Made rendezvous north-west of Lyon, 10.25 hours, at 24,000 feet. Left the bombers north of Nevers at 12.00 hours, at 20,000 feet. Out Dieppe, 12.35 hours, at 16,000 feet. Bombing results excellent. One un-identified aircraft seen to go down 10 miles north of Rambouillet, either a red-nosed P-51 or a FW 190, pilot baled-out, as the result of bomber return-fire.

#### c. Withdrawal-Support 1<sup>st</sup> ATF 1<sup>st</sup> Division: Lyon/Bron



VIII FC 353<sup>rd</sup> FG 47 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.07-14.10 F.O. 321 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Lyon/Bron


(A) 353<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group, Colonel Duncan leading (B) 47 P-47s, up 10.07 down 14.10 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 321 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Le Tréport, 10.46 hours, at 15,000 feet. Rendezvoused with the bombers at 11.32 hours, and while escorting them, 'Vinegrove 1-1' stated that the bombers were 18-22 minutes late. Other Groups of P-51s and P-47s were with the bombers at this time. Group Leader turned south and flew to a point south of Montlucon. No bombers were in this vicinity, so Group flew south making rendezvous with the bombers in the vicinity of Conches, escorting them back to the English coast. Landfall-out Cabourg, St. Valéry and Beauville, 13.01 to 13.22 hours, at 15,000 to 17,000 feet. One squadron carried 14 x 100-lb. G.P. bombs, fuzed 1/10<sup>th</sup> second (nose) and 0.025 second (tail) delays. Made a 45° dive-angle on Romorantin airdrome from 15,000 feet, releasing at 6,000 to 8,000 feet. Most bombs fell within the north-west hangar area. One hit on barracks, three near-misses on freight-cars on rail-road tracks. Four to five hits parallel to a row of hangars. No Flak. No enemy aircraft seen. No aircraft visible on Châteaudun airfield. Covered revetments resembling houses at Orléans/Bricy airdrome. Camouflaged runways south of Ecrosenes la landing-field. One aircraft seen on Dreux airdrome. Pilots radio out.




VIII FC 56<sup>th</sup> 'A' FG 24 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.02-14.05 F.O. 321 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Lyon/Bron

(A) 56<sup>th</sup> 'A' Fighter Group, Major Lamb leading (B) 24 P-47s, up 11.02 down 14.05 hours (C) one abortive sortie (D) Field Order # 321 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Le Tréport, 11.42 hours, at 14,000 feet. Made rendezvous in the Orléans area, 12.12 hours, at 19,000 to 22,000 feet. Escort-broken Trouville, 12.55 to 13.05 hours, at 10,000 to 12,000 feet. Out Trouville, 12.55 to 13.05 hours, at 10,000 to 12,000 feet. The 353<sup>rd</sup> Group came out with this Group. P-51s and P-47s seen. Four Combat-Wings of 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bomb. Division were escorted, formation good. No enemy aircraft seen. Moderate accurate Flak over Châteaudun at 18,000 feet.

d. Freelance Area-Patrol 1<sup>st</sup> ATF 1<sup>st</sup> Division: Lyon/Bron

 VIII FC 355<sup>th</sup> FG 38 P-51 Mustang 07.33-12.50 F.O. 321 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Lyon/Bron

(A) 355<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Dix leading: later Major Rosenblatt (B) 38 P-51s, up 07.33 down 12.50 hours (C) 5 abortive sorties (D) Field Order #321 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Made landfall-in St. Valéry-en-Caux, 08.17 hours, at 21,000 feet. Proceeded to Châteauroux, thence to Lyons, where Controller vectored the Group to Orléans to investigate reported attacks on bombers. Rendezvoused over Nevers, 09.45 hours, with four boxes of B-17s in good formation, bombers flying at 18,000 feet, the Group at 20,000 feet, in the vicinity of Orléans. Landfall-out, by squadrons, between Cherbourg and Dieppe, from 11.40 to 12.02 hours, from 13,000 to 20,000 feet. Green-nosed P-47s with the bombers at the rendezvous. Blue-nosed, and red-yellow checkered nose P-51s arrived as we left the bombers. Two aircraft burning on an airfield north of Rousen, at 10.20 hours Radio good.

 VIII FC 4<sup>th</sup> FG 43 P-51 Mustang 07.15-13.00 F.O. 321 5 - 0 - 11 Various 1 Cat.E H-BS: Lyon/Bron


(A) 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Colonel Blakeslee leading (B) 43 P-51s, up 07.15 down 13.00 hours (C) 3 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 321 (E) 3 Cat. unknown (F) 1 Cat.E lost (G) 2/Lt. Fred W. Glover, 336<sup>th</sup> Sqn., missing (H) Claims 1-0-0 (air): 4-0-11 (ground) (I) Made landfall-in Boulogne, 08.00 hours, at 17,000 feet. Climbed to 25,000 feet, reaching Dijon at 09.00 hours lost altitude towards Lyon, to conduct a sweep of the Lyon-Valence area, and back to Lyon which was reached at 10.40 hours, at 20,000 feet. Saw the B-17s bombing, but did not join them as they were not being attacked and had an escort with them. Landfall-out Cayeux, 12.15 hours, at 16,000 feet. When 20 miles north of Lyon, a Me 110 at 3,000 feet was 'bounced' by three P-51s from 7,000 feet, and destroyed. The 336<sup>th</sup> Squadron attacked four unidentified twin-engined hull-type seaplanes, moored on a river on the north-eastern side of Lyon, destroying three and damaging one. A section of the same Squadron attacked Valence airdrome, damaging one unidentified twin-engined aircraft and a Caudron-Goeland. An un-determined number of Ju 88s were seen parked under trees. After this attack, Lieutenant Glover's P-51 was seen to stream glycol, and was last observed heading towards Switzerland. A section of the 334<sup>th</sup> Squadron strafed Lyon/Bron airdrome destroying a Me 110, and damaging three Me 110s and a He 111. A section from the 335<sup>th</sup> Squadron attacked an unidentified airfield to the west of Lyon damaging a He 111 glider-tug, one Ju 88 and two Cub-type aircraft. Twenty to thirty un-serviceable aircraft were seen and shot-up on St. Rambert d'Albon airdrome. On the airdromes attacked, moderate light-Flak was encountered.

— Cat.E 30.04.44 2/Lt. Fred W. Glover: MiA-E 4<sup>th</sup> FG 336<sup>th</sup> Sqn. P-51B-15: 42-106856 Flak ↓Valence


[Accredited Claims: 4<sup>th</sup> FG 1-0-0 air 6-0-5 ground/water]

■	Claim 30.04.44	Capt. W.M. Sobanski	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	334 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	$\frac{1}{3}$ - 0 - 0	Me 110	N. Lyon
■	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. J.L. Lang	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	334 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	$\frac{1}{3}$ - 0 - 0	Me 110	N. Lyon
■	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. S.W. Monroe	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	334 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	$\frac{1}{3}$ - 0 - 0	Me 110	N. Lyon
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Col. D.J.M. Blakeslee	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	HQ Sqn.	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 0 - 0	Do 24	Lyon Anchorage
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. J.L. Lang	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	334 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	Lyon
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. J.L. Lang	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	334 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 2	Me 110	Lyon
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. J.L. Lang	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	334 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	He 111	Lyon
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. S.W. Monroe	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	334 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 110	Lyon/Bron
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. F.W. Glover	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	336 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ - 0 - 0	Unident:	Valence A/D
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Capt. J.T. Godfrey	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	336 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 0 - 0	Do 24	Lyon Anchorage
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. T.K. McDill	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	336 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 0 - 0	Do 24	Lyon Anchorage
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. H.H. Frederick	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	336 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 0 - 0	Unident:	Valence A/D
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. J.A. Patteuw	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	336 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 0 - 0	Do 24	Lyon Anchorage
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. S.F. Harris	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	336 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 0 - 0	Do 24	Lyon Anchorage
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. W.E. Johnson	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	336 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 0 - 0	Do 24	Lyon Anchorage
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. W.W. Millikan	4 <sup>th</sup> FG	336 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Do 24	Lyon Anchorage


e. Penetration-Support 2<sup>nd</sup> ATF 3<sup>rd</sup> Division: Clermont-Ferrand/Aulnat

 VIII FC 78<sup>th</sup> 'B' FG 17 P-47 Thunderbolt 08.10-11.14 F.O. 321 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Clermont

(A) 78<sup>th</sup> 'B' Fighter Group, Lieutenant Watkins leading (B) 17 P-47s, up 08.10 down 11.14 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 321 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Cabourg, 09.00 hours, at 20,000 feet. Since no vector was given by 'Snackbar Control', the Group escorted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Task Force from the enemy coast to south of Chartres, leaving them after rendezvous by other P-47s. No vector was received from 'Snackbar Control'. Landfall-out St. Valéry-en-Caux, 10.18 hours, at 10,000 feet. Yellow Flight went down on Évreux airdrome but saw only six to eight twin-engined aircraft and four dummies, some under construction. No enemy aircraft seen, bombers happy. Considerable traffic on the Seine River.

 VIII FC 361<sup>st</sup> FG 55 P-47 Thunderbolt 08.19-12.01 F.O. 321 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Clermont


(A) 361<sup>st</sup> Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Christian leading (B) 55 P-47s, up 08.19 down 12.01 hours (C) 6 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 321 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Dieppe, 09.04 hours, at 18,000 feet. Rendezvoused 10 miles south-west of Chartres, 09.25 hours, at 20,000 feet. Two Combat-Wings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bomb. Division B-17s being escorted by 78<sup>th</sup> Group. Bombers in excellent close-formation at 18,000 feet. Withdrew at Nevers at 10.10 hours as the 352<sup>nd</sup> Group took over. Landfall-out Le Tréport, 11.00 hours, at 15,000 feet. Two fires burning north end of Orléans/Bricy airdrome at 10.25 hours One aircraft seen low at 09.25 hours, near Chartres, but lost in haze. Submarine sighted 600 yards offshore 5 miles south-west of Pointe d'Ailly. Five multi-engined aircraft on Orléans/Bricy airdrome observed on our withdrawal.

 VIII FC 352<sup>nd</sup> FG 45 P-51 Mustang 08.25-13.55 F.O. 321 5 - 0 - 5 Various No casualty H-BS: Clermont

(A) 352<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group, Major Preddy leading (B) 45 P-51s, up 08.25 down 13.55 hours (C) 13 abortive sorties (D) Field Order #321 (E) nil (F) 3 Cat.A (G) nil (H) Claims 3-0-0 (air) and 2-0-5 (ground): Ground and/or water targets claimed by Group (aircraft excluded): one barracks damaged by Capt. Davis, of 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron. One hangar damaged by Lt. Fowler, of 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron (I) Landfall-in Wissant, 09.05 hours, at 20,000 feet. Rendezvoused with a good formation of third Combat-Wing's B-17s in the vicinity of Gien, at 09.44 hours, at 22,000 feet. P-47s were with the bombers at the rendezvous. Bombing was observed on the Primary-Target, and was considered fair to good with a loose pattern of bursts on the north buildings. Other P-51s were with the bombers at the target. Broke-escort in the vicinity of Orléans at 11.55 hours, at 22,000 feet. The 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron engaged one FW 190 at 10.30 hours, with combat from 15,000 feet to the 'deck', and strafed the target airdrome. The 486<sup>th</sup> Squadron engaged two FW 190s in the target-area at 11.00 hours, with combat from 18,000 feet to the 'deck' and strafed the airdrome at 11.05 hours, all with the above results. Fifteen un-identified aircraft were seen on an airdrome, in the vicinity of Béthune, at 09.25 hours Ten-plus un-identified aircraft were seen on a strafed airdrome in the vicinity of the target, at 11.00 hours, and four un-identified single and twin-engined aircraft were seen on an airdrome, in the vicinity of Bourges, at 10.50 hours Moderate accurate Flak between Boulogne and Cap Gris Nez, and moderate accurate Flak in the Chartres area. One B-17 disintegrated in the vicinity of Châteaudun, 11.45 hours, at 10,000 feet. R/T and fighter-to-bomber intercom. were good.

■	Claim 30.04.44	Capt. S.W. Andrew	352 <sup>nd</sup> FG	486 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Clermont-Ferrand
■	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. W.W. Anderson	352 <sup>nd</sup> FG	486 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Clermont-Ferrand
■	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. W.T. Whisner	352 <sup>nd</sup> FG	487 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Clermont-Ferrand
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. W.W. Anderson	352 <sup>nd</sup> FG	486 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Me 110	Clermont-Ferrand
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. R.L. Hall	352 <sup>nd</sup> FG	486 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 2	Unident:	Clermont-Ferrand
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Capt.C.E. Davis	352 <sup>nd</sup> FG	486 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	0 - 0 - 3	Unident:	Clermont-Ferrand


f. Target-Support 2<sup>nd</sup> ATF 3<sup>rd</sup> Division: Clermont-Ferrand/Aulnat

 VIII FC 357<sup>th</sup> FG 47 P-51 Mustang 08.52-13.30 F.O. 321 9 - 0 - 0 S.E. Fighters 2 Cat.E<sup>m</sup> H-BS: Clermont

(A) 357<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Graham leading (B) 47 P-51s, up 08.52 down 13.30 hours (C) 1 abortive sortie (D) Field Order # 321 (E) 2 Cat.E lost (F) 1 Cat.A (G) Lieutenant Summers, 364<sup>th</sup> Squadron, missing, believed to have baled-out near Auxerre after his P-51 was hit by enemy aircraft fire. Lieutenant Schreiber, 364<sup>th</sup> Squadron, slightly injured, baled-out into the Channel 5-10 miles off Calais. Promptly rescued by A.S.R. in spite of accurate Flak from Calais (H) Claims 9-0-0 (air) (I) Made landfall-in Calais, 09.25 hours, at 18,000 feet. Rendezvoused at 10.51 hours with the 1<sup>st</sup> Task Force when in the vicinity of St. Étienne. One squadron remained with the 1<sup>st</sup> Task Force. The other two squadrons made rendezvous with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Task Force when north of Clermont-Ferrand, at 11.05 hours, at 24,000 feet. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Task Force was escorted un-eventfully to 50 miles south of Paris. Plain-nosed P-47s made rendezvous with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Task Force as planned. The First Task Force was attacked by 10 single-engined enemy fighters when 10 miles south of Paris, as our flights were withdrawing over them. These, and approximately 10 other single-engined enemy aircraft located in the vicinity, were engaged from 20,000 feet to the 'deck' with the results listed. Moderate, accurate light and heavy-Flak at Calais. Landfall-out in the vicinity of Calais, 12.45 hours, at 18,000 feet.

—	Cat.E 30.04.44	1/Lt. Charles J. Schreiber: WiA	357 <sup>th</sup> FG	364 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	P-51B-5: 43-6856	ASR ↓off Calais
—	Cat.E 30.04.44	1/Lt. Cordell L. Summers: MiA-E	357 <sup>th</sup> FG	364 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	P-51B-5: 43-6701	Flak ↓Auxerre
■	Claim 30.04.44	Capt. J.E. Broadhead	357 <sup>th</sup> FG	362 <sup>nd</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G S. Paris
■	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. R.H. Becker	357 <sup>th</sup> FG	362 <sup>nd</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G S. Paris
■	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. R.D. Brown	357 <sup>th</sup> FG	362 <sup>nd</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G S. Paris
■	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. G.M. O'Brien	357 <sup>th</sup> FG	362 <sup>nd</sup> Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 109G S. Paris
■	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. J.F. Pierce	357 <sup>th</sup> FG	363 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	FW 190 N.E. Orléans
■	Claim 30.04.44	Capt. C.E. Anderson	357 <sup>th</sup> FG	363 <sup>rd</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190 S.E. Orléans
■	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. R.A. Peterson	357 <sup>th</sup> FG	364 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	FW 190 Auxerre
■	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. T.M. McKinney	357 <sup>th</sup> FG	364 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 109G S. Paris


g. Withdrawal-Support 2<sup>nd</sup> ATF 3<sup>rd</sup> Division: Clermont-Ferrand/Aulnat

 VIII FC 356<sup>th</sup> FG 42 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.12-14.06 F.O. 321 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Clermont

(A) 356<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Waller leading (B) 42 P-47s, up 10.12 down 14.06 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 321 (E) nil (F) 1 Cat.A, 1 Cat.AC (G) and (H) nil (I) Landfall-in west of Dieppe, 10.55 hours, at 18,000 feet. Flew on-course and made rendezvous with the 1<sup>st</sup> Task Force at 11.36 hours, when north of Nevers, and rendezvoused with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Task Force at 11.40 hours, when south-west of Nevers at 19,000 feet. Escort furnished to three boxes of B-17s, one of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, and two of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, flying in good formation. P-47s were escorting the bombers at the rendezvous. P-51s were also seen, and at 12.25 hours, the 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group came in. Bombers escorted to landfall-out, Cabourg, 12.58 hours, at 19,000 feet. R/T and intercom. were good. Moderate, accurate heavy-Flak along south-western edge of Paris, and from Dreux. When 30 miles south-east of Orléans, two FW 190s were attacked by four P-51s. One enemy fighters was seen to hit the ground and explode. Two parachutes were seen near here from the bomber formation, 11.50 hours. One B-




17 went down in the vicinity of Orléans at about 11.55 hours, no chutes seen. At Le Havre, forty-plus small boats of uniform size were lined up on the beach. In the southern tip of the Forêt de Champrond, about 18 miles west of Chartres, in woods, there were what appeared to be numerous aircraft, well dispersed and camouflaged. The airdrome appeared to be situated to the south-east of these woods.

 VIII FC 56<sup>th</sup> 'B' FG 24 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.10-14.07 F.O. 321 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Clermont

(A) 56<sup>th</sup> 'B' Fighter Group, Captain L.C. Smith leading (B) 24 P-47s, up 11.10 down 14.07 hours (C) 1 abortive sortie (D) Field Order # 321 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in north of Dieppe, 11.47 hours, at 16,000 feet. Rendezvoused between Orléans and Châteaudun, 12.15 hours, at 21,000 feet. Escort-broken when 25 miles south of Beachy Head, 13.25 hours, at 9,000 to 21,000 feet. Landfall-out Caen, 12.50 hours, at 18,000 to 21,000 feet. Blue-nosed P-51s seen to the west of Paris, at 12.10 hours, and Spits off Dungeness. Two Combat-Wings of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bomb. Divisions were escorted. Bomber formation good. No enemy aircraft seen.

h. Close-Escort B-24s 2<sup>nd</sup> Division: Noball XI/A/1 St. Pol/Siracourt

 VIII FC 364<sup>th</sup> FG 43 P-38 Lightning 09.15-11.55 F.O. 321 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty H-BS: Siracourt

(A) 364<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Colonel Osborn leading (B) 43 P-38s, up 09.15 down 11.55 hours (C) 6 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 321 (E) 1 Cat.A (F) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in and rendezvous made at Berck-sur-Mer, 09.52 hours, at 20,000 feet. Escorted B-24s, bombing a 'Noball' target out to the enemy coast at Coxyde, 10.17 hours, at 22,000 feet. One squadron made landfall-out Berck, 11.05 hours, at 17,000 feet; and the other two, out Dunkirk, 11.03 hours, at 16,000 feet. The 383<sup>rd</sup> Squadron left the bombers at Siracourt, looking over the airfields in the Cambrai-Beauvais-Abbeville area. The 384<sup>th</sup> and 385<sup>th</sup> Squadrons escorted the bombers out over the enemy coast, returning to search the area from Cambrai north to the coast. No enemy aircraft were seen. Spits and A-20s sighted. Colonel Osborn was forced to return to base a few minutes after take-off due to engine-trouble, Major McManus taking the lead. One flight sent back to search for straggler, and then vectored around by the Controller. No enemy aircraft seen. One P-47 seen to go down into the Channel, pilot observed in dinghy. 'Mayday' given and circled until the R.A.F. arrived.

## Part II: Fighter-Bomber Attack on Tours A/D

### Part II

#### Statistics of U.S. Fighter Groups


<b>Fighter Groups: Task:</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> FG F-B</b>	<b>55<sup>th</sup> FG Escort</b>
P-38 Sorties: -	45	46
P-38 Lightnings Lost: -	1	0
P-38 Cat. E or damaged Cat. B: -	-	-
Personnel Casualties MiA: -	1	-
Combat Claims (Ground): -	3-0-0	0-0-0
Enemy Aircraft Seen: -	-	-
Bombs Dropped: -		
35 x 1,000-lb. G.P. M-44		
8 x 500-lb. G.P. M-43		

Miscellaneous Ground-Targets: 1 hangar, 2 Flak-towers, 1 control-tower damaged.

### 1. Summary of Fighter-Bomber Attack on Tours A/D

The 20<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group bombed Tours airfield at 09.30 hours, bomb results good to excellent: 35 x 1,000-lb. G.P. and 4 x 500-lb. G.P. dropped on this target, the 1,000-lb. bombs from 23,000 feet, and the 500-lb. bombs from 50 feet: 4 x 500-lb. bombs were dropped on a heavy-Flak position with un-observed results. After the bombing, the Group swept Orléans and the west Paris areas. One squadron strafed Orléans/Bricy airdrome, shooting-up the control-tower, two Flak-towers, and one hangar. One P-38 was lost to Flak in the target area, the pilot baling-out. The 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and the 20<sup>th</sup> Group did not make rendezvous as scheduled, but rendezvoused at 09.28 hours at the target. After leaving the target area, the 55<sup>th</sup> Group swept Orléans-Versailles-Châteaudun-Dreux-Rouen area. Mission was un-eventful: no enemy aircraft seen.

a. Fighter-Bombers: Tours A/D


 VIII FC 20<sup>th</sup> FG 47 P-38 Lightning 08.00-11.46 F.O. 321 3 - 0 - 0 E/A 1 Cat.E F-BA: Tours

(A) 20<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Rau leading (Lt. Ezell as bombardier) (B) 47 P-38s, up 08.00 down 11.46 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 321 (E) 1 Cat.E lost (F) nil (G) Lt. Fogg, 79<sup>th</sup> Squadron, missing (H) Claims 3-0-0 (ground): Ground and/or water targets claimed by Group (aircraft excluded): one control-tower damaged by Lt. Reid: one Flak-tower damaged by Lt. Kummerle: one hangar

damaged by Lt. Fiebelkorn; all pilots of 77<sup>th</sup> Squadron. One Flak-tower damaged by Lt. Pierson, of 55<sup>th</sup> Squadron.(I) Made landfall-in over the mouth of the Orne River, 08.52 hours, at 23,000 feet. On target at 09.30 hours, after dropping bombs, Group swept Orléans and west Paris areas, the 77<sup>th</sup> Squadron strafing Orléans/Bricy airdrome at 09.50 hours, establishing the above claims. Twenty twin-engined aircraft, plus 20 others believed to be dummies, were sighted on this field. Landfall-out Le Havre, 10.35 hours, at 13,000 feet. Moderate inaccurate heavy-Flak, intense accurate light-Flak at Tours. Light-Flak prevented effective skip-bombing. Five light-Flak positions noted around the target, five on the river bank opposite the target. One rocket position noted on opposite river bank, 55 degrees from the target. No Flak fired from Orléans/Bricy airdrome. The 55<sup>th</sup> Group was sighted and contacted on 'C' Channel at landfall-in, but disappeared and was not seen again. Bomb data: (1) High-level precision and skip-bombing. (2) 35 x 1,000-lb. (Type M-44) General Purpose on Primary-Target, 4 x 500-lb. (Type M43) on Primary-Target, 4 x 500-lb. (Type M-43) on a heavy-Flak position on south approach of bridge crossing the Loire River east of the target. Four x 500-lb. bombs jettisoned in cornfield south of the target due to haze and intense ground-fire. (3) Not applicable. (4) 1,000-lb. Bombs from 23,000 feet, 500-lb. bombs from 50 feet. (5) See item 2. (6) On primary good to excellent, on Flak position noted in item 2, unknown. (7) 15 degrees up-wind to bomb-run. (8) Bomb-run 30 degrees. (9) Right external rack. (10) See item 2.

–	Cat.E 30.04.44	2/Lt. Albert R. Fogg: PoW	20 <sup>th</sup> FG	79 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	P-38J-10: 42-68140	Flak ↓Tours
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. Kummerle	20 <sup>th</sup> FG	77 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 410 09.50: Orléans/Bricy
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Capt. Morris	20 <sup>th</sup> FG	77 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	He 177 09.50: Orléans/Bricy
↓	Claim 30.04.44	Lt. Fiebelkorn	20 <sup>th</sup> FG	77 <sup>th</sup> Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 410 09.50: Orléans/Bricy

b. Close-Escort: Tours A/D

 VIII FC 55<sup>th</sup> FG 49 P-38 Lightning 08.07-11.15 F.O. 321 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty FB-S: Tours

(A) 55<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Captain Ryan leading (B) 49 P-38s, up 08.07 down 11.15 hours (C) 3 abortive sorties (D) Field Order # 321 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Courseulles, 08.55 hours, at 22,000 to 25,000 feet; also rendezvous, but no Lightning bombers visible so proceeded on-course making actual rendezvous as the 20<sup>th</sup> Group was on the bombing-run at 09.28 hours. Left the target-area shortly thereafter, and sweeping north-east over Orléans, Versailles, Châteaudun, Dreux and Rouen, and out Dieppe-Berck, 10.30 hours, at 10,000 to 17,000 feet. No enemy aircraft encountered, and bombing results were not observed. Large airdrome and dummies at Évreux with two Flak-towers in the barracks area. One He 111 and one Ju 52 seen out in the open, believed to be 'sucker-bait' at Fontainebleau airdrome, with all the other installations around the airdrome well camouflaged. At least six multiple-engined aircraft counted on an airdrome at Versailles. Large factory observed at Pont de L'Arche, working like a beaver. Meagre Flak in the Paris area, few bursts at the target area, over 200 bursts at Versailles with no marker-Flak, light concentration at Dreux.

### Part III: Fighter-Bomber Attack on Orléans/Bricy A/D

#### Part III

Statistics of U.S. Fighter Groups

Fighter-Support Tasks:	F-B Mission	Sweep	Totals
VIII FC Missions by 4 Groups:	3	1	4
P-47 Sorties: -	32	-	32
P-38 Sorties: -	45	-	45
P-51 Sorties: -	-	51	51
Total: -	77	51	128
P-47 Thunderbolts Lost: -	-	-	-
P-38 Lightnings Lost: -	-	-	-
P-51 Mustangs Lost: -	-	-	-
P-47 Cat. E or damaged Cat. B: -	-	-	-
P-38 Cat. E or damaged Cat. B: -	-	-	-
P-51 Cat. E or damaged Cat. B: -	-	-	-
Personnel Casualties MiA: -	-	-	-
Personnel Casualties KiA: -	-	-	-
Personnel Casualties WiA: -	-	-	-
Personnel Casualties KiFAc: -	-	-	-
Personnel Casualties IiFAc: -	-	-	-
Combat Claims (Air): -	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Combat Claims (Ground): -	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Enemy Aircraft Seen: -	-	-	-

Bombs-Dropped: -

23 x M1A1 Frag. Clusters (13,800-lbs.): 8 x 500-lb. T4EI Frag. 140 x 100-lb. M1A1 Frag. 24 x 500-lb. G.P.

Miscellaneous Ground-Targets: 1 Flak-tower, 1 ammunition-dump destroyed, 13 Flak-towers, 1 building, and 1 pill-box damaged.

## 1. Summary of Fighter-Bomber Attack on Bricy A/D

20<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group bombed Orléans/Bricy airfield at 18.15 hours, from 15,000 feet. Twenty-three M1A1 Frag. clusters (13,800-lbs.) were dropped with excellent bomb-pattern on the hangar and dispersal-area, east corner of the field. Immediately after bombing, one squadron hit the 'deck' to strafe the airfield, resulting in miscellaneous ground claims, all without loss. The 364<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group made rendezvous with the 20<sup>th</sup> Group in mid-Channel, 17.30 hours, and escorted un-eventfully to the target. The 353<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group dive-bombed Orléans/Bricy airfield immediately after the 20<sup>th</sup> Group had bombed. The 353<sup>rd</sup> Group dived from 12,000 to 14,000 feet, releasing between 6,000 and 3,000 feet, with excellent results. Well concentrated Frag. bursts over the entire north dispersal, several fires observed, including an ammunition-dump, fuel-dump, and several buildings. Several hits on buildings and hangars. Bombs dropped: 8 x 500-lb. Frag., 140 x 100-lb. Frag., 24 x 500-lb. General Purpose.

Fighter Sweep: the 339<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group swept uneventfully in the Dunkirk, Rouen and Le Havre areas, making landfall-in at 16.45 hours. No claims or casualties.

### a. Fighter-Bombers: Orléans/Bricy



VIII FC 20<sup>th</sup> FG 36 P-38 Lightning 16.37-19.50 F.O. 21 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty F-BA: Orléans/Bricy

(A) 20<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Major Franklin leading (B) 36 P-38s, up 16.37 down 19.50 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties on 67<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Field Order # 21 (E) thru (G) nil (H) Ground and/or water targets claimed by Group (aircraft excluded): one Flak-tower and one ammunition-dump destroyed by Lt. Col. Wilson: one building and one pill-box damaged by Lt. Spencer: six Flak-towers damaged by Lt. Riemensnider: three Flak-towers damaged by Lt. Smeltz: three Flak-towers damaged by Lt. Fennell: one Flak-tower damaged by Capt. Serros; all pilots of 55<sup>th</sup> Squadron. (I) Landfall-in over the mouth of the Orne River, 17.40 hours, at 15,000 feet. Bombs-away at 18.15 hours, from 15,000 feet. At 18.18 hours, the 55<sup>th</sup> Squadron hit the 'deck' to strafe the target. Landfall-out Cabourg, 18.43 hours, at 15,000 feet. No Flak or enemy aircraft seen. The 364<sup>th</sup> Group made rendezvous in mid-Channel and provided escort to the target, where they withdrew. P-47s dive-bombed the target at approximately the same time. R/T good. Bomb information: (1) High-level precision. (2) 23 x M1A1 fragmentation clusters (six 20-lb. bombs, M1, per cluster), five clusters per aircraft: total 13,800-lbs. (3) Nil. (4) 15,000 feet. (5) Nil. (6) Excellent pattern on hangar and dispersal area, east corner of the field. (7) Up-wind. (8) Dive-angle 22 degrees. (9) External right-shackle. (10) One P-38 lost bombs on take-off, proper disposition made, joined cover-squadron.



VIII FC 364<sup>th</sup> FG 13 P-38 Lightning 16.50-20.34 F.O. 21 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty F-BA: Orléans/Bricy

(A) 364<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Captain Stapleton leading (B) 13 P-38s, up 16.50 down 20.34 hours (C) 2 abortive sorties (D) 67<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Field Order # 21 (E) thru (H) nil (I) Rendezvoused with 20<sup>th</sup> Group at 18.20 hours, in mid-Channel, at 18,000 feet. Orbited until left target area at 18.35 hours, and made un-eventful sweep via Orléans, Châlons and Reims, making landfall-out between Dieppe and Dunkirk, 19.43-48 hours, at 12,000 to 17,000 feet. Five-plus aircraft were seen on the target airfield. No other enemy aircraft seen. Bombing results good, white smoke and explosions observed. Smoke pots on south-eastern corner of airdrome were ineffective. P-47s and P-38s seen to strafe the target after bombing.



VIII FC 353<sup>rd</sup> FG 32 P-47 Thunderbolt 17.09-19.53 F.O. 59 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty F-BA: Orléans/Bricy

(A) 353<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Rimerman leading (B) 32 P-47s, up 17.09 down 19.53 hours (C) no abortive sorties (D) 65<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Field order # 59 (E) nil (F) 3 Cat.A (G) nil (H) nil (I) Landfall-in Le Tréport, 17.47 hours, at 14,000 feet. Bombed Orléans/Bricy airfield at 18.17 hours, immediately after the 20<sup>th</sup> Group hit the south-east area of the target with excellent results. The 350<sup>th</sup> and 351<sup>st</sup> Squadrons bombed the north dispersal-area with frag. clusters. Axis of the attack was from south-west to north-east. The 352<sup>nd</sup> Squadron bombed the south-east dispersal with 500-lb. General Purpose bombs, south-east to north-west. Dive began from 14,000 to 12,000 feet, releasing at 6,000 to 3,000 feet. Made landfall-out Le Tréport, 19.10 hours, at 14,000 feet. Bomb load: 350<sup>th</sup> Squadron, five P-47s carried 10 x 500-lb. Type T4E1 Frag. clusters: one jettisoned, one returned. The 350<sup>th</sup> Squadron, six P-47s carried 60 x 100-lb. Type M1A1 Frag. clusters. The 351<sup>st</sup> Squadron, nine P-47s carried 90 x 100-lb. M1A1 Frag. clusters. Five dropped on a 'Noball' target, five returned. The 352<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 12 P-47s carried 24 x 500-lb. G.P., fuzed 1/10<sup>th</sup> second delay (nose), and .025 second (tail). Bombing results and observations: well concentrated frag. bursts over the entire north dispersal. Several fires observed, including an ammunition dump where continuous explosions were observed, on a fuel-dump, several buildings and at least one twin-engined aircraft. Numerous hits observed on the south-east airdrome buildings and the hangar area including several hits on two hangars. One aircraft, possibly a He 111, parked between the hangars, believed hit. Four aircraft observed on the field. No Flak encountered from Orléans/Bricy airdrome, however, moderate heavy accurate Flak from Amiens was encountered at 13,000 feet, and 30 bursts of heavy accurate Flak fired from Chartres (from a prominent square of gun positions in the south-west corner of the town). One aircraft, taking-off late and failing to join the Group, observed Spitfires carrying bombs and followed them in bombing the 'Noball' target at Marquennville. Ten to twelve twin-engined aircraft observed on Chartres airdrome. No enemy aircraft seen in the air.

### b. Fighter-Sweep



VIII FC 339<sup>th</sup> FG 52 P-51 Mustang 16.15-18.07 F.O. 59 0 - 0 - 0 - No casualty FSw: Caen-Orléans

(A) 339<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Major Hayes leading (B) 52 P-51s, up 16.15 down 18.07 hours (C) 1 abortive sortie (D) Field Order # 59 for 66<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (E) thru (H) nil (I) Landfall-in between Dunkirk and Ostend, time 16.45 hours, at 19,000 feet. Six 'bogies' sighted, one in the vicinity of Rouen, at 30,000 feet; one in the vicinity of Le Havre, at 30,000 feet; and four east of Amiens at 750 feet. Meagre, accurate, heavy-Flak over Dunkirk. Landfall-out between St. Valéry-en-Caux and Dieppe at 20,000 feet. R/T good.



Hq. VIII FC Reg. File 24523

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


By Command of Major-General KEPNER

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

U.S. 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Diary of Fighter Operations: 30<sup>th</sup> April 1944. Field Order # 329. Total 627 airborne: 606 airborne less spares, spotters and relays: 56 aircraft did not complete the mission: 550 aircraft completed the mission out of 571 credited sorties on Fighter-Bomber and Heavy-Bomber Support to airfields in South-Central France and 'Crossbow.'. Bombs dropped by Fighters: 14 x 100-lb. A.P., 32 x 1,000-lb. H.E., and 12 x 500-lb. H.E. Total aircraft Cat.E : 4 (2 to Flak, one to Enemy Fighters, and one to accidents). Aircraft damaged: 16 damaged less than Cat.E. Casualties: 3 MIA and one slightly injured. Combat claims: 28-1-21. Ref: PRO AIR 22/350.

Accredited Claims: 17-1-4 air 10-0-11 ground.

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

Logo	A	B	C	D	H	E & F	I
 VIII FC	78 <sup>th</sup> FG	48 P-47 Thunderbolt	16.44-18.25	F.O. 81	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	No casualty F-Sw: Pas-de-Calais
Mech:	Mechanical or Engine-Failure						
Wx:	Adverse Weather						
Cmbt:	Air Combat						
H-BS	Heavy-Bomber Support						
M-BS	Medium-Bomber Support						
L-BS	Light-Bomber Support						
F-BS	Fighter-Bomber Support						
F-Sw	Fighter-Sweep (R.A.F. 11 Group 'Rodeo')						
Cat.A	Damaged: repair on site by operating Unit.						
Cat.AC	Damaged: repair on site not by operating Unit.						
Cat.B	Damaged: repair at Maintenance Unit.						
Cat.C	Damaged: repair for Ground Instruction purposes only.						
Cat.E	Written-off: salvage impossible.						
Cat.E1	Written-off: use of components possible.						
Cat.E2	Written-off: salvage of scrap possible						
Cat.Em	Written-off: missing on operational flight						
ASR	Air-Sea Rescue						
CE	Close-Escort						
EC	Escort-Cover						
HC	High-Cover						
EPJ	Emergency Parachute-Jump						

ISSUE # 1: DateThursday, September 12, 2002