

Headquarters U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command
Narratives of Operations
November 1943
(Combats & Casualties)

Intelligence Summary No. 68

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command F.O. 168
VIIIth Bomber Command F.O. 285
66th Fighter Wing F.O. 26
3rd November 1943

Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups.
Field Order 168 on 3.11.43.

Heavy Bomber Attack on Wilhelmshaven.

Date	Parent	Fighter	Group	Mission Order	Airborne	Effective	↑ Claim	↓ Claim	Lost	Major	Support Type
First Task Force (1 st Bomb. Division): Wilhelmshaven											
03.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	45 Sorties	3-5-5	nil	-	1 Cat. B	Penetration
03.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	43 Sorties	2-0-0	nil	1 P-47	1 Cat. E	Penetration
03.11.43	VIII FC	78 th	Group	1 st Mission	76 P-47	57 Sorties	1-0-0	nil	-	-	Penetration
03.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	46 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
Second Task Force (2 nd Bomb. Division): Wilhelmshaven.											
03.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	48 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
03.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	54 P-47	47 Sorties	3-0-1	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
Third Task Force (3 rd Bomb. Division): Wilhelmshaven.											
03.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	51 P-47	48 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
03.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	51 P-47	45 Sorties	5-0-1	nil	-	-	General

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command Results: Claims on 14-5-7 enemy aircraft in the air. Losses on 2 P-47s. Two U.S. pilots missing. Damaged categories: 2 P-47s destroyed Cat. E, or seriously damaged, in England. VIIIth Fighter Command dispatched 379 effective sorties (334 P-47s and 45 P-38s) on eight missions. Enemy aircraft seen: 165-plus in the air. U.S. bombers seen to go down: five. Miscellaneous ground targets Destroyed or Damaged: nil.

Types of Support :	Penetration	Target	Withdrawal	Totals	
Number of Groups VIII th	8	5 Missions	2 Missions	1 Mission	8 Missions
P-47s on Mission	242 P-47s	45 P-47s	47 P-47s	334 P-47s	
P-38s on Mission	nil	45 P-38s	nil	45 P-38s	
Aircraft Lost	1 P-47	nil	nil	1 P-47	
Aircraft crashed in England, Cat. E or badly damaged:-	1 P-47	nil	nil	1 P-47	
Personnel Casualties	1 (MIA) 1 (Injured)	nil	nil	1 (MIA) 1 (Injured)	
Combat Claims (Air)	3-0-0	8-5-6	3-0-1	14-5-7	
Enemy aircraft seen	45-plus	100-plus	20-plus	165-plus	
Bombers seen to go down *	-	3 B-17	2 B-17	5 B-17	

* Possible duplications as compiled from individual Group summaries.

GENERAL NARRATIVE:

On 3rd November 1943, VIII Bomber Command dispatched three Air Divisions of B-17s and B-24s to bomb Wilhelmshaven. The 1st Air Division consisted of four combat wings of B-17s, the 3rd Air Division was of the same strength, and the 2nd Air Division consisted of two combat wings of B-24s. The bombers attacked through 10/10th overcast, so the results are not yet known. The Command furnished Fighter Support to all three bomb divisions from Schiermonnikoog Island along the entire bomber route to well out over the North Sea from the East Friesian Islands. Due to the unusually large size of the bomber force, it became necessary for this Command to spread out its supporting and protective forces rather more thinly than usual; but the full usage of all available aircraft of this Command was dispersed in such a manner as to provide protective cover to all bomber units throughout their trip over enemy territory. From a protective standpoint, the results were highly satisfactory, as 14 enemy fighters were destroyed for the loss of only 2 P-47s and five of our bombers; an additional 5 enemy aircraft were probably destroyed and 7 others damaged. The 4th Fighter Group, upon reaching the Zuider Zee and just levelling off from their climb, were "bounced" from out of the sun by a number of enemy fighters who apparently had been positioned there to intercept them while they still had their belly-tanks on, and had not yet assumed battle formation or gained their normal flying speed. This was the first time that such tactics have been successfully carried out by the enemy, although such action had been anticipated for some time. The attacks were persistent, continuous and unusually aggressive. These attacks were also unusual in that the enemy fighters did make their usual attack and break away inland, but rather made a bouncing attack, broke away, zoomed up and turned in for other repeated attacks. Fighter pilots of the 4th Fighter Group report that the Me 109Gs consistently out-turned and out-climbed the P-47s during these attacks. As a result of these enemy tactics, the 4th Fighter Group became hopelessly broken up and were forced to return to home base without carrying out their supporting part in the mission as set down in the Field Order. It appears, however, that the plan of the Field Order of this Command dispersed its forces in such a manner that the loss of the use of the 4th Fighter Group did not particularly effect protection given to the bombers over this particular part of the route. The 356th Fighter Group, which was scheduled to leave the bombers as the 4th Group took over, continued along with the bombers

some 30-40 miles further than had been planned. This action, plus the fact that the P-38s of the 55th Fighter Group were dead on schedule, made for normal protection, even though not as planned. The 55th Fighter Group did a particular fine job in carrying out their part of the mission. They destroyed three enemy fighters for the loss of none and remained with the bombers to the full limit of their endurance, protecting them over a wide-spread area which, if they had not been there, would have been the most dangerous part of the route for the bombers. This was the first real engagement for the P-38s in this theatre and they were operating at the extremity of their radii of action. It should be particularly noted that the 55th Fighter Group warded off a large number of enemy attacks and still refused to be drawn off, and continually maintained their protective positions and formations, thus giving the bombers 100 per-cent support throughout. All the fighter groups with the exception of the 4th Group, which unfortunately ran into difficulties as previously explained, carried out their parts of the mission as planned in the Field Order, and in the majority of cases went even further along the route in protective capacity, thereby in a number of cases, giving overlapping protection to the bombers which is highly desirable and most effective.

Bomber Reports. Attack on Wilhelmshaven: 1st Bomb. Division. Two hundred and seventeen, of the 222 B-17s dispatched, bombed the primary target with unobserved results. Six B-17s were lost; four to enemy fighters and two others before reaching the enemy coast, reason unknown. Wilhelmshaven: 2nd Bomb Division. One hundred and five B-24s attacked the target with unobserved results. All the bombers returned safely. Attack on Wilhelmshaven: 3rd Bomb Division. Two hundred and eighteen B-17s, of the 226 dispatched, bombed the target with unobserved results. One B-17 is missing.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 168 - Fighter Support
First Task Force (1st Division): Wilhelmshaven.

Command	Group	Fighter Force	Times	Mission	Claims	Type	Loss	Cause	General Task
★ VIII FC	55 th FG	53 P-38 Lightning Penetration & Target	11.32-14.59	F.O. 168	3 - 5 - 5	E/A	nil	n/a	Course unclear
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Col. Jenkins	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Wilhelmshaven	
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Buttock	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Wilhelmshaven	
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Col. Jenkins	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven	
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Hooper	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven	
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Bauer	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven	
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Ryan	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven	
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Sorace	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - ½ - 0	FW 190	Shared	Wilhelmshaven	
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Porter	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - ½ - 0	FW 190	Shared	Wilhelmshaven	
□	Claim 03.11.43	Capt. Malmstead	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Bf 109G	-	Wilhelmshaven	
□	Claim 03.11.43	Maj. Joel	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 2	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven	
□	Claim 03.11.43	Capt. Myers	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven	
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Carroll	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven	

Lieutenant-Colonel Jenkins led 55th Fighter Group with 53 P-38s (9 aborts) on F.O. 168 as escort and target support. Rendezvous at 12.45 hrs. at 25,000 feet, as planned. Escorted first division as follows: Top cover by 343rd Squadron at 26,000 feet. Starboard by 38th Squadron at 26,000 feet. Port by 338th Squadron at 24,000 feet. Bombs away at 13.08 hrs., escort left bombers at coast at 13.15 hrs., returned to target and escorted the second box to coast leaving bombers at 13.30 hours. On return to target, Group was broken down into flights and sections, and several trips were made to the coast escorting small groups of bombers. Enemy aircraft were encountered as follows: by 38th Squadron, 10 enemy fighters at Sneek climbing at 7,000 feet below, and several minutes later, three enemy aircraft climbing at 5 o'clock below. Aircraft did not attack. 25-plus FW 190s seen on approach to the target, climbing in spirals but not aggressive. Over the target, 5 FW 190s at 2 o'clock at 24,000 feet, driven off by escort. Five FW 190s in "V" formation attacked bombers from below at 4 o'clock, these being warded off by the escort. By 338th Squadron: met individual attacks from FW 190s from all angles from the Rendezvous Point to the target and back out. By 343rd Squadron: engagements encountered from target to the coast. Attacks made from dead astern above by flights of two, three or four, making one pass, snap-rolling down and away. Enemy pilots appeared to be inexperienced. Light Flak encountered over target and at coast. R/T good. One Me 109 was painted mottled-brown, and some enemy fighters bore no swastikas. After leaving Initial Point, on B-17 seen spinning-in, no parachutes observed. One B-17 seen with No. 2 engine afire shortly after leaving the target area, three parachutes seen. Aircraft seen again at Essen, still burning at 22,000 feet. Group up 11.32 hrs., 28 P-28s down at 14.59 hrs., remainder at intervals to 17.19 hours. One P-38 crash-landed at Feltwell, damage unknown.

★ VIII FC	4 th FG	50 P-47 Thunderbolt Penetration Support	11.35-13.50	F.O. 168	2 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	1 Lost	E/A	Kijkduin-Opmeer
❖	Loss 03.11.43	F/O Frank D. Gallion	4 th FG	Missing	P-47D-1		42-7924	□	334 th Sqn.
□	Cat.E 03.11.43	F/O Lloyd W. Waterman	4 th FG	Present	P-47D		wanting	I: cr. Halesworth	335 th Sqn.
□	Claim 03.11.43	1/Lt. Rafalovitch	4 th FG	334 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Hypolitushoef	
□	Claim 03.11.43	2/Lt. Frazier	4 th FG	334 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Hypolitushoef	

Lieutenant-Colonel Blakeslee led 4th Fighter Group (334th, 335th and 336th Sqns.) with 50 P-47s with 7 aborts. Group crossed in enemy coast at 12.05 hrs., two minutes late at 25,000 feet, just south of Kijkduin. As the Group levelled off, 334th Squadron, flying to starboard at 26,000 feet, was "bounced" by 8 enemy fighters from the south and south-west and 3,000 to 4,000 feet above. The enemy aircraft were Me 109Gs and attacked in fours, zoom-climbed and attacked again, turning inside of and out-climbing our aircraft. The 334th Squadron jettisoned tanks on the "bounce", and were broken up. Upper with 335th Squadron turned into sun and climbed to help, but were "bounced" by 3 to 4 Me 109s from out of the sun, breaking up two sections. As the 334th Squadron continued the turn, the squadron was attacked by 8 to 12 more enemy aircraft. Attacks were made by twos, fours and fives. The 336th Squadron covered the 334th and 335th during the combats, in which our aircraft and the enemy fighters made seven wide orbits, centring on Hypolitushoef. A P-47 was seen going down in flames in the vicinity of Opmeer, after an attack by a Me 109. Another aircraft, believed to be a P-47, went into the Zuider Zee just off Hypolitushoef. No chutes were seen in either case. After 21 minutes of combat and orbits, the Group withdrew at 12.50 hrs., crossing out at 27,000 feet. No bombers seen, and the mission not carried out according to plan due to enemy aircraft bouncing our Squadrons as enemy coast was reached. Enemy pilots appeared aggressive and Hun tactics were apparently to force our aircraft to jettison their tanks and fight, thus nullifying support for the preceding bombers over Den Helder. One P-47 of 334th Sqn. lost due to enemy action, pilot not yet returned. One P-47 crashed after take-off 1½ miles outside Halesworth; aircraft written-off Cat. E. Pilot, F/O L. W. Waterman, 335th Squadron, injured and in hospital due to the accident crash.

★ VIII FC 78th FG 76 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.23-14.30 F.O. 168 1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G nil n/a Course unclear
Penetration Support

□ Claim 03.11.43 Lt. Hahn 78th FG 82nd Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G - Barszel

Lieutenant-Colonel Stone led 78th Fighter Group (27 P-47s of 82nd, 27 of the 83rd, and 22 P-47s of 84th Squadron). Nineteen aborts, with 6 P-47s of 82nd, 9 of the 83rd, and 4 P-47s of the 84th Squadron. Rendezvoused with the bombers 5 minutes early at 12.25 hrs. over the North Sea, and continued with bombers as far as Barszel, five minutes beyond the limit set in the Field Order. P-38s flying in excellent formation joined the leading group of bombers over Ems River, continuing with them after the Group had to leave them. Two gaggles of 8 to 10 enemy single-engined fighters were seen flying to the south on a course parallel to the bombers at 10,000 to 12,000 feet, and these were lost in the overcast. Numerous single- and twin-engined enemy aircraft seen below and inland when Group was at the end of endurance, and had to turn back. Two Me 109s dove down from about 30,000 feet, just after the Group turned back to west of Barszel, and were chased by Yellow Flight of 82nd Squadron from 26,000 to about 7,000 feet. Lieutenant Hahn getting several effective bursts. Others in his flight fired but make no claims. No bombers seen to be attacked nor in any trouble. Large flat-top ship believed to be an aircraft carrier sighted through a break in the clouds across the bay south of Emden, and a convoy of 6-8 medium-sized cargo ships towing balloons and escorted by same number of small fast ships seen south of Den Helder headed north-east. Two medium cargo ships seen in Zuider Zee east of Edam

★ VIII FC 355th FG 50 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.54-14.25 F.O. 168 nil n/a nil n/a Den Helder-Texel
Penetration Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Hubbard led 355th Fighter Group (354th, 357th and 358th Sqn.) with 50 P-47s (up Bungay 11.54 hrs., down home-base 14.25 hours. Four aborts; one turbo, one illness, two belly-tank problems. Landfall-in Tessel (Texel) Island at 12.45 hrs. at 26,000 feet. Bombers seen at 10 o'clock over North Sea heading south-east along course in. Fighter-bomber rendezvous made over North Sea at 12.58 hours. Escorted bombers along penetration route till 13.20 hrs., when just west of the Initial Point, when overcast separated bombers from fighters. Group turned to the right, made landfall-out at 13.30 hrs., south of Den Helder at 26,000 feet. Some "bogies" seen but no enemy aircraft seen near the bombers. Accurate, intense Flak experienced in the Den Helder-Tessel area. Other Flak seen over Friesian Islands. A 16 to 20 ship convoy seen heading towards strait at Den Helder. One 10,000 ton freighter off Ockenburghe heading south. A possible heavy gun emplacement seen approximately 15 to 20 miles south of Den Helder. R/T good. Bomber-fighter communication good at first contact but immediately became jammed and noisy. Further "C" Channel contact impossible.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 168 - Fighter Support
Second Task Force (2nd Division): Wilhelmshaven.

★ VIII FC 352nd FG 50 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.47-14.07 F.O. 168 nil n/a nil n/a Tessel-Wilhelmshaven
Penetration Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Clark led 352nd Fighter Group (328th, 486th and 487th Squadrons) with 50 P-47s (2 aborts). Group out English coast 10 miles north of Great Yarmouth at 12.04 hrs. at 11,000 feet. In enemy coast at Tessel Island at 12.42 hrs. at 24,000 feet. Rendezvoused with bombers in vicinity of Schiermonnikoog Island at 12.45 hrs. at 26,000 feet. Out enemy coast at Den Helder at 13.14 hrs. at 26,000 feet. In English coast 10 miles north of Great Yarmouth at 13.42 hrs. at 17,000 to 18,000 feet. Group made a large port orbit over Schiermonnikoog Island picking up two boxes of B-24s on course and escorted then to vicinity of Nieuwe Schans. Tanks had been dropped east of Leeuwarden when 12-plus "bandits" were spotted ahead in vicinity of Groningen. Satisfactory R/T contact with bombers, but no attacks were being made. Some difficulty experienced as B-24's boxes were loose with unusual depth. Enemy fighters stayed too far away to be identified, and were obviously waiting for our fighters to leave. Convoy consisting of two large vessels surrounded by 14 small vessels proceeding slowly into Den Helder from the west. One Me 109 seen at 27,000 feet off Great Yarmouth apparently watching surface ships below. "Handspun" leader turned into him when he turned towards his coast and disappeared.

★ VIII FC 56th FG 54 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.20-14.58 F.O. 168 3 - 0 - 1 E/A nil n/a Baltrum-Kijkduin
Withdrawal Support

□ Claim 03.11.43 Lt. Johnson R.S. 56th FG 61st Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G - Baltrum Is.
□ Claim 03.11.43 Capt. Mahurin 56th FG 63rd Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 Me 110 - Nordeney Is.
□ Claim 03.11.43 Capt. Mahurin 56th FG 63rd Sqn. ½ - 0 - 0 Me 109G Shared Nordeney Is.
□ Claim 03.11.43 Lt. O'Connor 56th FG 63rd Sqn. ½ - 0 - 0 Me 109G Shared Nordeney Is.
□ Claim 03.11.43 Lt. Wisniewski 56th FG 63rd Sqn. 0 - 0 - 1 Me 110 - Nordeney Is.

Lieutenant-Colonel Schilling led 56th Fighter Group with 54 P-47s (7 aborts). Group proceeded on course to 15 miles off Kijkduin where at 12.55 hrs. dropped tanks as result of warning by "Warmsun" of enemy aircraft ahead off coast. Aircraft proved to be friendly. Landfall-in at Greetsiel at 13.25 hrs. at 26,000 feet. B-24s could not be located at the Rendezvous Point. Group orbited then positioned over and behind the last box of B-17s in the vicinity of Baltrum Island at 13.31 hrs. at 27,000 feet. Approximately 30 enemy aircraft were observed at 20,000 to 25,000 feet, some of which were being engaged by the P-38s. Lieutenant R. S. Johnson, Blue 3 of 61st Squadron, destroyed a Me 109 at 15,000 feet in this area. Blue Flight of 63rd Squadron, Captain Mahurin leading, destroyed a Me 109 which was making a stern attack on a P-38 at 25,000 feet. After this combat Blue Flight, 63rd Squadron, upon recovering, located the B-24s north of Nordeney Island. While escorting the B-24s, Blue Flight destroyed a lone Me 110 which was following the bombers at their level. This flight left the B-24s off Terschelling Island at 13.55 hours. Remainder of Group left the B-17s when 50 to 60 miles off the Dutch coast at 13.50 hours. Two B-17s were seen losing altitude over Nordeney Island. One Fort seen burning north of Juist Island. No chutes seen. One Fort reported with left inboard engine afire at 53° 50' North - 07° 00' East, four chutes observed. A convoy of three large, 18 medium and 15 small vessels seen steaming north of Kijkduin. R/T interference reported above 5,000 feet.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 168 - Fighter Support
Third Task Force (3rd Division): Wilhelmshaven.

★ VIII FC 356th FG 51 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.45-14.10E F.O. 168 nil n/a nil n/a Texel-Friesians
Penetration Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Rau led 356th Fighter Group (359th, 360th and 361st Sqns.) with 51 P-47s. Three aborts: 1 P-47 with landing-gear failing to retract, 1 P-47 with oil leak, and 1 P-47 with oxygen regulator failure. Landfall-in made at 12.38 hrs. over Tessel Island at 24,000 feet. Rendezvous made with bombers at 12.45 hrs., when 10 miles north-west of scheduled Rendezvous Point. On course with bombers until a little beyond the Initial Point. Landfall-out north of Alkmaar and Bergen-aan-Zee at 13.39 hours. Six FW 190s sighted flying parallel immediately before the 359th squadron left the bombers. Light inaccurate Flak seen coming out over Dutch coast. R/T intercom. with bombers was good. Two P-47s damaged Cat. A due to bullet-holes; one P-47 damaged Cat. A in belly-landing.

★ VIII FC 353rd FG 51 P-47 Thunderbolt 1154-14.10E F.O. 168 5 - 0 - 1 E/A nil n/a Wilhelmshaven-Friesians

General (Target) Support

□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Poindexter	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	-	Wilhelmshaven
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Newman	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	-	Wilhelmshaven
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Morrison	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	-	Wilhelmshaven
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Juntilla	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	-	Wilhelmshaven
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Poindexter	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-	Wilhelmshaven
□	Claim 03.11.43	Lt. Stump	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-	Wilhelmshaven

Lieutenant-Colonel McCollom led 353rd Fighter Group (350th, 351st and 352nd Sqns.) with 51 P-47s (6 aborts). Group made rendezvous with the bombers at 13.01 hrs. in the vicinity of Groningen at 27,000 feet. Bombers at 22,000 to 24,000 feet, considerably spread out. The 356th Group with bombers almost to the Initial Point. Flares seen and bombs dropped at about 13.35 hours. Stayed with bombers as planned leaving them just beyond East Friesians at 13.40 hours. Our Group divided into four 12-ship squadrons, two squadrons supporting the first two wings, two squadrons supporting the rear two wings. This appeared to be successful but four wings of B-17s seen to be too many for one group to support because of the area involved. Bombing results unobserved because of solid overcast in the target area. Ten twin-engined enemy fighters coming in from the east attempted to "bounce" the rear end of the second box of bombers in the target area at 23,000 feet. They were intercepted by White Flight of 352nd Squadron, five being destroyed, and others dove away. Two Me 109s engaged in the target area at 27,000 feet resulting in one damaged. Fifteen-plus FW 190s flying in formation from 3 o'clock at 23,000 feet, positioning to attack bombers. One element of 351st Squadron headed into them and they immediately split-ess'ed and headed down. Both fired short bursts, but make no claims. One B-17 from the first box seen going down smoking in the target area, 1 B-17 seen to explode in the target area. Moderate heavy Flak over target. High whistling screech of Channel "A". Usual whine on Channel "C". Contact made with bombers was satisfactory.

Hq. VIII FC Reg. File 17147

Intelligence Summary No. 68

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command F.O. 170
 VIIIth Bomber Command F.O. 289
 66th Fighter Wing F.O. 27 - 9th Bomber Command F.O. 132
 11 Gp. Ramrod 291A & 295
5th November 1943

Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups.
 Field Order 170 on 5.11.43

Heavy Bomber Attack: Münster & Gelsenkirchen.

Date	Parent	Fighter	Group	Mission Order	Airborne	Effective	↑ Claim	↓ Claim	Lost	Major	Support Type
First, Second & Third Task Force: Gelsenkirchen.											
05.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	39 P-47	32 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
05.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	46 Sorties	0-0-2	nil	-	-	Penetration
05.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	50 Sorties	5-3-5	nil	3 P-47	-	Target
05.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	47 P-47	45 Sorties	2-0-1	nil	1 P-47	-	Withdrawal
Fourth Task Force: Gelsenkirchen.											
05.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	50 Sorties	nil	nil	-	1 Cat. B	Penetration
05.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	49 P-47	35 Sorties	1-0-0	nil	-	-	Target
05.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	37 P-47	37 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
Fifth Task Force: Münster.											
05.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	49 P-47	46 Sorties	5-0-3	nil	-	-	Penetration
05.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	61 P-38	47 Sorties	5-2-2	nil	-	-	Withdrawal

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command Results: Claims on 18-5-13 enemy aircraft in the air. Losses on 4 P-47s. Four U.S. pilots missing. Damaged categories: 1 P-47 Cat. B, seriously damaged, in England. VIIIth Fighter Command dispatched 388 effective sorties (341 P-47s and 47 P-38s) on nine missions. Enemy aircraft seen in the air: 201-plus. U.S. bombers seen to go down: six.

Types of Support:	Penetration	Target	Withdrawal	Totals
Number of Groups VIII th	9	4 Missions	3 Missions	9 Missions
P-47s on Mission	174 P-47s	85 P-47s	82 P-47s	341 P-47s
P-38s on Mission	nil	47 P-38s	nil	47 P-38s
Aircraft Lost	nil	3 P-47s	1 P-47	4 P-47s
Aircraft crashed in England, Cat. E or badly damaged :-	nil	nil	nil	nil
Personnel Casualties	nil	3 (MIA)	1 (MIA)	4 (MIA)
Combat Claims (Air)	5-0-5	11-5-7	2-0-1	18-5-11

Enemy aircraft seen*	36-plus	140-plus	25-plus	201-plus
Bombers seen to go down*	1	5	nil	6

* Possible duplications as compiled from individual Group sightings.

GENERAL NARRATIVE:

On 5th November 1943, VIIIth Bomber Command dispatched four Air Task Forces of B-17s to bomb targets at Gelsenkirchen and one Task Force of B-24s to bomb Münster. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Air Task Forces consisted on one combat wing each of B-17s, flying together. The 4th Air Task Force consisted of three combat wings of B-17s, and the 5th Air Task Force consisted of two combat wings of B-24s. Bombing results are not yet known because of cloud and smoke obscuring the targets. This Command furnished fighter support to all air task forces from a point approximately 40 miles in from the enemy coast throughout the rest of the mission. All fighter groups being equipped with auxiliary fuel tanks, we able to overlap our fighter support so as to give maximum protection. As a result of these operations, this Command destroyed 18 enemy fighters for the loss of 4 P-47s. Ten bombers are also missing. An additional 5 enemy aircraft were probably destroyed, and 13 damaged by our fighters. Some Groups reported the bombers to be somewhat off their time at Rendezvous Points, resulting in their escort being not at its maximum. Only one squadron of the 55th Fighter Group, flying P-38 Lightnings, rendezvoused with the B-24s on schedule. This squadron destroyed 5 enemy aircraft throughout their escort. The other two P-38 squadrons orbited at their rendezvous position and finally devoted their efforts to escorting B-17 stragglers out past the enemy coast. Combats ensued at various times and places on the mission between our fighters and the enemy fighters, but heaviest combat was generally reported in the target areas. Enemy fighter aircraft varies in their aggressiveness, some being inclined to stick around and fight, while others dove away upon sighting our fighters. Bomber reports indicate that enemy aircraft generally showed little inclination to attack, due to our fighter support. Of interest was the fact that the 56th Fighter Group destroyed its 100th enemy fighter during this mission, bringing its total score to 101 in just over seven months' operations.

Bomber Reports. Attack on Gelsenkirchen: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Air Task Forces. One hundred and fifty-six B-17s attacked the primary target with poor to good results. Four (4) B-17s were lost from the three task forces. Attack on Gelsenkirchen: 4th Air Task Force. One hundred and seventy B-17s attacked the primary target with poor to unobserved results. Three (3) B-17s are missing from this Task Force. Attack on Münster: 5th Air Task Force. One hundred and twenty-one B-24s attacked the primary target with good results. Three (3) B-24s are missing from this Task Force.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 170 - Fighter Support
First, Second & Third Forces: Gelsenkirchen and Münster.

☛ VIII FC 78th 'B' FG 39 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.48-14.29 F.O. 170 nil n/a nil n/a Alkmaar-Meppel
Penetration Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts led 78th 'B' Fighter Group (82nd and 84th Squadrons) with 39 P-47s (7 aborts). When 10 miles off the Dutch coast at 28,000 feet, the Group was informed over the Fighter-Bomber intercom. that the bombers were five minutes late, so the Group made a left turn up-coast and then saw the bombers coming in at 30,000 feet, so it made a climbing turn to "L" and made rendezvous over the coast at Alkmaar at 12.46 hrs., at 32,000 feet. Escorted the B-17s to Meppel where the Group left the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Task Forces to return to Alkmaar, and pick up the 4th Task Force. Rendezvous was made with the 4th Task Force over Alkmaar at 13.13 hrs., at 32,000 feet. Bombers were fling at 30,000 feet. Group ess'ed in front of the bombers to within 10 miles of Meppel. Out enemy coast over Amsterdam. No bombers seen to be attacked although several left the formation and headed home. Only four enemy aircraft were identified, Me 109s, seen to south of course over the Zuider Zee, when the Group was returning. These were chased by Yellow Flight of 84th Squadron, but could not be contacted as they headed south down coast. About 10 small cargo ships seen west of Harderwijk, headed north and 10 medium cargo ships with escort of smaller ships seen heading north from Edam. Four large black plumes of smoke seen over Meppel in advance of bombers at 30,000 feet, seemingly marker bursts. R/T interference severe and worse of "C" Channel.

☛ VIII FC 356th FG 52 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.52-14.45 F.O. 170 0 - 0 - 2 E/A nil n/a Meppel-Gelsenkirchen
Penetration Support

☐	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Vangos	356 th FG	361 st Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1 FW 190	-	Wessel
☐	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Hyde	356 th FG	361 st Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1 Me 109G	-	15 sm. E. Eindhoven

Lieutenant-Colonel Coen led 356th Fighter Group (359th, 360th and 361st Squadrons) with 52 P-47s (6 aborts). Group made landfall-in at 12.48 hrs., at 25,000 feet, when 6 miles north of IJmuiden. The bombers were four minutes late at the rendezvous at Meppel, which was made at 13.02 hrs. at 30,000 feet. Group turned south with the bombers and remained with them until about two minutes after the Initial Point. The 353rd Fighter Group joined the bombers before the 356th Group left. Left the bombers at 13.28 hrs., and made landfall-out between Westhoofd and Walcheren Island at about 13.52 hours. Heavy Flak over the Ruhr and light and accurate Flak to north of IJmuiden. Captain Hyde "bounced" a Me 109s when 15 miles east of Eindhoven, and claims strikes on the enemy fighter's wing. Lieutenant Vangos "bounced" a FW 190 over Wessel and damaged the wing-root of the enemy aircraft. Intercom. with bombers was excellent.

☛ VIII FC 353rd FG 50 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.00-14.51 F.O. 170 5 - 3 - 5 E/A 3 Lost E/A Alkmaar-Meppel
Target Support

❖	Loss 05.11.43	Capt.	Orville A. Kinkade	353 rd FG	Missing P-47C-5	41-6583: K	POW	351 st Sqn.
❖	Loss 05.11.43	1/Lt.	Benedict E. Kraft	353 rd FG	Missing P-47D-2	42-8428	POW	351 st Sqn.
❖	Loss 05.11.43	1/Lt.	Robert L. Newman	353 rd FG	Missing P-47D-1	42-7907	☐	350 th Sqn.

☐	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Proce	353 rd FG	350 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0 Me 210	-	Geldern
☐	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Stearns	353 rd FG	350 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0 Me 210	-	Geldern
☐	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Hurst	353 rd FG	350 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0 FW 190	-	Geldern
☐	Claim 05.11.43	Maj.	Rimerman	353 rd FG	350 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 2 FW 190	-	Geldern
☐	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Kinkade	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G	-	Gelsenkirchen-Duisburg
☐	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Beckham	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0 Me 410	-	Gelsenkirchen-Duisburg
☐	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Beckham	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0 FW 190	-	Gelsenkirchen-Duisburg
☐	Claim 05.11.43	F/O	Peterson	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0 Me 109G	-	Gelsenkirchen-Duisburg
☐	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Ista	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G	-	Duisburg-Geldern
☐	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Emory	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1 Me 109G	-	Duisburg-Geldern
☐	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Emory	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1 Me 410	-	Duisburg-Geldern

□ Claim 05.11.43 Capt. Robertson 353rd FG 352nd Sqn. 0 - 0 - 1 FW 190 - Duisburg-Geldern

Major Duncan led 353rd Fighter Group (350th, 351st and 352nd Sqns.) with nil aborts. When Group arrived at the Rendezvous Point at 13.16 hrs., some of the bombers, apparently 5 to 7 minutes early, were seen leaving the target to the right. Two rear boxes of bombers were at the Rendezvous Point. Major Duncan, with the 352nd Squadron, made a right turn to take up escort position of the first box while the 350th Squadron and the 351st Squadron escorted the rear boxes. The 351st Squadron stayed with the first box until mid-Channel, while the 350th Squadron left the bombers at Geertruidenberg at 14.00 hrs., and the 351st Squadron leaving the bombers at Schouwen Island at 14.10 hrs., at 28,000 feet. In the target area, 20-plus Me 109s were coming in from the east at 28,000 feet, flying in P-47 type formation with one flight stacked higher than the rest about to attack the bombers. The 352nd Squadron positioned to attack the top flight which immediately took evasive action. Some of these aircraft had belly-tanks. It is interesting to note that the enemy fighters waggled their wings evidently attempting to identify themselves as friendly aircraft. South of the target, three more flights of Me 109s attempted to attack the bombers but were dispersed by the 352nd Squadron, claiming one destroyed and one damaged. The 351st Squadron encountered 50-plus in the target area and many more about 25 miles south-west of the target, and during the following engagements two enemy fighters were destroyed, two probably destroyed, and two damaged. Captain Beckham shares a destroyed Me 410 with an unidentified P-47, because it was firing on the enemy aircraft at the same time. Twenty-five to 30 enemy fighters, flying in flights of three and five aircraft were encountered by the 350th Squadron in the vicinity of Geldern, resulting in two destroyed, one probably destroyed and two damaged. Opinion of the pilots is that enemy fighter reaction today was heavier than seen for some time. Intense Flak and smoke screens seen in the target area. One B-17 was seen to come out of the formation just south of the target. One B-17 observed on fire in the vicinity of Goes, with four chutes seen. Radio whine extremely intense. Three P-47s lost for unknown reasons. Four P-47s landed at Nuthampstead at 14.35 hours.

★ VIII FC 355th FG 47 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.00-14.31 F.O. 170 2 - 0 - 1 E/A 1 Lost E/A Geldern-Schouwen Is.
Withdrawal Support

❖ Loss 05.11.43 1/Lt. Clark A. Collins 355th FG Missing P-47D-5 42-8406 □ 357th Sqn.

□ Claim 05.11.43 Lt. Sluga 355th FG 358th Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 Me 210 - Geldern-Breda
 □ Claim 05.11.43 Lt. Sweat 355th FG 354th Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 FW 190 - Geldern-Breda
 □ Claim 05.11.43 Lt. Kelly 355th FG 357th Sqn. 0 - 0 - 1 Me 109G - Geldern-Breda

Colonel Cummings led 355th Fighter Group (354th, 357th and 358th Squadrons) with 47 P-47s. Two aborts: one P-47 with smoke in cockpit, one P-47 with engine cut-out. Group made landfall-in at 12.58 hrs., at 30,000 feet, at Westhoofd. The rendezvous was made according to plan. Landfall-out at 13.55 hrs. at 30,000 feet over West Schouwen. The 358th Squadron, the leading squadron, assumed top-cover over the bombers, the 354th Squadron on the right and high-cover, and the 357th Squadron on the left as low-cover. Fighter opposition included 10-15 Me 109s, one Me 110, one FW 190. Largest flight of enemy fighters in two "Vics" of three Me 109s with a seventh trailing. The other enemy aircraft were flying singly, or in pairs or threes. The one attack developing on the bombers was by three Me 109 in string, from 27,000 feet, from 8 o'clock, and this was broken up by a flight from the Group. One flight of P-47s "bounced" five to six Me 109s as the pulled up from 18,000 feet after covering a straggling bomber which crashed and burned off West Schouwen Island. No chutes seen from the bomber. In the encounter, one P-47 was hit, crashed and burned (10 miles south of Breda). Lieutenant Collins, 357th Squadron, no chute was seen to open before the P-47 went in. Other encounters occurred when stooging enemy aircraft were "bounced" by flight from Group, resulting in claims in paragraph "H", seen above. Bombers were covered half-way across the Channel. One straggler was escorted to English coast. The FW 190 destroyed had a bulge beneath the fuselage, possibly a belly-tank. Flak intense and accurate to above 30,000 feet in the target area. Hid bombers view until the rendezvous time. Moderate in accurate Flak in West Schouwen area. Barrage-balloons at Noordwal. R/T good. Could not communicate with bombers on "C" Channel.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 170 - Fighter Support
Fourth Task Force: Gelsenkirchen.

★ VIII FC 352nd FG 53 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.17-14.46 F.O. 170 nil n/a nil n/a Bergen-Dorsten
Penetration Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Mason led 352nd Fighter Group (328th, 486th and 487th Squadrons) with 53 P-47s. Three aborts: one P-47 of 328th Squadron with radio, one P-47 of 328th Squadron with engine, and one P-47 of 486th Squadron with belly-tank release fault. Group out English coast at Great Yarmouth at 12.33 hrs. at 11,000 feet. In enemy coast at Bergen-aan-Zee at 13.08 hrs. at 29,000 feet. Rendezvoused with bombers at this point. Left bombers in the vicinity of Dorsten at 13.39 hrs. at 29,000 feet. Landfall-out at enemy coast 2 miles north of The Hague at 14.01 hrs. at 30,000 feet. In English coast at Lowestoft at 14.21 hrs. at 17,000 to 18,000 feet. Group was notified by "WarmSun" that bombers were seven minutes late, but the rendezvous was made at the enemy coast on time, and full escort was given from this point to the vicinity of Dorsten. Bombers were flying at 29,000 feet, and spread out so far that it was necessary for the Group to cruise back and forth to give proper cover. Ten-plus "bandits" were seen north of Amsterdam at 13.08 hrs. as the Group entered to enemy coast. They did not close enough to be identified. Many large fires and heavy smoke seen over the target area as Group turned away. The 4th Fighter Group came in on time and on course, and this Group made a 360° starboard right orbit before leaving the area. No enemy aircraft was seen in this vicinity. Communication with bombers was satisfactory. One bomber seen to leave the formation and return over the penetration track. One P-47 belly-landed one mile to west of Bodney airdrome, cause unknown: damaged Cat. B, pilot safe.

★ VIII FC 4th FG 49 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.15-15.00 F.O. 170 1 - 0 - 0 FW 190 nil n/a Bergen-Dorsten
Target Support

□ Claim 05.11.43 Capt. Smith F.D. 4th FG 335th Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 FW 190 - Monchen Gladbach

Major Evans led 4th Fighter Group (334th, 335th and 336th Squadrons) with 49 P-47s. There were fourteen (14) aborts. Group crossed in enemy coast over Noordwal at 13.12 hrs. at 25,000 to 26,000 feet. Rendezvous was made with the bombers just east of Borcken with three boxes flying at 29,000 to 31,000 feet, which was somewhat higher than expected. P-47 escort relieved by Group when it turned to port and came in behind and above the boxes, 335th Squadron taking the lead box, the 336th the second, and the 334th the third. As bombers made run into target, heavy Flak was encountered and the leader cut inside bombers. On the turn 12 FW 190s, flying four line-abreast, approached head-on to first box, the 335th Squadron diverted then, when Major Evans fired, seeing one enemy fighter go down spinning. No claim is made. The remaining enemy aircraft dived, climbed south of the bombers and turned to come again, so Major Evans re-crossed with part of the Squadron to ward off this attack. As these enemy fighters were re-engaged and diverted, eight more FW 190s came in from the north and started a head-on attack, these getting in before the leader could turn to ward it off. During this engagement, Capt. Smith destroyed a FW 190. The enemy pilots participating in this attack appeared to be aggressive and persistent. No attacks were made against the second and third box of bombers.

The last box escorted by 334th Squadron continued past the briefed target to a point beyond Cologne, where a turn was made to the starboard. The squadron stayed with these bombers until they reached Maastricht which was the limit of their endurance, leaving them and crossing out over the French coast near Calais. Major Evans, with 335th and 336th Squadrons, left the first two boxes at 14.06 hrs., when west of Heusden, crossing out Tholen Island at 14.20 hrs. at 26,000 feet. Relieving group of P-47s seen coming in south of the bomber track. One B-17 seen to go down near Kevelaer: one chute seen. Scattered bursts of heavy Flak over Amsterdam. Very concentrated heavy Flak all over the Ruhr Valley. The enemy fighters were a light mottled-grey in colour.

★ VIII FC 78th 'A' FG 37 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.52-15.20 F.O. 170 nil n/a nil n/a Geldern-Schouwen
Withdrawal Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Stone led 78th 'A' Fighter Group with 37 P-47s (nil aborts). Group made landfall-in enemy coast at Goedereede at 28,000 feet at 13.36 hours. Made rendezvous with first box of bombers at 13.53 hrs., on schedule, slightly south of course. Escorted box to the vicinity of Willenstad, where intercom. told "Graywall" that "Phonebox" 4-1 called that a straggler was being attacked. Returned and made rendezvous with second box of bombers south of s'Hertogenbosch, where eight P-47s were seen already with this box. "Graywall" with flight of eight went down to 18,000 feet to escort the straggler. However, it was not being attacked. One FW 190 was seen out of range at 6 o'clock, and a flight drove it to the "deck" with a head-on attack. Parachute seen at same time 10 miles W.N.W. of Tilburg. Provided escort to 30 miles beyond the Dutch Islands. "WarmSun" reported "Phonebox" 4-3 being attacked. Returned and made rendezvous with third box just east of Goedereede. Four P-38s were escorting the box, which was not being attacked. Escorted box approximately 20 miles off the Dutch coast. A fourth box of bombers, B-24s this time, was seen east of Schouwen Island and Group returned to provide escort. B-24s were not attacked, and the Group left this box when 10 miles west of Schouwen Island. Fighter-to-bomber intercom. was successful. Good contact with three boxes for an hour.

Fighter Group Narratives: Field Order No. 170 - Fighter Support.
Fifth Task Force: Münster.

★ VIII FC 56th FG 49 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.22-14.53 F.O. 170 5 - 0 - 3 FW 190 nil n/a Meppel-Münster
Penetration Support

□	Claim 05.11.43	Maj. Gabreski	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Rheine-Münster
□	Claim 05.11.43	Lt. Barnum	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Rheine-Münster
□	Claim 05.11.43	Colonel Zemke	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Rheine-Münster
□	Claim 05.11.43	Lt. Wilson	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Rheine-Münster
□	Claim 05.11.43	Lt. Hall	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-	Enschede
□	Claim 05.11.43	Capt. Adrianse	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Rheine-Münster
□	Claim 05.11.43	F/O Robey	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Rheine-Münster

Colonel Zemke led 56th Fighter Group with 49 P-47s (3 aborts). Group crossed in over enemy coast in the vicinity of Egmond, from 24,000 to 27,000 feet, at 13.15 hours. Proceeded on course to the Rendezvous Point. Bombers were sighted at 13.20 hrs., approaching from the north. Group swung to port and made rendezvous at 13.25 hrs. in the vicinity of Gorredijkon-Meppel, positioning on the two boxes of bombers which were at 24,000 to 27,000 feet, as follows: 63rd Squadron starboard side of first box, 61st Squadron port side of first box, and 62nd Squadron rear box. Escort uneventful until in vicinity of Rheine when approximately 30 FW 190s approached bombers from the north-east, flying at 27,000 feet. The enemy fighters did not attack immediately but seeing escort turned and flew parallel to the bombers apparently awaiting the escort to leave. This manoeuvre enabled flights of 61st and 63rd Squadrons to launch attacks on the enemy aircraft from astern. Combats occurred from Rheine to target (Münster) area ranging from 27,000 down to 22,000 feet. Enemy aircraft were equipped with rockets. At 13.45 hrs., P-38s observed taking up escort. Group broke off escort at 13.50 hrs., in the Münster area. No bombers reported in distress or being attacked. Just after the 63rd Squadron led bombers, Red 3 attacked and destroyed a lone Me 210 which was approaching bombers from the north-west at 15,000 feet, in the Enschede area. At about the same time, approximately 15 Me 109s were engaged by Blue Flight of 63rd Squadron near Metelen, at 25,000 feet. These Me 109s were orbiting preparatory to launching an attack between first and second boxes of bombers. No claims are submitted, but the Me 109s were dispersed. Group left enemy coast by flights and elements at points to north and south of The Hague, at altitudes ranging from 20,000 up to 26,000 feet. One large motor-vessel reported off Ijmuiden. Considerable medium-sized shipping in the Zuider Zee. A dock and warehouse observed blazing at Amsterdam. R/T reception good to east of coast. In the Zuider Zee sector a persistent whining was heard on the R/T.

★ VIII FC 55th FG 61 P-38 Lightning 12.21-15.41 F.O. 170 5 - 2 - 2 E/A nil n/a Münster-Schouwen Is.
Target & Withdrawal

□	Claim 05.11.43	Maj. Joel	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Zwolle-Arnhem
□	Claim 05.11.43	Capt. Myers	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Zwolle-Arnhem
□	Claim 05.11.43	Capt. Shipman	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Zwolle-Arnhem
□	Claim 05.11.43	Capt. Shipman	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	½ - ½ - 0	Me 109G	Shared	Zwolle-Arnhem
□	Claim 05.11.43	Lt. Desvoignes	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	½ - ½ - 0	Me 109G	Shared	Zwolle-Arnhem
□	Claim 05.11.43	Lt. Leinweber	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Zwolle-Arnhem
□	Claim 05.11.43	Capt. Ayers	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Do 217	-	Zwolle-Arnhem
□	Claim 05.11.43	Lt. Steiner	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Do 217	-	Zwolle-Arnhem
□	Claim 05.11.43	Lt. Forsblab	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-	Zwolle-Arnhem

Lieutenant-Colonel James led 55th Fighter Group, consisting of 17 P-38s with 38th, 18 with 338th, and 17 P-38s with the 343rd Squadron. Fourteen (14) aborts. Group made course as planned to the Rendezvous Point by the 338th and 343rd Squadrons. Search was made for the bombers north and east of the Rendezvous Point for 20 minutes, then south over the target area (Münster), at no time sighting the bombers. Out along course to Westhoofd, orbited over Schouwen Island, then Walcheren and Rotterdam, picking up B-17 stragglers and escorting them out over the Channel. Orbited again and saw B-24s making landfall-out over Noordwal. After crossing Dutch coast, bombers were sighted by the 38th Squadron 10 miles north-east. At 13.16 hrs., on receiving the message from "WarmSun" Control that bombers were late, the 38th Squadron leader relayed the message and orbited to meet the bombers. Rendezvous was made at 13.46 hrs., at 25,000 feet, in the vicinity of Zwolle, with flights No. 1 and 2 covering forward part of formation, and Flights Nos. 3 and 4 covering the rear of the formations. Three Me 109s in bomber formation at the rendezvous were driven off by the P-38s. Twelve-plus enemy fighters attacking the rear box at the same point, turned into and were headed-off. After leaving the target, 15 Me 109s and five Dornier Do 217s (twin-engined fighters) were observed above the bombers and attacked. Captain Ayers scored hits on one which was seen to dive with left engine on fire. In the vicinity of Arnhem, three Me 109s attacked the bombers from the side. These enemy fighters were attacked, Major Joel claiming one Me 109s destroyed. P-38 Flight protecting a B-17 straggler at 14,000 feet attacked three Me 109s approaching from 3 o'clock, with Captain Myers opening fire in

vertical position directly above from 300 yards, and the enemy fighters was seen to disintegrate. In the area of Winterswijk, three squadrons of Me 109s observed in string, with flights in line-abreast, were sighted approaching the bombers from 6 o'clock. One flight of P-38s attacked, and Captain Shipman observed hits and smoke from one. Two others were attacked by Capt. Shipman and Lt. Leinweber and Lt. Desvoignes, one exploded and the other was observed falling off in flames. In the vicinity of Rotterdam, element led by Lt. Leinweber saw a straggling B-17 at 12,000 feet, being attacked by five enemy fighters from 6 o'clock. P-38s attacked and engine of one enemy aircraft was seen to explode. FW 190s and Do 217s, observed in the target area, were observed to be carrying rocket-guns, attacks by enemy fighters were constant from rendezvous to landfall-out, but not aggressive against U.S. fighters. Two B-24s observed to go down south of Arhaus area: one parachute seen. One B-24 was shot down by enemy fighters, the other by a cause unknown. Bomb results: bursts in marshalling-yards and to the south-west of the target (Münster). Flak very heavy over the target, accurate for altitude. No tracers. R/T good.

Hq. VIII FC Reg. File 17238

Intelligence Summary No. 70

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command F.O. 173
IXth Bomber Command F.O. 133
11 Gp. Ramrods 297 & 298
7th November 1943

Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups.
Field Order 173 on 7.11.43

IXth Bomber Command Attack on Meulan-les-Mureaux.

Date	Parent	Fighter	Group	Mission Order	Airborne	Effective	↑ Claim	↓ Claim	Lost	Major	Support Type
07.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	58 P-38	54 Sorties	nil	nil	2 P-38	-	Close Escort
07.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	49 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Escort Cover

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command Results: Claims: nil. Losses on 2 P-38s. Two U.S. pilots missing. Damaged categories: nil. R.A.F. Fighter Support Results: Claims: nil. Losses on 1 Spitfire and pilot missing. Damaged categories: one Typhoon Ib damaged Cat. unknown.

GENERAL NARRATIVE:

On 7th November 1943, the IXth Bomber Command dispatched three forces of approximately 72 B-26s each against airfields targets in north-western France. Two of these forces against an airfield in the Amiens area were supported by Spitfires: one force against an airfield in the Paris area (Meulan-les-Mureaux) was supported by four squadrons of P-38s and three squadrons of P-47s of this Command. These three attacks were scheduled to take place between 09.30 and 10.15 hours. In addition to these forces, Bostons and Bomphoons of the R.A.F., escorted by Spitfires and Typhoons respectively, made attacks against airfields in north-western France (Bernay and Tricqueville) during the period 08.30 to 11.00 hrs; and VIIIth Bomber Command dispatched two Task Forces against two targets in Western Germany (Wesel and Düren) to attack at approximately 11.15 hours. Field Order 173 provided support to the Paris effort of IXth Bomber Command as follows: the 55th Fighter Group, plus one squadron of the 20th Fighter Group, all P-38s, provided Close Escort at bomber level, and the 4th Fighter Group provided Escort Cover 4,000 to 5,000 feet above the bombers, which were at 12,000 feet. Support was provided over the entire route over enemy territory. Radar indicated moderately heavy enemy reaction to the raids over France. The enemy appeared to be unable or unwilling to intercept, as both fighter groups reported few engagements and these with relatively small numbers of enemy aircraft. All the bombers in the Paris effort were safely brought back, and our casualties included 2 P-38s and pilots, both of the 20th Fighter Group.

Bomber Report: Attack on a Target in Northern France by B-26s. At 09.30 hrs., 68 B-26s took-off to attack an aircraft assembly plant (Meulan-les-Mureaux) in Northern France. Owing to unfavourable weather conditions over the target area, the operation was abandoned. An enemy aircraft was destroyed by fire from the B-26s.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 173 - Fighter Support
B-26 Attack on Meulan-les-Mureaux (abortive).

★	VIII FC	55 th FG	58 P-38 Lightning	09.11-11.37	F.O. 173	nil	n/a	2 Lost	Mech.	Dieppe-St. Valéry
			Penetration/Target Support							
❖	Loss	07.11.43	Capt. Herbert W. Cumming		20 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67039	□	Hq. Group
❖	Loss	07.11.43	Maj. John C. Wilkins		20 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67022	□	Hq. Group

Lieutenant-Colonel Jenkins led 55th Fighter Group with 58 P-38s (17 P-38s of 38th, 17 P-38s of 338th, 6 P-38s of 343rd Squadrons, and 8 P-38s of the 20th Fighter Group). Four P-38s aborted the mission: one with electrical failure, and three with belly-tank problems. Mission was as planned. Rendezvous was made at mid-Channel at 09.36 hrs. at 15,000 feet. Landfall-in north of St. Valéry at 09.40 hrs. at 13,000 feet, the target at 09.57 hrs., and landfall-out at 10.29 hrs., at 12,000 feet, when south of Dieppe. Bombers were left at 10.40 hrs. at mid-Channel. Escort: the 38th Squadron took top-cover about 3,000 feet above the bombers; the 338th Squadron provided cover on the port side; and the 343rd Squadron took starboard side at same level as the bombers. Squadrons split into two sections of eight, one covering the front box, and the other covering the second box. Sections were weaving in 4-ship flights, crossing over each other from bombers to approximately one mile to the side, 8 P-38s on underside of bombers to prevent attacks. Bomber's speed was approximately 190-200 m.p.h., with that of the P-38s at 250-260 m.p.h. Indicated (I.A.S.). Bombers flew javelin-down in 3-ship formation which was good. Few stragglers from box observed. Engagements: 8-plus Me 109s seen approaching bombers from out of the sun from above at 12 o'clock position. Pass was made by leader of 38th Squadron, and the enemy fighters broke downwards. Fifty-plus "rats" in three groups followed the bombers from about the target area to coast where turn south was made. Six Me 109s attacked first box singly making contact, not aggressive. Flak: moderate, accurate for altitude at landfall-in and between Dieppe and Rouen. Bombing results: not observed. R/T good. No bombers seen to go down. Camouflage of enemy fighters: yellow nose and the lower half of tail, some pale blue. Enemy aircraft observed to emit heavy black smoke when rolling and diving. Two P-38s of 20th Group missing: one down in Channel, the other unknown.

★	VIII FC	4 th FG	52 P-47 Thunderbolt	08.54-11.40	F.O. 173	nil	n/a	nil	n/a	Dieppe-Conches
			Escort Cover							

Lieutenant-Colonel Blakeslee led 4th Fighter Group with 52 P-47s (17 P-47s with 334th, 17 P-47s with 335th, and 18 P-47s with 336th Squadrons). Three P-47s aborted the mission. Group rendezvous with the bombers and escort at 09.35 hrs, at approximately mid-Channel with squadrons stacked from 16,000 up to 20,000 feet. Crossed in enemy coast at Point d'Ailly at 09.42 hrs., with 334th Squadron low and leading squadron, at 16,500 feet, ess'ing above and ahead of the first box. South-east of Rouen, three Me 109s came in at bomber level and head-on to first box. Upper led 334th Squadron slightly to port, jettisoned tanks and started to "bounce", but the enemy fighters slipped in,

going through the P-38 escort, attacked and broke down. Three minutes later three Me 109s seen attacking the bombers from underneath, and these were engaged by P-38s. Over target 09.58 hrs., but 4/10th cloud prevented us from observing results. As Group was coming out, upper turned back with 334th Squadron to investigate persistent "Warmsun" reports of 12-plus "bandits" following formation out. Climbed to 20,000 feet into sun, but no "bandits" seen. Bombers, with 335th and 336th Squadrons, crossed out enemy coast at 10.26 hrs. in vicinity of Dieppe, and 334th Squadron came out at 10.32 hrs. at 18,000 feet, at same place. Bombers covered to Thames River by 335th and 336th Squadrons. Light Flak encountered along route from Les Thilliers to Bellencombre, and ten bursts of heavy Flak at 500 feet below, and 1,000 feet below last squadron from Rouen. P-38s seen orbiting mid-Channel on the way out.

Attack against Bernay Airfield. At 09.10 hrs., 36 Spitfires V (L.R.) of 310, 312 and 313 Squadrons (Close Escort): 23 Spitfires XII of 41 and 91 Squadrons (Escort Cover): and 27 Spitfires VII and IX of 131, 165 and 616 Squadron (High Cover) were detailed to make rendezvous south of Beachy Head with 24 Bostons of 88 and 342 Squadrons. The close escort squadrons did not see the Bostons, but afterwards sighted a formation of B-26s, to which they gave escort. Three Me 109s were seen at 15,000 feet over France. The other Spitfires made rendezvous with the Bostons according to plan and flew with them to the target area, where the bombers dropped 93 x 500 lb. bombs from 10,000 to 10,500 feet. Bursts were seen in the north-west and south-east dispersals and on adjoining hangars and Station Headquarters. The escort cover squadrons sighted three enemy aircraft in the distance while over the target area. The enemy aircraft were chased, but were too far away to be engaged.

Attack against an Airfield in Northern France. At 09.10 hrs., 47 Spitfires V of 306, 308, 401 and 402 Squadrons (Close Escort): 23 Spitfires IX of 132 and 602 Squadrons (Escort Cover): and 39 Spitfires IX and IX (66) of 129, 222 and 485 Squadron (High Cover), and 28 Spitfires VII and IX of 124, 331 and 332 Squadrons (Top Cover) were detailed to make rendezvous south of Dungeness with 69 B-26s. The formation flew to the target area where very bad weather conditions were encountered, which prevented any attack being carried out. First Fighter Sweep: at 08.55 hrs., 24 Spitfires IX of 403 and 421 Squadrons took-off from Kenley and swept over Berck, Forges, Abbéville and Rouen uneventfully.

Attack against an Airfield in Northern France. At 09.50 hrs., 36 Spitfires V (L.R.) of 350, 402 and 416 Squadrons (Close Escort): 24 Spitfires IX of 317 and 411 Squadrons (Escort Cover): and 24 Spitfires IX of 302 and 303 Squadrons (High Cover), and 35 Spitfires IX of 19, 65 and 122 Squadrons (High Cover) were detailed to make rendezvous south of Dungeness with 71 B-26s. The formation flew to the target area where very bad weather conditions were encountered, which prevented any attack being carried out, and the attack was abandoned. A Spitfire IX and pilot of No. 19 Squadron are missing, causes not yet established.

Attack on Tricqueville Airfield. At 09.21 hrs. 8 Typhoons of 245 Squadron, escorted by 8 Typhoons of 175 Squadron left and carried out an attack against the airfield at Tricqueville. 16 x 500 lb. bombs were dropped and hits were seen in the west dispersal area and on the south end of the airfield.

Attack on Beaumont-le-Roger Airfield. At 09.25 hrs. 8 Typhoons of 181 Squadron, escorted by 16 Typhoons of 247 Squadron left and carried out an attack against the airfield at Beaumont-le-Roger. 16 x 500 lb. bombs were dropped on the target and heavy concentrated bursts were observed in the west dispersal area. There was no Flak, and no enemy aircraft was seen. First Fighter Sweep: at 09.25 hrs., 20 Typhoons of 197 and 486 Squadrons took-off from Tangmere and swept the Bernay-Beaumont-Évreux area at 10,000 to 14,000 ft. Enemy aircraft were seen on Beaumont airfield and one of the pilots dived to attack, but his cut out before the attack could be carried out. According to Radar, there was a reaction of 54 enemy aircraft from the Rouen and Évreux area and a further 20 E/A very late from Lille. Some of these aircraft operated against the B-26s attacking a target in Northern France.

Hq. VIII FC Reg. File 17342

Intelligence Summary No. 70

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command F.O. 172
VIIIth Bomber Command F.O. 293
66th Fighter Wing F.O. 29
7th November 1943

Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups
Field Order 172 on 7.11.43.

VIIIth Bomber Command Attacks on Wesel and Düren.

Date	Parent	Fighter	Group	Mission Order	Airborne	Effective	↑ Claim	↓ Claim	Lost	Major	Support Type
First Task Force: Wesel.											
07.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	54 P-47	51 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
07.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	47 Sorties	nil	nil	1 P-47	-	Target
07.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	39 P-47	34 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
Second Task Force: Düren.											
07.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	47 P-47	40 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
07.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	46 P-47	40 Sorties	1-0-0	nil	5 P-47	1 Cat. B	Penetration
07.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	39 P-47	32 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Target
07.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	41 P-47	35 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command Results: Claims on 1-0-0 enemy aircraft in the air. Losses on 6 P-47s. Six U.S. pilots missing. Damaged categories: 1 P-47 destroyed Cat. E, or seriously damaged, in England. VIIIth Fighter Command dispatched 314 effective sorties (314 P-47s) on seven missions.

GENERAL NARRATIVE:

On 7th November 1943, VIIIth Bomber Command dispatched forces as follows: First Air Task Force, consisting of one combat wing of approximately 60 B-17s against Wesel. Second Air Task Force, consisting of one combat wing of approximately 60 B-17s, against Düren. These two forces were to join in the vicinity of Eindhoven for mutual support on the withdrawal. Both forces were to be on target in the period 11.00-11.15 hours. In the three hours preceding, the R.A.F. dispatched four Bomphoons forces escorted by Typhoons and one force of 24 A-20s escorted by Spitfires against airfields in North-western France; and IXth Bomber Command also dispatched three forces of approximately 72 B-26s each against airfields in the Paris and Amiens areas. Two of the B-26 forces were supported by R.A.F. Spitfires, and the effort against the Paris area had P-38 and P-47 support. Field Order 172 scheduled support to the two Air Task Forces of VIIIth Bomber

Command as follows: First Air Task Force: 352nd Fighter Group from the enemy coast to the vicinity of Zutphen; the 56th Fighter Group from the vicinity of Apeldoorn to the vicinity of Eindhoven; the 78th 'B' Fighter Group from the vicinity of Eindhoven to the English Channel. The Second Air Task Force: 356th Fighter Group from the enemy coast to vicinity of Mons; the 355th Fighter Group from the vicinity of Mons to the vicinity of Marche-en-Famenne; the 353rd Fighter group from the vicinity of Gedinne to the vicinity of Eindhoven; the 78th 'A' Fighter Group from the vicinity of Roermond to the English Channel. Support was carried out essentially as planned with most groups remaining with the bombers longer than ordered, and the bombers were covered during their entire stay over enemy territory with the exception of a space of about 20 miles on the target run of the Second Task Force due to the late rendezvous by the 353rd Fighter Group. According to information, enemy reaction was light, probably due to overcast on the Continent, and most groups report seeing no enemy aircraft. All the bombers were successfully brought back; our losses were seven P-47s and six pilots.

Bomber Reports: Attack on Wesel: First Air Task Force. Fifty-four B-17s attacked the primary target with 127.0 tons of bombs. Results were unobserved. No bombers were lost. Attack on Düren: Second Air Task Force. Thirty-seven B-17s attacked the primary target and 20 the secondary target. One group reported good bombing results, two groups fair. All the bombers returned safely.

Fighter Group Narratives: Field Order No. 172 -Fighter Support
First Task Force: Wesel.

★ VIII FC 352nd FG 54 P-47 Thunderbolt 09.54-12.26 F.O. 172 nil n/a nil n/a Bergen-Dinxperloo
Penetration Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Mason led 352nd Fighter Group with 54 P-47s (20 P-47s with 328th, 16 P-47s with 486th, and 18 P-47s with 487th Squadrons). Three P-47s aborted the mission: two P-47s of 328th Squadron with radio and fuel tank; one P-47 of 486th Squadron with radio fault. Group out English coast at 10.17 hrs. over Great Yarmouth at 11,000 feet. In enemy coast at 10.47 hrs., in vicinity of Bergen-aan-Zee at 28,000 feet. Rendezvoused with bombers at enemy coast at 10.53 hrs. after R/T contact made. Left bombers vicinity of Dinxperloo at 11.09 hrs. at 28,000 feet. Swept area from this point to Walcheren Island at 11.55 hrs., at 19,000 feet. In English coast 10 miles south of Orfordness at 10,000 feet. Solid overcast at the Dutch coast continued over entire course until break was reached at Walcheren Island. Ten "bogies" spotted just north of Amsterdam but flight dispatched to intercept could not get close enough for positive identification. No other enemy aircraft seen. Bomber formation was excellent throughout the mission with no stragglers. No attacks were made. R/T contact with bombers was satisfactory. Left bombers after the arrival of 56th Fighter Group, and swept the area to Walcheren Island uneventfully.

★ VIII FC 56th FG 48 P-47 Thunderbolt 09.55-12.25 F.O. 172 nil n/a 1 Lost Mech. Ijmuiden-Turnhout
Target Support

❖ Loss 07.11.43 F/O Robert E. Sheehan 56th FG Missing P-47D-2 42-7975 Evaded 63rd Sqn.

Lieutenant-Colonel Schilling led 56th Fighter Group with 48 P-47s (1 abort). On penetration and withdrawal support on F.O. 172. Group crossed in enemy coast at Ijmuiden at 27,000 feet, at 10.47 hours. Proceeded on course to the rendezvous at 11.14 hrs. at 30,000 feet over Doetingchem coming in behind the bombers at 11.16 hours. Accompanied B-17s over the target and on course at 30,000 to 31,000 feet. Bombing results not observed. Left bombers over Turnhout, when they were met by 2nd Task Force and withdrawal support was making the rendezvous. No enemy aircraft seen. Landfall-out south of Walcheren Island at 11.46 hours. Radio jamming intense like scratching of phonograph needle.

★ VIII FC 78th 'B' FG 39 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.26-13.02 F.O. 172 nil n/a nil n/a Schouwen-Venlo
Withdrawal Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Stone led 78th 'B' Fighter Group with 5 aborts (3 with radio failure, 2 with illness). Group crossed the enemy coast at 11.10 hrs., one minute late, at Schouwen Island at 26,000 feet. Rendezvoused with bombers at 11.28 hrs., four minutes late, in the vicinity of Venlo, slightly south and east of scheduled point, after two task forces had already combined. Appeared to be an engagement behind the rear box, and rocket flashes reported, and investigated but no enemy aircraft identified. No attacks on bombers seen. Intercom. with "Yardstick" unreliable, but satisfactory with "Phonebox." Re-crossed enemy coast over Walcheren Island at 12.02 hours.

Fighter Group Narratives: Field Order No. 172 - Target Support
Second Task Force: Düren.

★ VIII FC 356th FG 47 P-47 Thunderbolt 09.19-11.54 F.O. 172 nil n/a nil n/a Ostend-Givet
Penetration Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Rau led 356th Fighter Group with 47 P-47s (16 P-47s with 359th, 16 P-47s with 360th, and 15 P-47s with 361st Squadrons). Seven P-47s aborted the mission: one P-47 with oxygen failure, one belly-tank trouble, one turbo failure, two as escort and two to accompany a B-17 in distress returning early. Group made landfall-in 10 miles south of Ostend at 10.16 hrs., at 27,000 feet. Rendezvous with bombers was made at this point and the Group continued on course with the bombers to approximately 13 miles south-east of Givet. The 356th Group remained with the bombers 11 minutes longer than originally planned because no other group came to relieve them. As the bombers turned north, the 356th Group left them to return to its base. The Group, on leaving the bombers, was over 10/10th overcast and on basis of a report 100 m.p.h. wind from the north on a course of 330° was taken expecting to make the vicinity of Lille. However, winds were not as strong as reported and landfall-out was made over Knokke at 11.14 hours. No Flak experienced or enemy aircraft seen. Radio interference due to jamming worse than usual.

★ VIII FC 355th FG 46 P-47 Thunderbolt 09.27-12.35 F.O. 172 1 - 0 - 0 Me 210 5 Lost UK Mons-Verviers
Penetration Support

❖ Loss 07.11.43 1/Lt. Edwin O. Carlson 355th FG Missing P-47D-2 42-7984 □ 357th Sqn.
❖ Loss 07.11.43 1/Lt. James E. Westphall 355th FG Missing P-47D-2 42-8370 POW 357th Sqn.
❖ Loss 07.11.43 Capt. Walter H. Kossack 355th FG Missing P-47D-2 42-8477 POW 358th Sqn.
❖ Loss 07.11.43 2/Lt. William E. Roach 355th FG Missing P-47D-2 42-22490 POW 358th Sqn.
❖ Loss 07.11.43 F/O Chester W. Watson 355th FG Missing P-47D-5 42-8629 □ 358th Sqn.

☐ Claim 07.11.43 Capt. Olsen 355th FG 357th Sq. 1 - 0 - 0 Me 210 - Düren area

Colonel Cummings led 355th Fighter Group with 46 P-47s (17 P-47s with 354th, 16 P-47s with 357th, and 13 P-47s with 358th Squadron). Two P-47s aborted the mission: one with engine trouble, and one with break in belly-tank line. Group made landfall on course and on time. Rendezvous Point made on time, but bombers not seen. Group continued along course, made a left orbit. Came back along bomber track, and made rendezvous at 10.40 hrs., when approximately 15 miles south-east of Mons. Bombers were unescorted and unmolested when we picked them up. Group continued escort until 11.15 hrs. when bombers were south-east of Liège along track to target. No Flak or enemy aircraft seen until on the route out, when one Me 210 was "bounced" by two flights of 357th Squadron, resulting in the above claim. Lieutenants Carlson and Westphal not seen after this attack. Captain Kossack and Lt. Roach thought to have landed in England. Landfall-out Dunkirk area, 30,000 feet. R/T good on "A" Channel, "B" Channel is fair, both "C" and "D" Channels are poor. One P-47 down at home base, remainder landed short of gas at Hedcorn, Hawkinge, Redhill, West Malling, Ford, Detling and Biggin Hill, from 12.35 hrs. Five P-47s and pilots lost, reasons not known. One P-47 damaged Cat. B in belly-landing.

★ VIII FC 353rd FG 39 P-47 Thunderbolt 09.30-12.22 F.O. 172 nil n/a nil n/a Marche-Maeseyek
Target Support

Lieutenant-Colonel McCollom led 353rd Fighter Group with 39 P-47s (16 P-47s with 350th, 7 P-47s with 351st, and 16 P-47s with 352nd Squadrons). Seven P-47s aborted the mission. Group made landfall-in west of Zeebrugge at 10.12 hrs., at 24,500 feet, due to complete overcast ground references are conjectural but believe planned course was followed to the Rendezvous Point. No bombers seen until possibly Eupen, when bombers were sighted to the north. Rendezvous was made in the vicinity of Maeseyek at 11.19 hrs. at 30,000 feet. Escorting them to the south of Gilze Rijen, leaving them at 11.30 hours. Out enemy coast over Schouwen Island at 11.42 hrs. at 25,000 feet. First box of bombers approximately 40 in good formation. First Task Force seen coming in from the north-east in the vicinity of Asten, in good formation. No stragglers. No enemy aircraft seen. Bursts of Flak at Ghent going in, Dutch Islands coming out, accurate for height, inaccurate for direction. Moderate Flak from neighbourhood of target area, possibly Aachen. Smoke screen believed around target area. Radio whine intense. One P-47 landed Wattisham, 1 down at Boxted, 5 down Felixstowe (Martlesham).

★ VIII FC 78th 'A' FG 41 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.32-13.02 F.O. 172 nil n/a nil n/a Domburg-Venlo
Withdrawal Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts led 78th 'A' Fighter Group with 41 P-47s. Seven P-47s aborted the mission: one P-47 with engine trouble, one P-47 with runaway propeller, one P-47 with belly-tank failing to release, three P-47s as escort. Group crossed enemy coast at 11.09 hrs., two minutes late, at Domburg at 26,000 feet. Rendezvoused with bombers in the vicinity of Venlo. Two task forces were already combined. No enemy aircraft identified, no bombers attacked or in trouble. Re-crossed the enemy coast in the vicinity of Walcheren Island at 11.59 hrs. One flight escorted two low flying bombers across the Channel.

Intelligence Summary No. 70 U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command F.O. 172
66th Fighter Wing F.O. 30
7th November 1943

Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups Fighter Sweep: Ostend - Lens - Calais
Field Order 30 on 7.11.43.

Date	Parent	Fighter	Group	Mission Order	Airborne	Effective	↑ Claim	↓ Claim	Lost	Major	Support Type
07.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	50 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Fighter Sweep

GENERAL NARRATIVE: On 7th November 1943, forty-two P-38s of the 55th Fighter Group and eight P-38s of the 20th Fighter Group completed an uneventful sweep of area Ostend-Lille-Lens-Calais areas, making landfall at 16.15 hrs. and leaving enemy territory at 16.36 hours.

★ VIII FC 55th FG 50 P-38 Lightning 16.48-17.21 F.O. 30 nil n/a nil n/a Ostend-Lens-Calais
Fighter Sweep

Major Joel led the 55th Fighter Group with 50 P-38s (18 P-38s with 38th, 16 P-38s with 343rd, 8 P-38s with 338th Squadrons, and 8 P-38s with 20th Fighter Group). Nil aborts. The course was flown exactly as planned. Landfall-in Ostend at 16.15 hrs. at 27,000 feet, at Lille at 16.21 hrs. at 27,000 feet, to Lens at 16.24 hrs. at 27,000 feet, and to Calais by 16.34 hrs. at 27,000 feet. Twenty Me 109s were sighted south-east of St. Omer at 14,000 feet at 6 o'clock on the route outbound. They did not rise to the attack. Four "bogies" seen east of Calais at 12,000 feet, which were never identified. Two bursts of Flak between Ostend and Lille, was low. Two columns of white smoke seen one mile apart at Lille. R/T good.

Hq. VIII FC Reg. File 17342

Intelligence Summary No. 72 U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command F.O. 177
VIIIth Bomber Command F.O. 298
66th Fighter Wing F.O. 33 - 11 Gp. Ramrod 312
11th November 1943

Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups Heavy Bomber Attack: Münster & Wesel (aborted).
Field Order 177 on 11.11.43.

Date	Parent	Fighter	Group	Mission Order	Airborne	Effective	↑ Claim	↓ Claim	Lost	Major	Support Type
First Task Force (3 rd Division): Münster.											
11.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	48 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
11.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	45 Sorties	3-0-0	nil	-	-	Penetration
11.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	63 P-38	59 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Target
11.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	46 Sorties	nil	nil	1 P-47	-	Withdrawal
11.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	42 Sorties	5-1-2	nil	2 P-47	-	Withdrawal

Second Task Force (2nd Division): Wesel (aborted).

11.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	36 P-47	32 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
11.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	44 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
11.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	47 Sorties	0-0-1	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
11.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	38 P-47	38 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command Results: Claims on 8-1-3 enemy aircraft in the air. Losses on 3 P-47s. Three U.S. pilots missing. Damaged categories: nil. VIIIth Fighter Command dispatched 440 effective sorties (341 P-47s and 59 P-38s) on nine missions. Enemy aircraft seen: 117-plus. U.S. bombers seen to go down: three.

Types of Support :	Penetration	Target	Withdrawal	Totals
Number of Groups VIII th	9	4 Missions	1 Mission	4 Missions
P-47s on Mission	169 P-47s	nil	173 P-47s	342 P-47s
P-38s on Mission	nil	59 P-38s	nil	59 P-38s
Aircraft Lost :	nil	nil	3 P-47s	3 P-47s
Aircraft crashed in England, Cat. E or badly damaged :-	nil	nil	nil	nil
Personnel Casualties	nil	nil	3 (MIA)	3 (MIA)
Combat Claims (Air)	3-0-0	nil	5-1-3	8-1-3
Enemy aircraft seen*	62-plus	nil	55-plus	117-plus
Bombers seen to go down*	2 B-17s	nil	1 B-17	3 B-17s

*Possible duplications as compiled from individual Group sightings.

GENERAL NARRATIVE:

On 11th November 1943, VIIIth Bomber Command dispatched the First and Third Bomb Divisions against targets in Western Germany. The First Division, consisting of three combat wings, upon reaching the enemy coast, at first attempted to locate a break in the cloud and finally aborted due to weather and equipment malfunctions. The 355th and the 78th 'A' Fighter Groups, which were to provide Penetration Support to this division, successfully rendezvoused off the Dutch coast and remained with the bombers during their search for an entry point, and on the return to the English coast. The 4th Fighter Group, which was to pick up the First Division on its target run, only saw one box of bombers turn back and the Group proceeded to the rendezvous. After orbiting the Rendezvous Point and proceeding to target area, the Group finally returned to home base. The 78th 'B' Fighter Group penetrated beyond the Rendezvous Point before turning back and reported seeing another group of P-47s, probably the 4th Group, flying out.

The Third Division, whose target was Münster, was partially abortive due to equipment malfunction. Two of the three combat wings bombed the vicinity of the target. The 352nd and 353rd Fighter Groups, which were detailed to support the Penetration of the Third Division report the bombers were 8 to 10 minutes late, but a successful rendezvous was made on the Dutch coast. The 352nd Fighter Group escorted the bombers as far as Enschede. The 353rd Fighter Group escorted the bombers to the target and as far as the vicinity of Elst-Nijmegen on the withdrawal. In this area heavy attacks on the bombers commenced and combats ensued, resulting in the destruction of three enemy aircraft for no loss. The 353rd Fighter group called for assistance due to the number of the attacking force, and more P-47s, probably of the 56th Fighter Group, were seen to join in the fight. The 55th Fighter Group, detailed as Target Support to the Third Division, rendezvoused with the lead combat wing, and established radio contact with the bombers. Group then took up escort of the bombers who orbited in the Channel before the lead combat wing aborted, and returned to England supported by the 55th Group. The 56th Fighter Group successfully rendezvoused with the remaining two combat wings of bombers at Münster as planned. In the combats which followed, 5 of the enemy were destroyed for the loss of 2 P-47s and their pilots. Two squadrons of this Group left the bombers near Nijmegen and the third continued to 15 miles east of Dordrecht. The 356th Fighter Group, which also was to rendezvous at the target, arrived on time and orbited for some time before locating the bombers. As one group was already over the bombers, the 356th Fighter Group swung in below, and though combats were observed to starboard, this Group did not engage.

Due to the extreme cloud conditions over the Continent and the fact that the bombers were slightly off schedule, considerable difficulty was experienced in making rendezvous and in maintaining position relative to the bombing force. Judging by the reports of the groups, it would seem that the bombers had some cover at all points on their route, although the bombers did not appear to be aware of this and even the fighter groups were not always sure that another group was in the immediate vicinity. In one case, the bombers and their escort were separated by a layer of cirrus cloud. Radar indicated a reaction by 18 enemy aircraft from the Zuider Zee and Lille areas.

Bomber Reports. Attack on Münster by 3rd Bomb. Division. Fifty-eight B-17s attacked the primary target with unobserved results. 124.0 tons of bombs were dropped. Four (4) B-17s failed to return.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 177 - Fighter Support
First Task Force (3rd Bomb. Division): Münster.

✪ VIII FC	352 nd FG	53 P-47 Thunderbolt	12.42-15.06	F.O. 177	nil	n/a	nil	n/a	Egmond-Enschede
Penetration (Front Elements)									

Lieutenant-Colonel Clark led 352nd Fighter Group with 53 P-47s (17 P-47s of 328th, 19 P-47s of 486th, and 17 P-47s of 487th Squadrons). Five P-47s aborted the mission: one P-47 of 328th Sqn. with useless belly-tank, four P-47s of 486th Squadron used for escorting aborting bomber home. Group out English coast at Great Yarmouth at 13.02 hrs. at 9,000 feet. In enemy coast at Egmond at 13.31 hrs. at 28,000 feet. Out enemy coast at Noordwijerhout at 14.26 hrs. at 28,000 feet. In English coast at Lowestoft at 14.58 hrs. at 10,000 feet. Bombers were 8 minutes late and two orbits were made before contact was established. Bomber formation was good but weather made escorting difficult. Bombers were escorted to Enschede and the Group left them at 14.00 hours. No P-38s were seen, but a P-47 group was positively identified ahead waiting for the bombers. Two groups of P-47s were seen coming in on the return track and no enemy aircraft seen during the entire mission. One B-17 was escorted back to the English coast from the vicinity of Deventer.

★ VIII FC 353rd FG 48 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.36-15.43 F.O. 177 3 - 0 - 0 E/A nil n/a Egmond-Enschede
Penetration (Rear Elements)

□	Claim	11.11.43	Maj.	Duncan	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Niemansdorp
□	Claim	11.11.43	Maj.	Duncan	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Münster
□	Claim	11.11.43	Capt.	Beckham	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Münster

Major Duncan led 353rd Fighter Group with 48 P-47s (17 P-47s of 350th, 12 P-47s of 351st, and 19 P-47s of 452nd Squadrons). Three P-47s aborted the mission: three P-47s of 352nd Squadron. Group arrived over Egmond at 13.32 hrs. at 24,000 feet. Bombers were 10 minutes late. Group made a left turn over the Zuider Zee, picking up the bombers at Egmond at 13.42 hours. The 352nd Group were in with the lead boxes of bombers. The 351st Squadron positioned themselves on the left of the bombers, the 350th on the right of the bombers and the 352nd Squadron in the middle, above the bombers at 32,000 feet, above the cirrus clouds. The Group proceeded on planned course to Münster, Senden and Elst, where the 350th Squadron left them at 14.35 hrs. at 23,000 feet. The 352nd Squadron left the bombers to the south-east of Elst while the 351st Squadron left the bombers in the vicinity of Nijmegen. Heavy clouds made escort with the bombers difficult. In the vicinity of the target (Münster), heavy smoke screen was visible making bombing results unobserved. In this area, 20 to 25 FW 190s in flights of 4 to 5, and strung out, came up from below at 10 o'clock heading towards the bombers. Major Duncan, leading the 351st Squadron, made repeated attacks on this formation resulting in two FW 190s being destroyed. The enemy fighters outnumbered the P-47s, consequently they were persistent in their engagement with the P-47s. Call was made on R/T for assistance and other P-47s soon arrived. Enemy tactics were for part of the enemy force to climb into the cirrus haze at 25,000 feet, hoping that the P-47s would engage the enemy fighters below. Some of these enemy aircraft had belly-tanks. In the vicinity of Niemansdorp, 15 miles south of Rotterdam, 15-plus Me 109Gs with red markings on the fuselage made persistent attacks on the bombers at 20,000 feet from the lower sides and below. In these engagements which followed, Major Duncan destroyed a Me 109. No escort for the bombers was seen at this level. In the vicinity of Westhoofd, 8 FW 190s, four on each side of the bombers, at the same level, would attack by diving below the bombers pulling up and shooting at a 60° angle to the path of the bombers, roll over and break away, and then zoom up to level position on the other side to repeat the attack. One straggler B-17, flying at 16,000 feet under the main formation of bombers, was seen to be given excellent escort by four unidentified P-47s in the vicinity of s'Hertogenbosch. One B-17 seen on fire, the wing then came off and it spun down 15 miles south of Rotterdam: four chutes seen to open. One B-17 seen to go down just east of Geertruidenberg as a result of attacks by enemy fighters. One B-17 stragglers was seen being attacked by three FW 190s off Schouwen Island. Group leader made several attacks alone but makes no claim. Moderate heavy Flak over the target area. Nine bursts of heavy Flak at Gilze-Rijen. Fighter-to-fighter and fighter-to-bomber intercom. were excellent. "Warmsun" transmission was garbled, weak and unreadable. Radio whine was intense starting over the English coast. No P-38 escort seen. One group of P-47s seen in the vicinity of Elst. One P-47 landed at Detling, one at Bradwell Bay, and one at Horham.

★ VIII FC 55th FG 63 P-38 Lightning 12.50-14.53 F.O. 177 nil n/a nil n/a Course unclear
Target Support

Lieutenant-Colonel James led 55th Fighter Group with 63 P-38s (17 P-38s of 38th, 17 P-38s of 338th, and 17 P-38s of 443rd Squadrons, with 12 P-38s of the 20th Fighter Group). Four P-38s aborted the mission: one P-38 through illness of pilot, two P-38s due to engine failures, and one P-38 due to electrical failure. At 13.25 hrs., bombers first seen 10 miles west of Egmond moving south. Rendezvous was made when 10 miles off Katwijk at 25,000 feet, at 13.28 hours. "Smallboy" leader contacted "PB" 2-3 who acknowledged that they were the 3rd Bombardment Division. He then contacted "PB" 2-1, deputy leader, who could give no definite information of mission being called off. Bombers then stooged around over the Channel, made a 360° turn to head due north, then making another turn towards the English coast. Escort left bombers after making landfall over English coast. P-38s of 20th Fighter Group, who were positioned in front of the bombers, penetrated two miles into the Continent in making the 360° turn. R/T good.

★ VIII FC 356th FG 50 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.48-15.43 F.O. 177 nil n/a 1 Lost Mech. Course unclear
Withdrawal (Front Elements)

❖	Loss	11.11.43	2/Lt.	Dolor A. Martin	356 th FG	Missing P-47D-5	42-8668	□	Sqn. needed
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Lieutenant-Colonel Rau led 356th Fighter Group with 50 P-47s (16 P-47s of 359th, 18 P-47s of 360th, and 16 P-47s of 361st Squadrons). Four P-47s aborted the mission: one P-47 with supercharger failure, three P-47s with engine cut-outs. Group made landfall-in south of The Hague at 13.31 hrs., and climbing at 28,000 feet over the top of the clouds and continued on in at 30,000 feet. Went over target at 14,000 feet and saw another P-47 group. Circled target for about five minutes and saw no sign of bombers. Group circled back along track looking for a break in the clouds for about 40 miles. Saw large hole in the overcast and went down levelling off at 22,000 feet. Orbited left to get Group together and saw bombers coming away from target at 14.15 hrs. at about 24,000 feet. Took up position under bombers as there was another group of P-47s covering the bombers from above. Stayed with the bombers until 14.45 hours. One ship was "bounced" by two FW 190s who missed, peeled-off and went down to the "deck". A dogfight was seen above and to starboard of the bombers, but P-47s in that area seemed to have the situation in hand. No attacks were to be made on the bombers. Landfall-out about 15.05 hrs. over Westhoofd. Radio interference greater than normal. One P-47 missing, cause unknown. One P-47 damaged, Category not known, in belly-landing after engine failure.

★ VIII FC 56th FG 53 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.43-15.42 F.O. 177 5 - 1 - 2 E/A 2 Lost E/A Münster-Arnhem
Withdrawal (Rear Elements)

❖	Loss	11.11.43	1/Lt.	Wayne J. O'Connor	56 th FG	Missing P-47D-6	42-74722	□	63 rd Sqn.	
❖	Loss	11.11.43	2/Lt.	Malcolm Van Meten	56 th FG	Missing P-47D-6	42-74626	□	62 nd Sqn.	
□	Claim	11.11.43	Capt.	Cook	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Münster-Arnhem
□	Claim	11.11.43	Capt.	O'Neill	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Münster-Arnhem
□	Claim	11.11.43	Lt.	Goldstein	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Münster-Arnhem
□	Claim	11.11.43	F/O	Icard	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Münster-Arnhem
□	Claim	11.11.43	Capt.	Schreiber	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Münster-Arnhem
□	Claim	11.11.43	Capt.	Burke	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	-	Münster-Arnhem

Major Gabreski led 56th Fighter Group with 53 P-47s (11 aborts: 4 P-47s as escorts). Group made landfall-in near Zandvoort at 13.35 hrs. at 26,000 feet and proceeded on course to the Rendezvous Point. Made orbit and rendezvoused at 14.05 hrs. , to the north of Münster at 30,000 feet. The 61st Squadron, positioned itself left of the bombers, the 63rd Squadron in the rear. At the rendezvous, the 62nd Squadron dove through a cloud layer and sighted 25-30 enemy fighters which resulted in engagements as follows. White Flight leader destroyed two FW 190s

in rapid succession. Blue Flight leader and his flight attacked four FW 190s in a Lufbery, Blue leader, Blue 3 and Blue 4 each destroying one. These encounters took place down to 22,000 feet. Two of the FW 190s listed carried belly-tanks. Bombers were accompanied to Nijmegen by 61st and 63rd Squadrons, and to 15 miles east of Dordrecht by the 62nd Squadron. Smoke-pots were noted in the target area. Bombing results not observed. Lead bomber seen smoking and heading downwards at 20° angle, protected by P-47s near Utrecht. Several enemy aircraft observed flying off to the side of the bombers making no attempt to attack. Flak accurate as to height, but poor as to direction over Utrecht and The Hague. Accurate and intense Flak at Münster. Lieutenant Van Meten seen to bale-out 30 miles west of The Hague. Radio contact with bombers was poor, one squadron failing to make contact. Radio garbling intermittent over enemy territory, but less intense than previously. Two P-47s landed at Ludham, 2 down at Martlesham Heath, and one down at Bungay. Two P-47s not yet returned. One P-47 damaged. Cat. AC due to battle damage.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 177 - Fighter Support
Second Task Force (1st Division): Wesel (abortive).

★ VIII FC 78th 'A' FG 36 P-47 Thunderbolt 13.01-15.06 F.O. 177 nil n/a nil n/a Course unclear
Penetration (Front Elements)

Lieutenant-Colonel Stone led 78th 'A' Fighter Group with 36 P-47s (24 P-47s of 82nd, and 12 P-47s of 84th Squadrons). Four P-47s aborted the mission: one P-47 with engine trouble, and three due to escort duties. Group made rendezvous with the bombers when 20 miles off the enemy coast as bombers were 4 minutes late, Group turning to meet them. Bombers turned south down coast then turned north-east looking for a break in the clouds, crossed the enemy coast near Haarlem and continued north to Den Helder where bombers turned for home. Group escorted bombers back to English coast. No enemy aircraft seen, no Flak, no shipping.

★ VIII FC 355th FG 50 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.50-14.53 F.O. 177 nil n/a nil n/a Course unclear
Penetration (Rear Elements)

Colonel Cummings led 355th Fighter Group with 50 P-47s (16 P-47s of 354th, 18 P-47s of 357th, and 16 P-47s of 358th Squadrons). Six P-47s aborted the mission: one P-47 with broken belly-tank gas line, one P-47 with auxiliary tank-feed failure, one P-47 with canopy loose (cockpit frost), one P-47 with supercharger regulator failure, one P-47 lost, and one P-47 as an escort duty. Bombers were 30 miles off the Dutch coast, on course, when the rendezvous was made at 30,000 feet at 14.30 hours. Group proceeded to the lead box formation when the 78th Group joined and assumed lead escort. Group orbited right and assumed positions over the rear units. Landfall was 15 miles north of Egmond, simultaneous with left orbit by the bombers which brought them out on a homeward course in the Den Helder area, at about 14.00 hours. Escort was continued until bombers reached the English coast, last squadron leaving them at 14.45 hours. The bomber formations were unusually strung out. Four Me 109s were seen climbing north at 10,000 feet as bombers made orbit out, but did not molest the bombers. They were then lost to view in clouds. Three "bogies" approached a straggling bomber but turned inland when bombers turned out to sea. Moderate Flak seen in the IJmuiden area. R/T good on all channels.

★ VIII FC 4th FG 52 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.59-15.40 F.O. 177 0 - 0 - 1 FW 190 nil n/a Course unclear
Withdrawal (Front Elements)

□ Claim 11.11.43 F/O Jack Raphael 4th FG 336th Sq. 0 - 0 - 1 FW 190 - Position unknown

Lieutenant-Colonel Blakeslee led 4th Fighter Group with 52 P-47s (16 P-47s of 334th, 18 P-47s of 335th, and 18 P-47s of 336th Squadrons). Five P-47s aborted the mission. Group crossed in enemy coast at 13.52 hrs. at 28,000 feet. At the coast, the lead box of three bombers were seen to turn back toward England with two boxes continuing inland. When informed by "Warmsun" Control that bombers were four minutes late, the leader made a port orbit, near the Rendezvous Point in accordance with the altered schedule. Did not find bombers and flew towards the target area then turned west and out over Walcheren Island at 24,000 feet at 14.55 hours. When about 30 miles off the coast the Group leader returned to the Flushing area with the 335th Squadron. Then "Warmsun" reported a friend in trouble at 10,000 feet over Flushing. The squadron went down to 7,000 feet, but did not see any friend or foe, then went out over the Belgian coast. No enemy aircraft were seen by the Group, but a spare (F/O Jack Raphael) returning from near the Dutch coast at 22,000 feet, saw two FW 190s flying north at 17,000 feet some 20 miles off-shore. He attacked them, and claims one as damaged. Heavy Flak of light intensity reported in the Flushing area. R/T communication with "Warmsun" was very weak five minutes after crossing in. No communication with bombers on Channel "C". Weak communication with "Greywall" on "C" Channel.

★ VIII FC 78th 'B' FG 38 P-47 Thunderbolt 13.01-15.51 F.O. 177 nil n/a nil n/a Course unclear
Withdrawal (Rear Elements)

Major Davis led 78th 'B' Fighter Group with 38 P-47s (nil aborts). Group crossed the Dutch coast at 14.03 hrs. on time. Had seen B-17s escorted by P-38s returning over the Channel. Proceeded to the rendezvous at 30,000 feet above the overcast on time at 14.19 hours. Saw P-47s flying out. Penetrated further but seeing no bombers, the Group returned. Re-crossed the enemy coast in the vicinity of Goedereede. Five aircraft, thought to be FW 190s, seen diving away into the overcast.

Attack on Target in Northern France. Between 15.01 and 15.42 hrs., 70 Spitfires V (L.R.) of 611, 64, 402, 349 and 350 Squadrons took-off and made rendezvous over Dungeness with 24 A-20s (Bostons) of 88 and 107 Squadrons, and 48 B-25s (Mitchells) of 98, 180, 226, 305 and 320 Squadrons. The bombers flew in three formations, each of 24 aircraft, and carried out a series of attacks. The A-20s dropped 92 x 500-lb. bombs and the B-25s dropped 282 x 1,000-lb. bombs. A good concentration of bombs was seen to fall in the target area, which was left covered by a pall of smoke. Fighter Cover: 66 Spitfires VII and IX of 124, 132, 602, 302 and 317 Squadrons, which took-off between 14.50 and 15.15 hrs., provided fighter cover over the target area. No enemy aircraft was seen. Fighter Sweeps: between 15.10 and 15.22 hrs., 129 Spitfires IX, IX (66) and XII of 41, 91, 19, 65, 122, 403, 421, 129, 222, 331 and 332 Squadrons took-off and carried out sweeps from the Somme to Blankenberge. No enemy aircraft was seen.

Hq. VIII FC Reg. File 17520

Intelligence Issue No. 73

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command F.O. 180
VIIIth Bomber Command F.O. 299
13th November 1943

Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups
Field Order 180 on 13.11.43.

Heavy Bomber Attack on Bremen.

Date	Parent	Fighter	Group	Mission Order	Airborne	Effective	↑ Claim	↓ Claim	Lost	Major	Support Type
Target Support: 2 nd and 3 rd Bomb. Divisions.											
13.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	47 P-38	45 Sorties	7-3-5	nil	7 P-38	2 Cat. E	Target
Withdrawal Support: 2 nd Bomb. Division.											
13.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	49 P-47	44 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
13.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	49 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
13.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	40 P-47	36 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
Withdrawal Support: 3 rd Bomb. Division.											
13.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	39 P-47	33 Sorties	3-0-0	nil	2 P-47	-	Withdrawal
13.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	53 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
13.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	41 P-47	39 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
General Withdrawal Support: 2 nd and 3 rd Bomb. Division.											
13.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	45 Sorties	0-0-1	nil	-	2 Cat. B	Withdrawal
13.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	47 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command Results: Claims on 10-3-6 enemy aircraft in the air. Losses on 2 P-47s and 7 P-38s. Nine U.S. pilots missing. Damaged categories: 2 P-47s and 2 P-38s destroyed Cat. E, or seriously damaged, in England. VIIIth Fighter Command dispatched 393 effective sorties (348 P-47s and 45 P-38s) on nine missions. Enemy aircraft seen: 345-plus. U.S. bombers seen to go down: four.

Types of Support :	Penetration	Target	Withdrawal	Totals
Number of Groups VIII th	9	nil	1 Mission	8 Missions
P-47s on Mission	nil	nil	348 P-47s	348 P-47s
P-38s on Mission	nil	45 P-38s	nil	45 P-38s
Aircraft Lost :	nil	7 P-38s	2 P-47s	7 P-38s 2 P-47s
Aircraft crashed in England, Cat. E or badly damaged :-	nil	2 P-38s	2 P-47s	2 P-38s 2 P-47s
Personnel Casualties	nil	7 (MIA)	2 (MIA) 1 Inj.	9 (MIA) 1 Inj.
Combat Claims (Air)	nil	7-3-5	3-0-1	10-3-6
Enemy aircraft seen*	nil	300-plus	45-plus	345-plus
Bombers seen to go down*	nil	3 B-17s	1 B-17	4 B-17s

*Possible duplications as compiled from individual Group sightings.

GENERAL NARRATIVE:

The Bomber Command Field Order of 13th November 1943 ordered the dispatch of the First, Second and Third Bomb. Division aircraft against targets at Bremen. First and Third Divisions, of three combat wings each, were following each other by approximately 15 minutes, while the Second Division of B-24s were to follow closely the Third Division. The first consideration on this mission was the unusually severe winds aloft which were blowing from approximately 300 degrees (from the north-west). This necessitated a general reduction in the range of all the groups and as a result only the 55th Fighter Group with their P-38s were able to go to the target area. The remainder of the groups were to escort from a point about 30 miles west of the target (Bremen) and out to the coast. Just before the take-off time of most of our groups, it was reported by Bomber Command that the First Division would be abortive. This was apparently due to difficulties in assembly caused by the heavy cloud conditions. These clouds were reported with tops from 16,000 to 20,000 feet. The groups assigned to escort of this Division were immediately diverted to either the Third or the Second Division. The 55th Fighter Group proceeded to the target area and made rendezvous as planned. At this time the bombers were under heavy attack from 100-plus enemy aircraft. These attacks were for the most part successfully diverted. In accomplishing this the Group itself was subjected to unusually heavy and persistent attacks by single-engined enemy fighters, while twin-engined aircraft concentrated their attention on the bombers. As a result of these combats the 55th Fighter Group claimed 7 enemy aircraft destroyed, while they lost 7 of their own. It is evident that the aggressive manner in which the Group performed its escort was responsible for the breaking up of the concentrated attack on the bombers. Reports from Bomber Command state that much of the mission was not flown according to the plan. Consequently, the 353rd Group, 4th Group, 78th Group and 356th Group did not make rendezvous and were forced to withdraw. These groups were scheduled to protect the Second Division B-24s. At least on combat wing of this Division was without escort during the greater part of the mission as they had failed to assemble with the rest of the Division. This Division suffered the majority of losses of this day. The 56th, 352nd and 355th Fighter Groups rendezvoused more or less as planned and provided very adequate support thereafter. The only one of these groups to be engaged was the 355th Group, which succeeded in driving off several attacks. This Group also found itself a target for enemy fighters, and two P-47s and pilots of this Group are missing. They claim 3 Me 109s destroyed. It is evident from the report of the 355th Group, and more particularly the 55th Group, that the enemy fighters were persistent and aggressive in their attacks on the escorting fighters. It seems that they were using a top-cover of single-engined fighters in an attempt either to draw off the protecting fighters or to protect their own twin-engined, rocket-equipped, fighters while they attempted to attack the bombers. This is a tendency that has become increasingly evident on most of our recent missions. It is to be pointed out that the majority of these recent missions have been on targets in north-eastern Germany, where our supporting fighters have been operating in areas east and north-east of the Zuider Zee. Consistency of these attacks leads us to believe that the enemy particularly in this area has adopted this procedure as a standard tactic.

1st and 2nd Task Forces - Heavy Bomber Attack:

Bremen.

Bomber Report. Heavy Bomber Attack on Bremen by 2nd and 3rd Bomb Divisions. 269 bombers were dispatched to the target at Bremen. 63 B-17s and 67 B-24 attacked the primary target while one aircraft bombed a target at Kiel, one a target on Terschelling Island, and 11 an unidentified target. 319.0 tons of bombs were dropped with unobserved results but believed to be poor by most groups of the 3rd Bomb Division. Fifteen (15) bombers were lost.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 180 - Fighter Support
2nd and 3rd Bomb Divisions: Bremen.

Symbol	Group	Date	Altitude	Target	Time	F.O.	Altitude	Losses	Remarks	Location
☀	VIII FC	55 th FG	47 P-38 Lightning	18.32-13.58	F.O. 180	7 - 3 - 5	E/A	7 Lost	E/A	Bremen
			Target Support							
❖	Loss	13.11.43	2/Lt. William C. Florentine Jr.	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-66732	POW		338 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	2/Lt. John A. Stacker	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67059	☐		38 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	1/Lt. Charles E. Beall	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67049	☐		338 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	2/Lt. William W. Shank	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-66727	☐		338 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	2/Lt. Gene C. Stephens	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67078	☐		338 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	2/Lt. Robert N. Jensen	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-66724	POW		338 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	1/Lt. Lynn R. Goetzman	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67073	POW		338 th Sqn.
☐	Cat.E	13.11.43	Pilot wanting	55 th FG	Present	P-38H	wanting	OK: BL Debden.		Sqn.
☐	Cat.E	13.11.43	Pilot wanting	55 th FG	Present	P-38H	wanting	OK: BL Wretham		Sqn.
☐	Cat.C	13.11.43	L/Col. Jack S. Jenkins	55 th FG	Present	P-38H	wanting	OK: CL Nuthampstead.		Sqn.
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Maj. Joel	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Ju 88	-		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Maj. Joel	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Capt. Beaird	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Lt. Brown	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Ju 88	-		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Capt. Myers	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Capt. Myers	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Ju 88	-		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Maj. Joel	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - ½ - 0	Ju 88	Shared		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Lt. Stacker	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - ½ - 0	Ju 88	Shared		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Maj. Joel	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - ½ - 0	Me 109G	Shared		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Lt. Stacker	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - ½ - 0	Me 109G	Shared		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Lt. Maloney	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Capt. Marsiglia	55 th FG	338 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Lt. Garlock	55 th FG	338 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 210	-		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Capt. Giller	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Ju 88	-		Bremen-Löninge
☐	Claim	13.11.43	Capt. Ryan	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Bremen-Löninge

Lieutenant-Colonel Jenkins led 55th Fighter Group with 47 P-38s (16 P-38s of 38th, 15 P-38s of 338th, and 16 P-38s of 343rd Sqn.). Two P-38s aborted the mission: one with oxygen failure, one with belly-tank release. Group made landfall-in at Bergen-aan-Zee at 11.13 hrs. at 26,000 feet. Proceeded to Friesoythe, where course was altered to rendezvous with bombers at 26,000 feet, at 11.29 hours. Enemy aircraft were encountered from this point to the time of leaving the bombers. Target (Bremen) at 11.30 hrs., P-47s rendezvoused at 11.45 hrs., due north of Löninge. Bombers were left at this point, although some aircraft remained with bombers until the Dutch coast. The 338th Squadron gave top-cover, the 38th Squadron port, and the 343rd Squadron starboard escort-cover. The P-38s at 25,000 to 28,000 feet. Bombers were in boxes at 24,000 feet, with 2nd Bomb Division on the left of 3rd Bomb Division and almost abreast. Several single B-17s out about one mile to side of formation were observed. At the rendezvous 100-plus enemy aircraft were observed attacking the bombers and queuing up. Escort immediately engaged enemy aircraft and engagements in force continued until the withdrawal, individual combats continuing to Channel. As force moved into target, number of enemy fighters increased, a total of 300-plus being observed during this mission. Top of the enemy fighter umbrella force was at 32,000 to 34,000 feet, and strong forces were staggered down to 15,000 feet. Attacks were very aggressive towards both bombers and fighters, the single-engined fighters concentrating on the latter. Apparent plan of the enemy was to parry with individual aircraft, thus drawing off the escort, and to attack both fighters and bombers with excessive numbers. These attacks were well co-ordinated from several different angles simultaneously, thus preventing escort from following up counter-attacks. Basis of enemy strategy was its superiority in numbers. The enemy fighters observed were Me 109s, Ju 88s, FW 190s, Me 210s and Do 217s and Ju 188s. Moderate accurate Flak at Amsterdam-IJmuiden area. Hits were sustained by four P-38s at 21,000 feet, causing considerable damage. As a result Lieutenant-Colonel Jenkins feathered up one engine on his return, and made a crash-landing at Debden. One B-24 was seen to go down in the target area: six parachutes were observed. No enemy fighter was near this B-24 at the time. Two B-17s near the target observed to spin down, with eight chutes observed. Bombing results unobserved, although bombs were seen dropped by B-17s. B-24s were not observed to drop any bombs. R/T fair to good. "Sly-bird" Control contacted satisfactorily. One enemy fighter was observed to spin down from underneath the bombers as escort approached the rendezvous. What is believed to be a ground-rocket was observed by several pilots. First a whine was heard on the radio, and then white streamers were seen to begin at about 18,000 to 20,000 feet, forming in the shape of a slender telephone pole as the missile gained altitude. At about 26,000 to 27,000 feet, it was observed to burst, forming a red egg-shaped cloud about 25 feet in the longitudinal axis and 15-20 feet wide. This solid red then changed into a white cloud. Parachutes of Lieutenants Florentine and Stacker were observed to open. Seven P-38s and pilots lost: two to enemy action (Lts. Florentine and Lt. Stacker) and five for reasons unknown. One P-38 belly-landed at East Wretham, Cat. E damage. One P-38 belly-landed at Debden, Cat. E damage. One P-38 made single-engined landing at base with Cat. C damage. Four P-38 landed at base (Nuthampstead) with Cat. A damage.

Symbol	Group	Date	Altitude	Target	Time	F.O.	Altitude	Losses	Remarks	Location
☀	VIII FC	4 th FG	49 P-47 Thunderbolt	11.00-16.00	F.O. 180	nil	n/a	nil	n/a	Lingen-IJmuiden
			Withdrawal 2 nd Division							

Major Evans led 4th Fighter Group with 49 P-47s (16 P-47s of 334th, 16 P-47s of 335th, and 17 P-47s of 336th Sqn.). Nil aborts. Group crossed in enemy coast just north of Bergen-aan-Zee at 11.49 hrs. at 28,000 feet. In the vicinity of Rutenbrock, the Group made starboard orbit to investigate bombers flying off course in the vicinity of Lingen. On approach from rear, bombers seen to be B-17s and were under escort. No B-24s were seen and Group leader assumed Libs were late so went on to the Rendezvous Point and made another starboard orbit. At 11.58 hrs., contact was made on Channel "C" with "Phonebox" 3-1 and 3-2, but we tried to find out B-24's position, contact was lost due a loud whine and noise on the channel. At 12.16 hrs., Group withdrew from the area, not seeing any B-24s. Enemy coast was crossed out at 13.04 hrs. at 20,000 feet, when north of IJmuiden. On the cross-out heavy Flak, accurate for height and direction, was encountered, apparently

from construction works at Crommenie. Two aircraft of 336th Squadron were damaged lightly by Flak fragments. Red marker Flak seen coming from the vicinity of Amsterdam. No enemy aircraft were identified. R/T weak and whining 30 miles inland of enemy coast.

★ VIII FC 356th FG 52 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.36-14.12 F.O. 180 nil n/a nil n/a Sleen -Ijmuiden
Withdrawal 2nd Division

Lieutenant-Colonel Coen led 356th Fighter Group with 52 P-47s (18 P-47s of 359th, 16 P-47s of 360th, and 18 P-47s of 361st Sqns.). Three aborts. Group made landfall-in over enemy coast at 12.14 hrs., when 8 miles north of Ijmuiden at 25,000 feet. Flew over North-east Polder, over Urk, , and saw two groups of P-47s and two boxes of B-17s on starboard side. Orbited over the Rendezvous Point from 12.29 to 12.40 hrs. at 26,000-27,000 feet, when south-east of Sleen. Saw two more groups of P-47s but no B-24s. Set course for home and made landfall-out at 13.00 hours. Lieutenant McCullough, a spare, on turning back was "bounced" by two FW 190s in the vicinity of Askerleet. The attack was made out of the sun from 7 to 8 o'clock. He turned to meet the attack, and the enemy fighters went on down. Lieutenant McCullough does not believe that he was fired upon. Intercom. was good.

★ VIII FC 78th 'B' FG 40 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.55-14.20 F.O. 180 nil n/a nil n/a Zwolle-Ijmuiden
Withdrawal 2nd Division

Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts led 78th 'B' Fighter Group with 40 P-47s (27 P-47s of 84th, 13 P-47s of 82nd Sqns.). Four aborts. Group was informed by "Warmsun" that "Big Friends" were 30 miles south of course so Group headed slightly south and crossed enemy coast over Ijmuiden three minutes early at 12.39 hrs. at 28,000 feet. When over the Zuider Zee some bombers were seen north. Group turned north and saw these bombers going out heavily escorted by P-47s. Continued to the rendezvous and beyond, circled over Meppel then turned south over Zwolle and saw con-trails to the south which upon investigation were seen to be made by P-47 group going out. Crossed out over Leiden where heavy accurate Flak was encountered. No R/T contact could be made with the bombers.

★ VIII FC 355th FG 39 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.13-13.55 F.O. 180 3 - 0 - 0 Me 109G 2 Lost E/A Cloppenburg-Zuider
Withdrawal 3rd Division

❖ Loss 13.11.43 L/Col. Thomas H. Hubbard 355th FG Missing P-47D-1 42-7944 Evaded Hq. 355th FG
❖ Loss 13.11.43 2/Lt. John Lanphier 355th FG Missing P-47D-5 42-8626 □ 358th Sqn.

□ Claim 13.11.43 Capt. Olsen 355th FG 357th Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G - Cloppenburg-Lathen
□ Claim 13.11.43 Lt. Neal 355th FG 358th Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G - Cloppenburg-Lathen
□ Claim 13.11.43 Lt. Vincent 355th FG 358th Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G - Cloppenburg-Lathen

Lieutenant-Colonel Hubbard led 355th Fighter Group with 39 P-47s (14 P-47s of 354th, 17 P-47s of 357th, and 17 P-47s of 358th Sqns.). Six aborts. Landfall-in Egmond at 11.40 hrs., at 30,000 feet. Rendezvoused with bombers at Cloppenburg at 12.06 hrs., at 24,000 to 30,000 feet. Escorted bombers until 12.35 hrs., when just east of the Zuider Zee. Four FW 190s in string were seen to attack the lower box of bombers from above at 6 o'clock. Three FW 190s made head-on attack on bombers, making one swift pass and continued diving down through. Five Me 109s in string made a stern attack on bombers from above. Other single-engined enemy fighters in formations of two's and three's attacked straggling bombers. A number of attacks were made on our fighters. Attacks on bombers were broken up when our fighters turned into the enemy formations. The attacks on ourselves were from out of the sun and from 7 o'clock, by turning into the latter attack and engaging the two enemy aircraft, Lieutenant Neal and Lt. Vincent destroyed both. Two enemy aircraft apparently in a "rat-race" were attacked by Capt. Olsen and his flight in his claim. Lieutenant-Colonel Hubbard is believed to have been attacked in the middle of a turn into the sun preparatory to diving into an enemy formation heading for the bombers. It is believed that he baled-out and his ship exploded afterward. This encounter took place at 12.15 hrs., near the Dutch-German border on the route out. Lieutenant Lanphier was last seen after two half-roll evasion from an enemy attack, the action took place near the Ems River. Flak seen over the target area and over Ijmuiden, aimed at another P-47 group coming in. A B-24 with one engine flaming seen going down south-east of Kasselt. One unidentified fighter down 5 miles north of Zwolle. One parachute seen over Zuider Zee. R/T good.

★ VIII FC 352nd FG 53 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.37-13.51 F.O. 180 nil n/a nil n/a Friezenveen-Egmond
Withdrawal 3rd Division

Lieutenant-Colonel Clark led 352nd Fighter Group with 53 P-47s (20 P-47s of 328th, 17 P-47s of 486th, and 16 P-47s of 487th Sqns.). Nil aborts. Group out English coast at Great Yarmouth at 11.51 hrs. at 10,000 feet. In Dutch coast at Bergen-aan-Zee at 12.20 hrs. at 25,000 feet. Out Dutch coast at Egmond at 13.18 hrs., at 10,000 feet. Bombers were seen soon after Group left the Zuider Zee and large orbit to the south brought then into contact in the area of Friezenveen at 12.29 hours. Bombers were widely scattered in small groups with some stragglers. R/T contact established and bombers reported that they were O.K. Many P-47 groups seen escorting and no enemy aircraft seen. Bombers escorted to a point 15 miles out over Channel. One bomber seen to go down in the vicinity of Kampen, smoking badly.

★ VIII FC 78th 'A' FG 41 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.49-14.00 F.O. 180 nil n/a nil n/a Meppel-Zuider Zee
Withdrawal 3rd Division

Lieutenant-Colonel Stone led 78th 'A' Fighter Group with 41 P-47s (nil aborts). Crossed the enemy coast four minutes early at 27,000 feet. Saw the B-17s, escorted by P-47s, going out over the Zuider Zee. Rendezvous made four minutes early. Saw no bombers. "Warmsun" Control advised that bombers were probably south of course. Continued to the vicinity of Meppel. Saw no bombers. Turned right and crossed coast out at 13.15 hrs., over Ijmuiden at 24,000 feet, where accurate heavy Flak was encountered. R/T communication with bombers unintelligible. No R/T contact with other fighter groups. No enemy aircraft seen.

★ VIII FC 353rd FG 48 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.51-14.03 F.O. 180 0 - 0 - 1 FW 190 nil n/a Meppel-Zuider Zee
Withdrawal 2nd & 3rd Division

□ Cat.B 13.11.43 Pilot wanting 353rd FG Present P-47D wanting I: Hardwicke Sqn.
□ Cat.B 13.11.43 Pilot wanting 353rd FG Present P-47D wanting OK: Beccles Sqn.
□ Claim 13.11.43 Lt. Dinse 353rd FG 350th Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 FW 190 - Meppen

⚡ Claim 13.11.43 Ground and/or water targets claimed by Group (aircraft excluded). 1 locomotive damaged by Lt. Dinse, 350th Squadron, believed near Coevorden.

Major Duncan led 353rd Fighter Group with 48 P-47s (17 P-47s of 350th, 16 P-47s of 351st, and 15 P-47s of 352nd Sqns.). Nil aborts. Group made landfall-in Egmond 8 minutes early at 25,000 feet. At 11.55 hrs., bombers were seen to the right, believed to be in the vicinity of Neuenhaus escorted by P-38s. Before take-off, Wing was advised that the Group's rendezvous would be at the same place, but 43 minutes later than briefed, which could make our R.V. time 12.09 hrs., and to meet the 3rd Division rather than the 1st Division. Major Duncan proceeded on course, arriving at the rendezvous at 12.08 hrs., where the turn was made. No bombers seen. Smoke-pots seen in the target area. At 12.07 hrs., one pilot received call stating that the bombers were 20 minutes from the target, and were being attacked, flying a course of 254 degrees. Came out on course attempting to catch the bombers. One complete turn was made at approximately Neuenhaus, another approximately Dalfsen, when con-trails were seen to the rear believed to have been made by the bombers. Left enemy coast at Ijmuiden at 13.15 hrs. at 25,000 feet. One pilot, returning early with two others, engaged two FW 190s in the vicinity of Meppen which carried rocket-equipment and belly-tanks. These enemy aircraft were about to attack B-17s from 5-7 o'clock below. Attack was dispersed. One enemy aircraft claimed as damaged. Same pilot saw 20-plus Me 109s, at 22,000 feet, flying parallel and below the bomber course with P-38 escort seen above bombers 10 miles to south of Emmen. This pilot was attacked by a flight of these Me 109s, and he evaded by hitting the "deck", and shooting up a locomotive on the way out, believed to be near Coevorden. Radio whine extremely intense which interfered with reception. Able to contact bombers on "C" Channel but unable to read. Contact made with "Smallboy" on "C" Channel. Intense Flak seen in distance in target area, also in Haarlem area. One P-47 landed at Hardwicke, one down at Beccles. Two P-47s damaged Cat. B, cause unknown: one pilot is injured and in hospital.

★ VIII FC 56th FG 48 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.16-13.42 F.O. 180 nil n/a nil n/a Meppen-Egmond
Withdrawal 2nd & 3rd Division

Lieutenant-Colonel Schilling led 56th Fighter Group with 48 P-47s (1 abort). Group made landfall when north of Ijmuiden at 12.20 hrs., at 29,000 feet. Continued on course and found the bombers well strung out so that 62nd Squadron made rendezvous when 10 miles north of Meppel at 30,000 feet, at 12.34 hours; the 63rd Squadron rendezvoused at Beilen, at 27,000 feet, at 12.25 hours; and the 61st Squadron made rendezvous at Meppen at 31,000 feet at 12.28 hours. The 62nd Squadron escorted a box to Kijkduin, which returned practically to the Rendezvous Point, where they picked up the second box and escorted them to approximately 40 miles off the Dutch coast, west of Kijkduin. The 61st and 63rd Squadrons positioned themselves left and right of the bombers respectively, and escorted them to approximately 30 miles west of Egmond. Landfall-out Egmond at 12.52 hrs., at 23,000 feet. The 62nd Squadron landfall-out at Kijkduin at 12.52 hrs., at 25,000 feet. No combats. Moderate inaccurate Flak reported at Ijmuiden, Kijkduin and Egmond. Heavy and intense Flak at Alkmaar. One unidentified aircraft seen burning and diving into the Zuider Zee. One B-24 observed going down with No. 3 engine smoking badly near Bielen. One B-17, seen flying low, turned around shortly after landfall-out and headed in. Three attempts made to contact bombers on radio with no success. Ground station transmission good. Garbling practically unnoticeable. One Flight landed at Sutton Bridge, one flight at Goxhill, one P-47 down at Bungay.

Hq. VIII FC Reg. File 17560

Intelligence Issue No. 75

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command F.O. 190
65th Fighter Wing F.O. 78 - 66th Fighter Wing F.O. 36
67th Fighter Wing F.O. 2
25th November 1943

Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups
Field Orders 78, 36, 2 on 25.11.43.

P-47 Fighter-Bombing and Sweeps.

Date	Parent	Fighter	Group	Mission Order	Airborne	Effective	⬆ Claim	⬇ Claim	Lost	Major	Support Type
Fighter-bombing Attack on St. Omer/Fort Rouge.											
25.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	52 Sorties	nil	nil	1 P-47	-	Fighter-bombing
25.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	40 P-47	40 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Escort-Cover
25.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	40 P-47	40 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Escort-Cover
25.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	57 P-38	55 Sorties	3-3-4	nil	1 P-38	1 Cat. E	Fighter-sweep
Fighter-bombing Attack on St. Omer/Longuenesse.											
25.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	50 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Fighter-bombing
25.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	48 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Escort-Cover
25.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	46 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Fighter-sweep

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command Results: Claims on 3-3-4 enemy aircraft in the air. Losses on 1 P-47 and 1 P-38. Two U.S. pilots missing, one killed. Damaged categories: 1 P-47 destroyed Cat. E, or seriously damaged, in England, 16 P-47s Cat. 4, 7 P-38s Cat. A. VIIIth Fighter Command dispatched 331 effective sorties (275 P-47s and 55 P-38s) on seven missions. Enemy aircraft seen: 50-plus.

GENERAL NARRATIVE:

The mission of this date marked the inauguration of bombing by P-47 aircraft of this Command. The 353rd and 56th Fighter Groups, supported by the 78th 'A' and 'B' and 356th Fighter Groups, respectively, were to attack the airdromes at St. Omer/Fort Rouge and St. Omer/Longuenesse. The 353rd Group by dive-bombing from 12,000 feet, and the 56th Group by level-bombing from 24,000 feet. A B-24 bomber was used as the sighting-aircraft for the latter. The bombing, on the whole, was inaccurate. The Flak was described by both Groups as being heavy, intense and accurate over the entire route. The 353rd Group Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel McCollom, received a direct hit on his aircraft shortly before the target, which naturally disrupted the entire attack. The 56th Group experienced difficulty in assembling on the B-24 and as a result were not squared away at the release point. Furthermore, equipment failure on the B-24 hampered accurate bombing. For the above mentioned reasons what might have proved to be a very successful attack, resulted in only scattered hits on the target. The 55th and 352nd Fighter Groups carried out offensive sweeps in the Lille area. The 352nd Fighter Group reported theirs uneventful, but the 55th Fighter Group had an engagement with 50-plus enemy aircraft. These enemy pilots seemed to be extremely aggressive, and combats ranged from 8,000 feet up to 27,000 feet. The results were 3 destroyed, 3 probably destroyed, and 4 damaged for the loss of two P-38s, one of which crashed in England.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 190 - Fighter-bombing Attack
St. Omer/Fort Rouge Airdrome.

★ VIII FC 353rd FG 52 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.24-12.08 F.O. 190 nil n/a 1 Lost Flak Gris Nez-St. Omer Dive-Bombing

❖ Loss 25.11.43 L/Col. Loren G. McCollom 353rd FG Missing P-47D-2 43-8395 POW Hq. 353rd FG

Lieutenant-Colonel McCollom led 353rd Fighter Group with 52 P-47s (nil aborts) on first bombing mission: target St. Omer/Fort Rouge airdrome. Sixteen aircraft of 351st Squadron carried 500-lb. bombs, fused 1/100th second nose, 1/100th second tail. The 350th Squadron and 352nd Squadron acted as close-cover. Rendezvous with the 78th 'A' and 'B' Groups was made at Cap Gris Nez at 11.02 hours. The 351st Squadron, with bombs were at 15,000 feet. The 350th Squadron at 17,000 feet, and the 352nd Squadron at 20,000 feet. Course flown to Initial Point approximately 5 miles south of target. After a left turn, the bomb-run was made from 14,000 feet. Bombs were released from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, most bombing believed to be short of the target and south of the airdrome, but three hits seen on south dispersal. Out enemy coast at Cap Gris Nez, 11.17 hrs., at 12,000 feet. Just prior to reaching the Initial Point, Lieutenant-Colonel McCollom's P-47 received a direct hit by Flak, in the belly of the aircraft. The skin of the fuselage was torn away from cowling to tail. The aircraft made two complete turns to the right, and the chute was seen to open approximately 4 miles east of Lumbres town. Fourteen aircraft dropped bombs and one jettisoned in the Channel. No enemy aircraft were seen. Flak intense from enemy coast to the target, accurate for altitude and direction. Six ships of the bombing squadron suffered Flak damage. Six P-47 sustained Cat. A damage due to Flak.

★ VIII FC 78th FG 80 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.13-12.12 F.O. 190 nil n/a nil n/a Pas-de-Calais Close and High-cover

Major Davis led 78th 'A' Group provided Close Cover, and Capt. Munson led 78th 'B' Group as High Cover (nil aborts). Group made two orbits off Cap Gris Nez to pick up fighter bombers. Crossed coast at 11.00 hrs., from 20,000 to 23,000 feet. Heavy, intense, fairly accurate Flak from coast to target. One P-47 hit by Flak seen to go down in flames over St. Omer. Pilot parachuted, and appeared to land on outskirts of town. "Greywall" and 78th 'A' Group went down to 16,000 feet to cover bombers over target. Flak scattered the bombers. Bombs appeared to fall short in fields. Three bombs reported by one pilot to have hit runway and grass area. Moderate, inaccurate Flak on way out. Re-crossed enemy coast at Cap Gris Nez at 11.21 hrs., at 20,000 feet.

★ VIII FC 55th FG 57 P-38 Lightning 12.44-14.42 F.O. 36 3 - 3 - 4 E/A 1 Lost E/A Bailleul-Lens-Arras Fighter Sweep

❖ Loss 25.11.43 2/Lt. Manuel J. Aldecoa 55th FG Missing P-38H-5 42-67061 MIA 343rd Sqn.

☐ Cat.E 25.11.43 2/Lt. B. Lane 20th FG Present P-38H-5 wanting † cr. S. Nuthampstead Sqn.
☐ Cat.E 25.11.43 Pilot wanting 55th FG Present P-38H-5 wanting OK: cr. Duxford Sqn.

☐ Claim 25.11.43 Lt.Col. Jenkins 55th FG 343rd Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 FW 190 - S.W. Lille
☐ Claim 25.11.43 Capt. Patterson 55th FG 338th Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 FW 190 - S.W. Lille
☐ Claim 25.11.43 2/Lt. Birch 55th FG 38th Sqn. 1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G - S.W. Lille
☐ Claim 25.11.43 2/Lt. Pruitt 55th FG 338th Sqn. 0 - 1 - 0 FW 190 - S.W. Lille
☐ Claim 25.11.43 Capt. Malmstedt 55th FG 343rd Sqn. 0 - 1 - 0 Me 109G - S.W. Lille
☐ Claim 25.11.43 2/Lt. Maloney 55th FG 38th Sqn. 0 - 1 - 1 Me 109G - S.W. Lille
☐ Claim 25.11.43 Capt. Ryan 55th FG 343rd Sqn. 0 - 0 - 2 Me 109G - S.W. Lille
☐ Claim 25.11.43 2/Lt. Steiner 55th FG 38th Sqn. 0 - 0 - 1 Me 109G - S.W. Lille

Lieutenant-Colonel Jenkins led 55th Fighter Group with 57 P-38s (2 aborts due to engine trouble). Landfall-in Mardyck at 13.10 hrs., from 12,000 up to 18,000 feet, vectored 010° compass-heading to Bailleul-Lens-Arras area, to made landfall-out between Sangatte and Cap Gris Nez. Group's disposition was: 343rd Squadron at 12,000 feet, the 338th Squadron at 14,000 feet, and the 38th Squadron as top-cover at 18,000 feet. Engagements with enemy fighters: eight enemy fighters, at Bailleul, attacked from 8 o'clock-high making single passes at low squadron. Encounters broke off at 8,000 feet. Very aggressive attacks, in two-ship and four-ship flights, were encountered to the south-west of Lille, to Arras and out, making a total of 50-plus enemy aircraft being engaged. Enemy plan was to attack from all clock directions, including head-on attacks, and from out of the sun, making quick recoveries for additional passes and always keeping about four ships in a position to "bounce". Top squadron maneuvered to 27,000 feet during these engagements. Lieutenant Aldecoa's chute was seen to open at 10,000 feet, south of Lille. Flak moderate to heavy, from south of Lille to coast, intense and accurate between St. Omer and Calais. Enemy fighters were camouflaged black with dark-grey splotches, also clay-red with dull-green stripes on wings and round fuselage. Messerschmitt 109s appeared to have increased performance, some out-climbing our P-38s at 35-40 inches of boost at 2,400 r.p.m., climbing over 2,000 feet per minute. The armament observed to be two wing-guns on each side, and a cannon firing through the propeller hub. One P-38 lost by enemy action, Second-Lieutenant Manuel Aldecoa, 343rd Squadron, seen to bale-out two miles south-east of Lille. One P-38 crash-landed at Duxford rendered Cat. E. One P-38 crashed and burned 10 miles south-east of base (Nuthampstead), the pilot, Second-Lieutenant B. Lane of 20th Fighter Group, on detachment, was killed. Seven P-38s sustained Cat. A battle and Flak damage.

Fighter Group Narratives: Field Order No. 190 - Fighter-bombing Attack
St. Omer/Louguenesse Airdrome.

★ VIII FC 56th FG 53 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.57-13.49 F.O. 190 nil n/a nil n/a Pas-de-Calais Fighter-Bombing

Lieutenant-Colonel Schilling led 56th Fighter Group with 53 P-47s (3 aborts). Route and timing as briefed: positions 51° 10' North - 01° 30' East. Zero-minus 8 minutes. Rendezvous at 50° 55' North - 01° 05' East at Zero-Hour. Target over St. Omer at Zero + 10 minutes. To position 51° 05' North - 02° 35' East at Z-plus 16 minutes. Base at Z-plus 38 minutes. When Group reached the briefed Rendezvous Point, the bomber (a B-24) was observed 20 miles west of French coast heading inland. "Yardstick" Control called on bomber to orbit to enable Group to position properly. Bomber complied but required more time than anticipated by "Yardstick" and the Group was forced to orbit which resulted in some confusion, a late rendezvous and bad positioning. The rendezvous was made about 15 miles west of the target at 24,000 feet, but the squadrons were still jockeying for position when the target was reached. Respective positions of squadrons are as follows: 62nd Squadron echeloned to rear and right of bomber, 61st Squadron to left of bomber, and the 63rd Squadron, with Red and White Flights tacked on, to left rear the 61st Squadron. Yellow and Blue Flights were directly astern of the bomber. Group flying on bomber in fair formation. When bombs dropped, bomber's inter-velometer (bombing-computer) failed to function, and bombs were released in "salvo 1½ seconds" after

the bomb-release line. Planned R/T count from the bombardier to fighters was not given, and practically all releases were made visually causing bulk of bombs to hit approximately 1,000-yards beyond the M.P.I. (Mean Position of Impact), which was compass-swinging base at the airfield. Some bombs observed to hit target. Rendezvous with 356th Fighter Group off Dungeness was as planned. Landfall-in Ambleteuse, 24,000 feet. Bombs away at 12.59 hrs., from 24,000 feet. Landfall-out Mardyck, 23,000 feet., at 13.07 hours. The 63rd Squadron escorted bomber to just off Orfordness. Flak heavy, intense, accurate for altitude over entire Continental route, especially from landfall to target and Dunkerque. Eight ships damaged Cat. A due to Flak. nine to ten "bogies" seen south of Mardyck, 8,000 feet, flying inland. Intercom. with bomber on Channel "A" was fair.

★ VIII FC 356th FG 48 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.08-15.55 F.O. 190 nil n/a nil n/a Pas-de-Calais
Fighter Escort

Lieutenant-Colonel Coen led 356th Fighter Group with 48 P-47s (nil aborts). Rendezvous with 56th Group at 12.50 hrs., 26,000 feet, south-east of Dungeness after orbiting. Landfall-in 12.55 hrs., slightly south of Boulogne, whence continued to St. Omer. No enemy aircraft seen. From landfall-in to landfall-out light Flak observed varying from accurate to inaccurate, and meagre to moderate. Most bombs seemed to fall slightly south-east of target, but one observed reported hits on east end of airfield, pattern dispersed. Left bombers at 12.59 hrs., when just north of the target. Landfall-out near Gravelines, 13.12 hrs., at 24,000 feet. R/T fair. Interference less than usual although some jamming en-route home. No intercom. with bombers. No battle damage.

★ VIII FC 352nd FG 53 P-47 Thunderbolt 13.10-15.05 F.O. 190 nil n/a nil n/a Pas-de-Calais
Fighter Sweep

Colonel Mason led 352nd Fighter Group with 53 P-47s (7 aborts: 486th Squadron, one radio-failure, two belly-tank problems, one pilot sick; 487th Squadron, two belly-tank problems, one detailed as escort). Operation was Rodeo No. 2 for 67th Fighter Wing. Group out English coast Orfordness, 13.25 hrs. at 12,000 feet. In enemy coast vicinity Blankenberge, 13.40 hrs. at 13,000 feet. Out enemy coast 4 miles west of Mardyck, 14.19 hrs. at 12,000 feet. In English coast Felixstowe, 14.40 hrs., at 8,000 feet. After making landfall, altitude was reduced from 12,000 to 10,000 feet. Group made starboard turn to the vicinity Lille, executed another starboard turn to vicinity Furnes, made port turn and paralleled coast line to 5 miles west of Bergues, executed another port turn and headed direction of Lille, when Controller reported "bogies" to the south of Ostend. Group made port turn to intercept, however, no "bandits" sighted. Executed another port turn and paralleled coast line to point 4 miles north of St. Omer, then withdrew by making starboard turn to coast. During this sweep, the Group flew over eight to ten airdromes, however no enemy aircraft were sighted on these fields. No enemy aircraft were sighted during sweep. Moderate accurate Flak reported vicinity Dunkirk, Lille, Bailleul and Calais. One P-47 hit south-west of Calais, inconsequential (Cat. A) damage. R/T good with periodic interference. Two (2) aircraft failed to release belly-tanks.

Hq. VIII FC Reg. File 18001

Intelligence Issue No. 76

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command F.O. 191
VIIIth Bomber Command F.O. 315
26th November 1943

Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups
Field Order 191 on 26.11.43.

Heavy Bomber Attack on Bremen.

Date	Parent	Fighter	Group	Mission Order	Airborne	Effective	↑ Claim	↓ Claim	Lost	Major	Support Type
First Task Force: Bremen.											
26.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-38	28 Sorties	3-0-1	nil	-	-	Target
26.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	51 P-47	45 Sorties	26-2-7	nil	1 P-47	-	Withdrawal
26.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	46 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
Second Task Force: Bremen.											
26.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	49 P-47	43 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
26.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	44 Sorties	1-0-0	nil	-	-	Penetration
26.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	45 P-47	43 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
26.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	63 P-47	63 Sorties	3-1-1	nil	-	-	Withdrawal

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command Results: Claims on 33-3-9 enemy aircraft in the air. Losses on 1 P-47. One U.S. pilot missing. Damaged categories: nil VIIIth Fighter Command dispatched 312 effective sorties (284 P-47s and 28 P-38s) on seven missions. Enemy aircraft seen: 300-plus. U.S. bombers seen to go down: five.

Types of Support :	Penetration	Target	Withdrawal	Totals
Number of Groups VIII th	7	1 Mission	4 Missions	7 Missions
P-47s on Mission	87 P-47s	nil	197 P-47s	284 P-47s
P-38s on Mission	nil	28 P-38s	nil	28 P-38s
Aircraft Lost :	nil	nil	1 P-47	1 P-47
Aircraft crashed in England, Cat. E or badly damaged :-	nil	nil	nil	nil
Personnel Casualties	nil	nil	1 (MIA)	1 (MIA)
Combat Claims (Air)	1-0-0	3-0-1	29-3-8	33-3-9
Enemy aircraft seen*	nil	300-plus	50-plus	350-plus
Bombers seen to go down*	3 B-17s	nil	2 B-17s	5 B-17s

*Possible duplications as compiled from individual Group sightings.

GENERAL NARRATIVE:

The mission of this date called for the support of nine combat wings of B-17s and B-24s which were attacking targets at Bremen. In addition, two combat wings of B-17s were attacking targets in the city of Paris. The First Task Force of five combat wings of B-17s were supported by the 55th, 56th and 356th Fighter Groups. The Second Task Force, of two combat wings of B-17s and the second combat wing of B-24s, were supported by the 353rd, 4th, 355th and 352nd Fighter Groups. The Third Task Force was supported of the 'A' and 'B' groups of the 78th Fighter Group. The First Task Force appeared to have received that bulk of the enemy fighter resistance. The 55th Fighter Group reported moderate to strong attacks on the bombers, and were successful in breaking up many of these. Some of these enemy aircraft were at altitudes above 30,000 feet, the remainder queuing up for head-on attacks. This group destroyed three enemy fighters. The 56th Fighter Group returned in what is obviously the outstanding performance to date by fighter aircraft in this theatre. Their final score was twenty-six destroyed, eighteen of which were twin-engined. These twin-engined aircraft were launching attacks at the rear of the bombers. They had a top-cover of single-engined aircraft which attempted to protect the twin-engined fighters, but as the results indicate, without success. It is believed that this mission speaks for itself as to the effectiveness of the twin-engined rocket-equipped aircraft when fighter escort is present. On the Second Task Force, the 4th and 352nd Fighter Groups were the only groups to encounter enemy aircraft. The 4th Group destroyed one, and the 352nd Fighter Group destroyed three. The 353rd and 355th Fighter Groups did not sight the enemy, so it may be assumed that this force was comparatively unmolested. The 78th Fighter Group, which escorted the Third Task Force on the Paris targets, encountered a considerable number of enemy fighters. They destroyed three enemy aircraft for the loss of three of their own P-47s. No unusual tactics were noted.

Bomber Report: Heavy bomber attacks on Bremen city. In the First Task Force, 407 B-17s were dispatched to the target of which 43 were early returns. Three hundred and fifty-two (352) bombers attacked the primary target, and 12 the secondary targets. Bombing results were unobserved. Twenty-two (22) B-17s were lost. In the Second Air Task Force, 101 B-17s and B-24s were dispatched and 25 returned early. Bombing results were thought to be good. Three (3) bombers were lost.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 191 - Fighter Support
First Task Force: Bremen.

Symbol	FC	FG	Aircraft	Date	F.O.	Losses	Remarks	Location
☀	VIII	55 th	48 P-38 Lightning	10.11-13.30	F.O. 191	3 - 0 - 1	E/A nil	n/a Bremen-Oldenburg
			Target Support					
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Maj. Webb	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	Bremen-Oldenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Capt. Malmstedt	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Ju 88C	Bremen-Oldenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	2/Lt. Erickson	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	Bremen-Oldenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Maj. Johnson	55 th FG	20 th Group	1 - 0 - 0	Do 217	Bremen-Oldenburg

Colonel James led 55th Fighter Group with 48 P-38s (20 aborts). Group leader and deputy leader forced abort before reaching the Dutch coast, Major Webb assuming the lead. Landfall-in from 11.17 to 11.30 hrs., at 32,000 feet, at Den Helder, to east of Drachten, to Zuidbroek, Weener and Deter, at which point bombers were seen approaching the Rendezvous Point from the north-east. Because of the great number of abortives, and the facts that 50-plus enemy fighters were seen climbing towards the bombers, and another 50-plus enemy aircraft were already queuing up, at approximately 27,000 feet, to make head-on attacks from out of the sun, the Leader decided to sweep the target area and break up enemy fighter formations before bombers made their target run. P-38s proceeded to the south of Oldenburg with one squadron at 32,000 feet, acting as top-cover, and the remaining force at 30,000 feet. The latter engaged a gaggle of enemy aircraft several miles north-west of Delmenhorst at 27,000 feet at approximately 12.00 hours. Top-cover squadron circled the target area three times, warding off passes by enemy aircraft attacking at their own level. After the main group had become disengaged, the entire force proceeded out on the planned course, sweeping the area to the P-47 Rendezvous Points. The P-47s were observed approaching the rendezvous as the P-38s proceeded home. The apparent plan of the enemy attack was to build up in queues of 8-10 aircraft for head-on attacks on the bombers. Some queues were composed of 4-5 twin-engined rocket-equipped airplanes, protected by 4 to 5 single-engined aircraft, others composed entirely of single-engined fighters. The enemy aircraft appeared to have a limited performance at 30,000 to 34,000 feet, and a few were able to climb high enough to gain an advantageous position. Smoke-pots in groups of ten were strung out along the Weser River north of Bremen for about 30 miles. Flak was negligible.

Symbol	FC	FG	Aircraft	Date	F.O.	Losses	Remarks	Location
☀	VIII	56 th	51 P-47 Thunderbolt	10.53-13.36	F.O. 191	26-2-7	E/A 1 Lost	Mech. Oldenburg-Zuider
			Withdrawal Support					
❖	Loss	26.11.43	1/Lt. Byron L. Morrill	56 th FG	Missing	P-47D-2	42-7079	POW 62 nd Sqn.
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.Col. Schilling	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Maj. Gabreski	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Maj. Stewart	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Do 217	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	F/O Klibbe	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.Col. Schilling	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 210	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Maj. Craig	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Maj. Craig	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Capt. Cook	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Me 210	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Capt. O'Neill	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 110	Shared Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Lt. Boyle	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 110	Shared Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Capt. O'Neill	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Capt. Johnson R.	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Me 110	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Lt. Bryant	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Lt. Carcione	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Lt. Morrill S. B.	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	F/O Valenta	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	3 - 0 - 1	Me 110	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Lt. Christensen	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Capt. Mahurin	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	3 - 1 - 0	Me 110	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Lt. Comstock	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 1	Me 110	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Lt. Truluck	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Lt. Comstock	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Lt. Petty	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 110	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Lt. Truluck	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 110	Oldenburg-Papenburg
☐	Claim	26.11.43	Lt. Brown J. D.	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	Oldenburg-Papenburg

Lieutenant-Colonel Schilling led 56th Fighter Group with 51 P-47s (6 aborts). Group made landfall-in just north of Egmond at 11.40 hrs. at 25,000 to 26,000 feet. Proceeded on course dropping tanks at 11.45 hrs. over the Zuider Zee. Rendezvous with the bombers by 62nd Squadron at Papenburg at 12.06 hrs. at 30,000 feet. The 61st and 63rd Squadrons rendezvoused when south of Oldenburg at 12.09 hrs. at 30,000 feet. At the Rendezvous Point, 50 to 60 enemy fighters were observed launching attacks from astern, from 5 to 7 o'clock positions on rear box of bombers. Majority were twin-engined Me 110s and Me 210s with single-engined fighter screen of Me 109s and FW 190s, including a top-cover at 30,000 feet. On the approach of the Group, enemy single-engined fighters, some of which were up at 30,000 feet, attempted to engage us to allow the twin-engined fighters to lob rockets into the bomber's formation. The twin-engined fighters were coming in individually on the same level and below, and were very aggressive and would continue positioning themselves for further attacks. These enemy fighters were painted the same colour as the Forts (Olive Drab). No frontal attacks on bombers observed. Most combats took place immediately and ensued from the rendezvous throughout the escort from 30,000 down to 14,000 feet. Another flight of 8 twin-engined fighters was reported in the same colouring as the bombers, and simulating bomber's formation, flying parallel to the second box of bombers. Smoke-pots seen in the vicinity of the target. Bombing results not observed. Escort broken off by 61st Squadron when south of Eelde at 12.32 hours. The 62nd Squadron broke in the vicinity of Veendam at various times. The 63rd Squadron broke when south of Leeuwarden at 12.51 hours. The enemy maintained single-engined aircraft at 32,000 feet, outside and flying parallel to bombers, apparently to engage the escort. One bomber observed going down in the rendezvous area, exploding at 15,000 feet: one chute seen. One P-47 reported going down in the vicinity of Groningen: no chute seen. Lieutenant Morrill, of 62nd Squadron, is believed to have baled-out near Amsterdam at approximately 4,000 feet. Cloud prevented escort from observing the parachute. Escort, Lieutenant Kelly, Red No. 4, shot up a motor-vessel in the canal near to Haarlem on the way out. Several bombers were observed straggling on the route out. Large black rectangular marker seen near Oldeboorn with large letter "N" above letter "W" in line with rectangular strip, estimated to cover 10 to 20 acres pointing north-west. Group made landfall-out between Noordwijerhout and Vlieland Island by flights and elements at approximately 12.48 hrs. at 25,000 feet. Fighter-to-bomber intercom. was garbled. Flak fired at one flight coming in over Clacton-on-Sea at 3,000 feet. One P-47 lost, reason unknown, possibly due to excessive siphoning of gas (petrol): 1/Lt. Byron L. Morrill stated on R/T to be baling-out vicinity of Amsterdam. One P-47 damaged Cat. A, one P-47 damaged Cat. AC, reasons not stated.

★ VIII FC 356th FG 52 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.38-13.54 F.O. 191 nil n/a nil n/a Bakkeveen-North Sea
Withdrawal Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Rau led 356th Fighter Group with 52 P-47s (6 aborts). Landfall-in on course at 12.21 hrs. at 25,000 feet, when about 7 miles north of Bergen-aan-Zee. Bombers sighted with escort. Bombers were early, and the 356th Group made rendezvous 15 miles west of designated Rendezvous Point at 12.34 hrs., over Bakkeveen. Bombers bunched up and easy to cover. No enemy aircraft seen. Some Flak, light and inaccurate over Harlingen and Texel. Radio fair, with usual jamming.

Fighter Group Narratives: Field Order No. 191 - Fighter Support
Second Task Force: Bremen.

★ VIII FC 353rd FG 49 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.39-13.42 F.O. 191 nil n/a nil n/a Den Helder-Bremen
Penetration Support

Major Duncan led 353rd Fighter Group with 49 P-47s (6 aborts). Group made landfall-in at Den Helder at 11.31 hrs., at 27,000 feet. At 11.50 hrs., when the Group was over Emden, bombers were seen over the sea to the north. No bombers at the planned Rendezvous Point. Group flew on course to converge with bombers coming from the north. Over Wilhelmshaven, Flak and con-trails seen over the target area, believed to be the First Task Force on their way out. Actual rendezvous made with first box of bombers at a point believed to be Gluckstadt at 12.07 hrs., at 29,000 feet. Rest of bombers were considerably strung out making adequate escort difficult. Flew course with bombers until 12.14 hrs., leaving them just prior to the target. On way out the Group overtook First Task Force near Wolvege. P-47 escort was plentiful. Left enemy coast at Ijmuiden at 12.52 hrs. at 22,000 feet. Effective smoke-screen over Emden. Meagre Flak at Leeuwarden, Emden and Ijmuiden. One B-17 seen heading north-west in the vicinity of Wesermünde. One B-17 seen under formation heading west in the vicinity of Herrenveen. One B-17 seen on fire in the vicinity of Assen. Radio whine intense. Four P-47s landed at Bodney, one at Thorpe Abbots, two at an unknown base, and two came down at Ludham.

★ VIII FC 4th FG 42 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.07-14.50 F.O. 191 1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G nil n/a Oldenburg-De Kooy
Withdrawal Support

□ Claim 26.11.43 Lt. Padgett 4th FG 335th Sq. 1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G - Heide/Oldenburg

Lieutenant-Colonel Blakeslee led 4th Fighter Group with 42 P-47s (8 aborts). Group crossed in enemy coast 5 miles south of De Kooy at 11.59 hrs., at 24,000 feet, and made rendezvous at 12.21 hrs., about four minutes late. Bombers apparently also four minutes late as Group made rendezvous at the designated place. B-17 boxes well formed, but third box of B-24s were strung out with as much space as a mile between individual aircraft making cover difficult. In the vicinity of Heide, a Me 109 attacking a lone B-24 was engaged by Lieutenant Cadman Padgett, 335th Squadron, and destroyed. The enemy fighter was equipped with a large external belly-tank, blew up in mid air, and a section of its wing struck one of our aircraft damaging it slightly. East of Papenburg, three Me 109s approached formation from south-west and above, and started an attack of the rear of the leading box. Upper diverted these, and the enemy fighters then lined up for attack on front elements of second box. These veered away after sections of 336th Squadron, which was covering the second box, turned into them. The enemy aircraft dived northwards. Group left the bombers at 12.46 hrs. as a P-47 group, which had made rendezvous at 12.40 hrs. over Zuidlaarder Lake, was in position to take over. Crossing out Zuider Zee, seven Me 109s flying in sections of fours and threes, in same formation as the P-47s use, came in from the south and 500 feet above 334th Squadron, the leading squadron. The enemy aircraft swung around in front and went down as "upper" turned to engage. Group crossed out over De Kooy at 24,000 feet. Lieutenant Bennett, of 336th Squadron, was forced to return over the Zuider Zee because of tank trouble, and he was "bounced" by two Me 109s from up-sun. Turning into them at 22,000 ft., he fired but makes no claim. Both the enemy aircraft went into cloud and Lt. Bennett lost them. In the vicinity of Lemmer, Lieutenant Anderson, 335th Squadron, while flying with his section at 22,000 feet, was "bounced" by a P-47 which came in head-on, swung around and got on his tail. The P-47 was marked "LM-F" and broke away without firing as Lieutenant Anderson took evasive action. Three bombers were seen going down, one in the vicinity of Berne, one near Oldenburg, a the third near Friesoythe, but no chutes were seen. Heavy smoke observed from target area and smoke pots seen in action from the Emden area.

★ VIII FC 355th FG 45 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.11-13.55 F.O. 191 nil n/a nil n/a Papenburg-Kijkduin
Withdrawal Support

Colonel Cummings led 355th Fighter Group with 45 P-47s (2 aborts). Landfall-in when 5 miles south of Den Helder at 12.09 hrs. at 29,000 feet. The fighter-to-bomber rendezvous was made at 12.29 hrs., when 5 miles west of Papenburg, with the 354th Squadron as centre-cover at 30,000 feet, the 357th Squadron on left side and low, and the 358th Squadron on right flank and high. The bombers were escorted along withdrawal route to landfall-out at Den Helder at 13.02 hrs., at 30,000 feet. No enemy aircraft were seen, no bombers were seen to go down although there were many stragglers. Meagre to moderate inaccurate Flak observed at Leeuwarden, Groningen, Oldenburg, Middenmeer, Ostrend and Kijkduin. Emden was nearly obliterated by smoke-screen. During escort another group came through our formation at right angles (90°), one ship of a two-flight bearing the letters "PI", and hit and damaged the vertical stabilizer of a plane in the 354th Squadron. R/T fair to good with varying amounts of interference being reported. Bombers could be heard but not contacted on "C" Channel.

★ VIII FC 352nd FG 63 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.45-14.20 F.O. 191 3 - 1 - 1 Me 109G nil n/a Strucklingen-Tessel
Withdrawal Support

□	Claim 26.11.43	Maj.	Meyer	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	1 - 1 - 1	Me 109G	13.10 hrs.	E. Groningen
□	Claim 26.11.43	Capt.	Dilling	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	13.10 hrs.	E. Groningen
□	Claim 26.11.43	Lt.	Bennett	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 109G	Shared	E. Groningen
□	Claim 26.11.43	Lt.	Berkshire	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 109G	Shared	E. Groningen

Colonel Mason led 353rd Fighter Group with 63 P-47s (nil aborts). Group out English coast 5 miles north of Great Yarmouth at 11.59 hrs. at 10,000 feet. In, enemy coast, at Den Helder at 12.27 hrs. at 27,000 feet. Out, enemy coast, at Tessel at 13.20 hrs. at 27,000 feet. In, English coast, when approximately 10 miles north of Great Yarmouth at 13.49 hours. Bombers were approximately five minutes late. Rendezvous was made at 12.45 hrs., when in the vicinity of Strucklingen at 27,000 feet. The Group positioned itself around the bombers, and withdrew along the bomber route. First two boxes of B-17s held good formation while last two boxes of B-24s were spread out. Six enemy aircraft were intercepted by Yellow Flight, led by Major Meyer and Blue Flight, led by Lt. Bennett of 487th Squadron, making attacks on two B-24 stragglers at 23,000 feet, about 20 miles east of Groningen at 13.10 hours. Our attacks were made from position up-sun. All the enemy fighters were carrying rocket-guns under each wing and something resembling a belly-tank under fuselage. They were painted a brownish-gray. Three Me 109Gs were painted a dirty gray with red ribbon on tail, and two FW 190s with yellow noses, were sighted in the vicinity of Groningen at 12.55 hrs. at 26,000 feet. Captain Andrews, Blue Flight leader, and Lt. McKean, Green Flight leader of 486th Squadron, fired upon two Me 109s with yellow spinners in the vicinity of Tessel at 13.22 hours. Group leader was notified by bomber intercom. that a German B-24 was in formation with one of the B-24 boxes. Colonel Mason orbited with flight to encounter but could not locate the enemy aircraft. Light accurate Flak was encountered in the vicinity of Bolsward and Groningen. R/T weak with intense jamming. Bomber intercom. was satisfactory.

Intelligence Issue No. 76

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command F.O. 191
VIIIth Bomber Command F.O. 315
11 Grp. Ramrod 335
26th November 1943

Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups
Field Order 191 on 26.11.43.

Heavy Bomber Attack on Paris Ball-bearing Factories.

Date	Parent	Fighter	Group	Mission Order	Airborne	Effective	↑ Claim	↓ Claim	Lost	Major	Support Type
Third Task Force: Paris I/A.											
26.11.43	VIII FC	78 th A & B	Group	1 st Mission	76 P-47	69 Sorties	3-0-0	nil	3 P-47	3 Cat. E	General

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command Results: Claims on 3-0-0 enemy aircraft in the air. Losses on 3 P-47s. Three U.S. pilots missing. Damaged categories: 3 P-47s destroyed Cat. E, or seriously damaged, in England, and 1 P-47 Cat. AC. VIIIth Fighter Command dispatched 69 effective sorties (69 P-47s) on one mission, with R.A.F. support. Enemy aircraft seen: 50-plus. U.S. bombers seen to go down: one.

Bomber Report: 3rd Air Task Force to Paris ball-bearing factories. One hundred and twenty-eight (128) B-17s were dispatched to the target, but all were abortive. Four B-17s were lost from this force. According to Radar there was an enemy fighter reaction of 60-plus from the Lille and Abbeville areas. Penetration Support was provided by R.A.F. Fighter Command with 34 Spitfires IX of Nos. 19, 65 and 122 Squadrons from Gravesend, and Withdrawal Escort by 24 Spitfires IX of 403 and 421 Squadrons from Kenley, and 22 Spitfires IX of 331 and 332 Squadrons from North Weald.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 191 - Fighter Support.
Third Task Force: Paris I/A.

★	VIII FC	78 th FG	76 P-47 Thunderbolt	09.32-12.20	F.O. 191	3 - 0 - 0	E/A	3 Lost	E/A	Paris- St. Valéry
General Escort										
❖	Loss	26.11.43	2/Lt.	John W. Herrick	78 th FG	Missing	P-47C-2	41-6188	POW	82 nd Sqn.
❖	Loss	26.11.43	F/O	Ralph E. Cormier	78 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8681	□	83 rd Sqn.
❖	Loss	26.11.43	2/Lt.	Wayne W. Dougherty	78 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8573	POW	84 th Sqn.
□	Cat.E	26.11.43	Pilot	wanting	78 th FG	Present	P-47D	wanting	OK: F/L in England	Sqn.
□	Cat.E	26.11.43	Pilot	wanting	78 th FG	Present	P-47D	wanting	OK: F/L in England	Sqn.
□	Cat.E	26.11.43	Pilot	wanting	78 th FG	Present	P-47D	wanting	OK: F/L in England	Sqn.
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Ashelson	78 th FG	83 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Paris-Beauvais
□	Claim	26.11.43	Maj.	Price	78 th FG	84 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Paris-Beauvais
□	Claim	26.11.43	Maj.	Price	78 th FG	84 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Paris-Beauvais

Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts led 'A' and Major Davis led 78th 'B' Fighter Group with 76 P-47s (7 aborts). Shortly after crossing the English coast, bombers were seen, four minutes late on course, with Spits in front. Group crossed the French coast between Dieppe and St. Valéry-en-Caux at 28,000 feet at 10.11 hours, and swept the area well to the south of bomber route and made rendezvous with bombers near Les Andelys. Swept in front of bombers to near Paris where Group ess'ed over and to the south of the bombers trying to break up attacks by about 30 FW 190s and Me 109s which attacked the bombers from the east of Paris to Beauvais, where Spits made rendezvous with the bombers. Group left

them crossing-out, French coast, over Cayeux at 11.20 hrs. at 25,000 feet. One Fort was seen to explode in the Paris area, no chutes were seen to open. Another left formation and dove into clouds east of Beauvais followed by enemy fighters. Group leader led two flights down to protect the straggler, but was unable to close on the enemy aircraft. Engagements with enemy fighters took place from Paris to Beauvais from 24,000 down to 15,000 feet. Lieutenant Dougherty, flying Red 4 in 84th Squadron, was "bounced" by a Me 109 when north of Paris, strikes were seen on his aircraft, and he was last seen going down trailing smoke with his aircraft under control. Moderate Flak, accurate for bombers, seen over the Paris area. No attacks by rocket-guns observed, nor were any twin-engined enemy fighters seen. Three P-47s crash-landed short of gas, and one also short of gas nosed-over on landing. All landed at airdromes in south-east England. (Three P-47 sustained Cat. E damage, one Cat. AC, due to the four forced-landings is the probable report: Ed.).

Hq. VIII FC Reg. File 18005

Intelligence Issue No. 77

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command F.O. 192
VIIIth Bomber Command F.O. 318
29th November 1943

Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups
Field Order 192 on 29.11.43.

Heavy Bomber Attack on Bremen.

Date	Parent	Fighter	Group	Mission Order	Airborne	Effective	↑ Claim	↓ Claim	Lost	Major	Support Type
First Task Force: Bremen.											
29.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	51 P-47	43 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
29.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	32 Sorties	0-3-0	nil	-	-	Penetration
29.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	55 P-38	38 Sorties	2-0-2	nil	7 P-38	-	Target
29.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	47 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
29.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	39 P-47	36 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
Second Task Force: Bremen.											
29.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	41 Sorties	8-0-2	nil	1 P-47	-	Penetration
29.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	39 Sorties	1-0-1	nil	3 P-47	-	Withdrawal
29.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	47 Sorties	4-2-1	nil	5 P-47	-	Withdrawal
29.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	37 P-47	29 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command Results: Claims on 15-5-6 enemy aircraft in the air. Losses on 9 P-47s and 7 P-38s. Sixteen U.S. pilots missing. Damaged categories: nil VIIIth Fighter Command dispatched 352 effective sorties (314 P-47s and 38 P-38s) on nine missions. Enemy aircraft seen: 300-plus. U.S. bombers seen to go down: five.

Types of Support :	Penetration	Target	Withdrawal	Totals
Number of Groups VIII th	8	3 Missions	5 Missions	9 Missions
P-47s on Mission	116 P-47s	nil	198 P-47s	314 P-47s
P-38s on Mission	nil	38 P-38s	nil	38 P-38s
Aircraft Lost :	1 P-47	7 P-38s	8 P-47s	9 P-47s 7 P-38s
Aircraft crashed in England, Cat. E or badly damaged :-	nil	nil	nil	nil
Personnel Casualties	1 (MIA)	7 (MIA)	8 (MIA)	16 (MIA)
Combat Claims (Air)	8-3-2	2-0-2	5-2-2	15-5-6
Enemy aircraft seen*	69	40-plus	50-plus	159-plus
Bombers seen to go down*	2 B-17s	nil	nil	2 B-17s

*Possible duplications as compiled from individual Group sightings.

GENERAL NARRATIVE:

In this mission three combat wings of B-17s from the 3rd Bomb. Division and three wings of B-17s from the 1st Bomb. Division bombed targets in Bremen. The First Air Task Force of three wings was supported by the 353rd Fighter Group, the 4th Group, the 55th Group, the 352nd Group and the 78th 'A' Group. The Second Task Force of three combat wings from the 1st Division was supported by the 56th Fighter Group, the 355th Group, the 356th Group and the 78th 'B' Group. The 355th and 4th Fighter Groups were to move to advanced bases for refuelling prior to the mission. The 353rd Fighter Group encountered no enemy opposition, although they sighted enemy aircraft at the time of departure, but were unable to engage due to fuel shortage. The 4th Fighter group rendezvoused with the bombers and encountered some enemy aircraft, claiming two probably destroyed in the ensuing combat. The 55th Fighter Group was intercepted when approximately at the eastern coast of Holland by a total of nearly 80 enemy aircraft which apparently had set up a well-planned interception, forcing the entire Group to engage in combat, making their rendezvous impossible. Out of this action two single-engined enemy fighters were destroyed and two fighters damaged, but 7 P-38s from the 55th Fighter Group are missing. This Group was "bounced" from above by 40-plus enemy aircraft which were estimated to have been at 34,000 to 35,000 feet, all Messerschmitt Me 109s; another 40-plus, climbing up from ahead, were also engaged, also all Me 109s. These enemy fighters took advantage of their altitude and speed to make "bounces", and then pulled up for other "bounces". The P-38s of the 55th Fighter Group were carrying belly-tanks at the time, and were forced to drop them by these attacks. The 352nd Fighter Group encountered no opposition. The 78th 'A' Fighter Group also encountered no enemy fighter opposition. The 56th Fighter Group, furnishing the first support for the 1st Bomb. Division, again added to their score, claiming 8 destroyed enemy aircraft and two damaged for the loss of one of their aircraft, combat mainly occurring in the target area where 40-plus aircraft were preparing for frontal attacks on the bombers. The 355th Fighter Group, which furnished second part of support for the 1st Bomb. Division, also encountered enemy fighters after the rendezvous with the bombers, and in the ensuing combat destroyed one and damaged another; three P-47s and pilots are missing from these operations. The 356th Fighter Group, which made the next rendezvous with the 1st Division, also encountered enemy fighters making attacks on the bombers, and in the ensuing combat destroyed four, two probably destroyed and two damaged; five P-47s and their pilots are missing. The 78th 'B' Fighter Group, the last group furnishing withdrawal support for this Division, encountered no opposition.

Bomber Report: Heavy Bomber Attack on Bremen by First Air Task Force: 186 B-17 bombers were dispatched to this target at Bremen from the Task Force. Seventy-five (75) B-17s returned early, while 109 bombed the primary target, one B-17 bombed a target at Oldenburg, and one an unknown target. 327.0 tons of bombs were dropped on the primary target with unknown results. Nine (9) B-17s area missing. The Second Air Task Force, which consisted of 175 B-17 bombers, was dispatched to Bremen: 131 of the bombers were abortive and 44 bombed the primary target. 132.0 tons of bombs were dropped with unobserved results. Four (4) bombers are missing.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 192 - Fighter Support
First Task Force: Bremen.

★ VIII FC 353rd FG 51 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.43-15.30 F.O. 192 nil n/a nil n/a Course unclear
 Penetration Support

Major Duncan led 353rd Fighter Group with 51 P-47s (8 aborts). Group set course from home base at 13.08 hours. Due to 10/10th cloud cover along course, points of landfall and rendezvous are problematical. At the planned rendezvous the bombers were seen off to the left and a left turn was made. Bombers were flying a course of 180-degrees magnetic. Rendezvous with the bombers was made shortly after 13.59 hours. Bombers were at 28,000 to 30,000 feet. The bomber formation covered an extremely wide area. Escorted the bombers until 14.20 hours. At 14.07 hrs., one B-17 pulled away from the lead box of formation and headed back. Just as Group leader was forced to return due to reaching the limit of endurance, con-trails approaching the bombers were observed coming from the east. White and Red Flights of lead squadron turned into the nearest gaggle of Me 109s, and dispersed them. One pilot fired guns but makes no claim. More P-47s were seen making the rendezvous with the bombers. Five Me 109s were sighted. On the way out meagre heavy Flak was encountered, accurate for height, inaccurate for direction. Two large bursts of red smoke were seen. Trail of heavy white smoke was seen to go up in front of one flight reaching a height of 34,000 to 35,000 feet. R/T white intense, but air-to-air intercom. was fairly good. Contact with the bombers was successful.

★ VIII FC 4th FG 48 P-47 Thunderbolt 12.55-15.55 F.O. 192 0 - 3 - 0 Me 109G nil n/a Course unclear
 Penetration Support

□	Claim 29.11.43	Capt.	Smith F. D.	4 th FG	335 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	-	Bremen
□	Claim 29.11.43	Lt.	Beeson	4 th FG	334 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	-	Bremen
□	Claim 29.11.43	Lt.	Godfrey	4 th FG	336 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	-	Bremen

Major Edner led 4th Fighter Group with 48 P-47s, up from advance base at Bungay at 12.55 hrs. Landed home base at Debden at 15.55 hours. Sixteen P-47s aborted this mission. Group made rendezvous with three boxes of bombers just north-west of schedule rendezvous at 14.10 hours. Just prior to the target (Bremen), 6 to 8 Me 109s attacked the lead box from head-on, then nipped into cloud 500 feet below the bomber formation, coming out of cloud later on for a underneath attack, and again evading into cloud. These enemy fighters were thought to have used rockets, but no effects of their fire were noted. Four FW 190s, bearing a red band around their rear fuselage, made attack just before bombs-away and a lone Me 109 came in through the formation just after the target and began an attack on a P-47. This enemy aircraft was engaged by Lieutenant Beeson. In the vicinity of Bremen, after the bombing, Capt. Smith engaged another Me 109 with result listed above. While firing at a Me 109 in the vicinity south-west of Bremen, on the withdrawal from target, a P-47 dove from 8 o'clock and above passing through Lieutenant Godfrey's line-of-fire. Strikes were noticed on cockpit of P-47 before Lt. Godfrey could cease firing. The P-47 lost some altitude, and then flew straight and level not appearing to be in any difficulty. Some bombers seen to bomb at 14.30 hrs., and this Group withdrew at 14.32 hours. Landfall-out and crossing out points unknown due to solid cloud and nil air-ground visibility.

★ VIII FC 55th FG 55 P-38 Lightning 13.01-15.49 F.O. 192 2 - 0 - 2 Me 109G 7 Lost E/A Aschendorf-Egmond
 Target Support

❖	Loss 29.11.43	Maj.	Milton Joel	55 th FG	Missing P-38H-5	42-67020	□	38 th Sqn.
❖	Loss 29.11.43	2/Lt.	James M. Garvin	55 th FG	Missing P-38H-5	42-67046	□	38 th Sqn.
❖	Loss 29.11.43	2/Lt.	John J. Carroll	55 th FG	Missing P-38H-5	42-67090	POW	38 th Sqn.
❖	Loss 29.11.43	2/Lt.	Albert A. Albino	55 th FG	Missing P-38H-5	42-67051	□	38 th Sqn.
❖	Loss 29.11.43	2/Lt.	Fleming W. Suiter	55 th FG	Missing P-38H-5	42-67069	POW	338 th Sqn.
❖	Loss 29.11.43	2/Lt.	James W. Gilbride	55 th FG	Missing P-38H-5	42-67097	□	343 rd Sqn.
❖	Loss 29.11.43	2/Lt.	John S. Hascall	20 th FG	Missing P-38H-5	42-67016	□	77 th Sqn.
□	Claim 29.11.43	Capt.	Patterson	55 th FG	338 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	- Meppen-Hoogeveen
□	Claim 29.11.43	2/Lt.	Suiter	55 th FG	338 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	- Meppen-Hoogeveen
□	Claim 29.11.43	2/Lt.	Erickson	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	- Meppen-Hoogeveen
□	Claim 29.11.43	Capt.	Ayres	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	- Meppen-Hoogeveen

Colonel James led 55th Fighter Group with 55 P-38s (17 aborts). Set course at 2,300 ft. over base (Station 131: Nuthampstead) at 13.09 hours. Proceeded on planned course with landfall-in north of Bergen-aan-Zee at 30,000 to 32,000 feet at 13.50 hours. Solid overcast over the Continent prevented definite location throughout the mission, however, Group proceeded along line of Lemmer, Noordwolde and Grelley. Prior to reaching the vicinity of Aschendorf, 17 P-38s had aborted due largely to mechanical difficulties, leaving a total strength of 38 aircraft. At the aforementioned point at approximately 14.10 hrs., the Group was "bounced" by 40-plus Me 109s attacking from head-on and above, at the same time an additional 40-plus enemy fighters were seen below our formation at 27,000 feet. Several flights of enemy aircraft passed through our formation before the majority of our aircraft dropped their belly-tanks. Three enemy fighters continued their attacks very aggressively, in elements of two and flights of four for approximately 15 to 20 minutes. It was during the early part of this engagement that Lieutenants Carrol, Albino, Suiter and Hascall were lost. At approximately 14.29 hrs., an element of two led by Capt. Ayers of the 38th Squadron, being free of enemy aircraft, attempted to join an element led by Major Joel, a considerable distance ahead, before this was accomplished additional enemy fighters attacked Capt. Ayers and he was forced to engage, this being the last point at which Major Joel was seen. In the meantime the deputy Group leader made several 360° turns to reform the Group, and set course for base. The attacks by enemy fighters were made all the way to the Dutch coast, but were not pressed home. Three P-38s, Capt. Franklin leading, flying at 31,000 feet, were behind the main force on the withdrawal. This flight was tagged by a lone Me 109 at 6 o'clock and by a flight of four Me 109s at 7 o'clock. The latter aircraft overtook the P-38s in level flight and engaged them. Lieutenant Gilbride, flying on Capt. Gilbride's wing, was last seen at this point. A lone FW 190 was observed by our Group as we approached the Dutch coast going in at 27,000 feet. It is believed that the enemy aircraft may have been used as a "spotter". Two P-38 pilots reported sighting the bombers as a distance of 20 miles, at 11 o'clock to the initial engagement point. P-38 seen to go down and white parachute observed at 14.15 hrs. in the vicinity of Strucklingen. At same place and time

one Me 109 was observed to spin down and blew up. Many of the enemy fighters were colored brown with large red insignia on both sides of the fuselage (nose-cowling), others painted silver, and one was white with a red cross on its sides. Controller inaudible except over southern England. Seven P-38s lost, seven pilots missing. One P-38 damaged, Cat. unknown.

★ VIII FC 352nd FG 48 P-47 Thunderbolt 13.45-16.10 F.O. 192 nil n/a nil n/a Course unclear
Withdrawal Support

Colonel Mason led 352nd Fighter Group with 48 P-47s (1 abort). Group out English coast at Great Yarmouth at 14.00 hrs. at 9,000 feet. In enemy coast in the vicinity of Den Helder at 14.29 hrs. at 25,000 feet. Out enemy coast at Bergen-aan-Zee at 15.25 hrs. at 28,000 feet. In English coast at Lowestoft at 15.47 hrs. Overcast made checkpoints on the Continent problematical. Bombers on schedule and rendezvous made at 14.47 hrs. in the vicinity of Aschendorf area at 28,000 feet. Group positioned themselves over bombers and withdrew along route leaving bombers at 15.19 hrs., in the vicinity of the Zuider Zee. No enemy aircraft was sighted. A lone P-47, with letters "YF-A", made pass at Blue Flight of 328th Squadron at the rendezvous area at 14.45 hrs., at 29,000 feet. This P-47 did not fire guns but joined the flight for a minute and then disappeared. R/T exceptionally good. Bomber intercom. unserviceable.

★ VIII FC 78th 'A' FG 39 P-47 Thunderbolt 14.00-16.43 F.O. 192 nil n/a nil n/a Course unclear
Withdrawal Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts led 78th 'A' Fighter Group with 39 P-47s (3 aborts). Flew on course but due to 10/10th cloud over Holland extending from 20 miles off shore, could not see enemy coast. made rendezvous with bombers three minutes early at 14.56 hrs. at 29,000 feet. Other group was with them then. Eight minutes after the rendezvous, one bomber left the formation and went down into cloud cover, seemingly not in trouble. No enemy aircraft seen. Escorted bombers to within 20 miles of English coast. No contact with bombers on intercom. Controller could not be heard although "Greywall" called him over the Dutch coast.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 192 - Fighter Support
Second Task Force: Bremen.

★ VIII FC 56th FG 53 P-47 Thunderbolt 13.07-16.01 F.O. 192 8 - 0 - 2 E/A 1 Lost Mech. Course unclear
Penetration Support

❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Frederick C. Windmayer	56 th FG	Missing P-47D-1	42-7893	☐	63 rd Sqn.
☐	Claim	29.11.43	Maj.	Gabreski	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0 Me 109G	-	Bremen
☐	Claim	29.11.43	Capt.	Lamb	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 1 FW 190	-	Bremen
☐	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Powers	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G	-	Bremen
☐	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.Col.	Schilling	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0 FW 190	Shared	S. Oldenburg
☐	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Williamson	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0 FW 190	Shared	S. Oldenburg
☐	Claim	29.11.43	Capt.	Schreiber	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0 Me 210	-	S. Oldenburg
☐	Claim	29.11.43	Capt.	Mahurin	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G	-	Leer
☐	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Comstock	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G	-	Papenburg
☐	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Smith	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1 Me 109G	-	Leer

Lieutenant-Colonel Schilling led 56th Fighter Group with 53 P-47s (1 abort). Landfall apparently as planned, but because of 10/10th cloud condition, check point and time information is unknown. The rendezvous was made at approximate place called at briefing at 14.12 hrs. at 30,000 feet. En-route to target, Lieutenant-Colonel Schilling and Lt. Williamson, 62nd Squadron, "bounced" two FW 190s, and destroyed one (shared). At approximately the same time, Capt. Schreiber "bounced" a Me 210, the only twin-engined enemy aircraft seen by the Group during the mission, and destroyed the same. Both encounters took place south of Oldenburg. Combat by the 61st Squadron occurred in the target area from 30,000 to 24,000 feet, when 40-plus enemy aircraft were attacked as they were orbiting to make a frontal attack on the bombers. These enemy aircraft were principally Me 109s with some FW 190s of which four were destroyed and one damaged. Combat by the 63rd Squadron occurred about 14.24 hrs., when in the vicinity of Leer, where a Me 109 was engaged and probably destroyed. Other engagements took place in this vicinity but results were uncertain because of thick cloud cover. Shortly thereafter, at 30,000 feet, near Papenburg, a Me 109 attacked Lt. Wilson, wounded him in the knee, but in turn was destroyed by Lt. Comstock. While Lt. Comstock was firing at this aircraft, and unidentified P-47 flew through his fire and was probably damaged. At 14.48 hrs., just prior to this Squadron leaving the bombers, probably in the vicinity of Lathen as Capt. Goodfleisch started to "bounce" two Me 109s at 30,000 feet, 40 Me 109s were encountered which were circuiting over the bombers at 32,000 feet. These enemy fighters had belly-tanks and apparently were hesitant to attack although one opened fire at Capt. Goodfleisch and another was damaged by Lt. Smith. Lieutenant Windmayer left White flight about 14.30 hrs. near Friesoythe, probably due to engine trouble, and later radio communication indicated a probable ditching of his plane about 20 miles west of Ijmuiden. Poor vertical visibility and heavy cloud made time and geographical location of landfall-out uncertain. Two small boxes seen to abort near the Initial Point. One Fort seen with engines on fire and losing altitude just after the rendezvous; another losing altitude near Lathen as escort was broken off. After hitting target, bombers split, one section turning east and one section turning north. Bombing results not observed. One B-17 reported near Egmond seen to approach straggler from the south and then broke off and headed inland. One P-47 with no white band on cowling seen. Considerable radio jamming. Fighter-bomber intercom. successful. One P-47 lost, pilot missing. One pilot wounded by .30-in. caliber bullet wound in knee: Lieutenant Wilson.

★ VIII FC 355th FG 48 P-47 Thunderbolt 13.20-16.10 F.O. 192 1 - 0 - 1 Me 109G 3 Lost E/A Course unclear
Withdrawal Support

❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Charles K. Hecht	355 th FG	Missing P-47D-5	42-8631	POW	358 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Richard A. Peery	355 th FG	Missing P-47D-2	42-22484	POW	358 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Alfred J. Del Negroe	355 th FG	Missing P-47D-2	42-7996	☐	354 th Sqn.
☐	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Woertz	355 th FG	358 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0 Me 109G	-	Position unknown
☐	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Hull	355 th FG	358 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1 Me 109G	-	Position unknown

Colonel Cummings led 355th Fighter Group with 48 P-47s at Hardwicke 13.20 hrs., down home base 16.10 hours: (9 aborts). Overcast obliterated the Continent and much of the Channel, so that landfall and locations were hidden. The fighter-with-bomber rendezvous was made at 14.25 hrs. at 31,000 feet, when bombers were on course of 13-degrees and apparently late. Shortly after the rendezvous the bombers assumed a course directly south for 4-5 minutes, then a course directly east for 4-5 minutes, after which they made a 180° turn and came out.

The bombers were being escorted by other groups when we joined them and at 15.10 hrs. when we left them. Four to five FW 190s in string formation seen to make a 6 o'clock high attack on distant lower bomber formation. These enemy fighters had yellow wing-roots and red wing-tips. Eight Me 109s, flying a P-47-type ship-abreast formation, positioned themselves for a 2 o'clock high attack on the bombers and went into string formation just as the P-47s passed in front of them. The enemy aircraft pursued the P-47s and Lieutenant Woertz and his flight pursued the Me 109s, shooting down the tail-man in the enemy flight. No P-47s were seen to go down. In the encounter the flight was split up, but R/T was established with Lieutenants Hecht and Peery, the other members of the flight, and the latter reported that they were heading home at 14.45 hours. They were not seen again. An Me 109E-series, making a 6 o'clock, same level, attack on a P-47 bearing the 56th Fighter Group markings, was attacked by a flight resulting in the damage claim of Lieutenant Hull. The enemy aircraft was silvery-gray with a baby-blue bottom. No strikes were seen on the 56th Group P-47. Three other "stooging" Me 109s, flying singly, were attacked but broke away before engagements. No bombers were seen to go down. Heavy inaccurate Flak in the Bremen area and meagre inaccurate Flak were reported along the Dutch coast. Bombers could not be reached on "C" Channel. About 13.45 hrs., communications on "A" Channel were interrupted with calls to Halesworth. Call-sign of station was not recognized.

★	VIII FC	356 th FG	52 P-47 Thunderbolt	13.52-16.40	F.O. 192	4 - 2 - 1	E/A	5 Lost	E/A	Course unclear
Withdrawal Support										
❖	Loss	29.11.43	1/Lt. Warren H. Beach	356 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8601	POW		359 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	1/Lt. John F. Miartin	356 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8692	□		361 st Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	1/Lt. Allan M. Metzger	356 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8509	□		361 st Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt. John D. Hull	356 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8598	POW		359 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt. Julius B. Asbridge	356 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8502	POW		360 th Sqn.
□	Claim	29.11.43	Capt. White	356 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	Maj. Baccus	356 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	2/Lt. Smith J. B.	356 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	1/Lt. Withers	356 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Unident.	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	Capt. Bennett	356 th FG	Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Unident.	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	1/Lt. Metzger	356 th FG	361 st Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Unident.	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	2/Lt. Smith J. B.	356 th FG	Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Unident.	-		Position unknown

Lieutenant-Colonel Coen led 356th Fighter Group with 52 P-47s (5 aborts). Group made landfall at 28,000 feet over 10/10th cloud. Cloud cover made identification of landmarks impossible, and it was also impossible to tell where the rendezvous with the bombers was made. Bombers were late and the rendezvous was made at 15.00 hrs. at 30,000 feet. At which time 40 to 50 enemy aircraft, mostly Me 109s, were seen attacking the bombers which were flying in trail formation. One Me 109 was "bounced" by major Baccus, who attacked from astern and destroyed it. At the same time, Capt. White, leading Blue section, claimed a Me 109. Lieutenant Metzger got on the tail of another Me 109 and hits were observed on the wing roots. Captain Bennett attacked another enemy aircraft from 6 o'clock high and also observed hits. Lieutenant Withers fired and the enemy aircraft was seen to descend in flames. Enemy pilots seemed to be unaggressive and inexperienced, with little or no evasive action being taken when under attack. One Me 109 turned with one of our planes, and turned inside it. Group left the bombers at 15.12 hrs., when another P-47 group was seen coming in to protect the bombers. Landfall-out made at 25,000 feet, between The Hague and Walcheren Island. Intercom. with the bombers was good. Whining not as bad as usual on the R/T transmissions. Lieutenant Beach is believed to have baled-out in the vicinity of Hoogeveen.

★	VIII FC	78 th 'B' FG	37 P-47 Thunderbolt	14.05-16.43	F.O. 192	nil	n/a	nil	n/a	Wedde-Textel Is.
Withdrawal Support										

Captain Stump led 78th 'B' Fighter Group with 37 P-47s (8 aborts). Group crossed the enemy coast at 38,000 feet, when south of Den Helder at approximately 14.52 hours. The First Task Force passed the scheduled rendezvous, the Group continued on bomber route for 8 minutes, making the rendezvous with the Second Task Force in the vicinity of Wedde at 15.12 hours. One all-white FW 190 observed near the bombers but it was not attacking, turning inland as the Group made the rendezvous. Bombers in good formation, with three stragglers which were not in trouble. Two Me 109s approached the bombers from the south, in the vicinity of Texel Island, and these were intercepted by "Clinton Black" Flight. The enemy fighters dived into the overcast before they could be engaged. Re-crossed the enemy coast at Texel, at 15.30 hrs., at 30,000 feet, which was the altitude of the top most bomber group. Left the bombers in mid-Channel at 15.55 hours. No contact on R/T with "Wetsuits" during this mission.

Hq. VIII FC Reg. File 18100

Intelligence Issue No. 78

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command F.O. 193
VIIIth Bomber Command F.O. 321
30th November 1943

Statistics - U.S. Fighter Groups
Field Order 193 on 30.11.43.

Heavy Bomber Attack on Solingen.

Date	Parent	Fighter	Group	Mission Order	Airborne	Effective	↑ Claim	↓ Claim	Lost	Major	Support Type
First Task Force: Solingen.											
30.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	60 P-47	56 Sorties	nil	nil	3 P-47	-	Penetration
30.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	47 P-47	43 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
30.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	50 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Target
30.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	36 P-47	32 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
Second & Third Task Forces: Solingen.											
30.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	49 P-47	44 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
30.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	44 P-38	20 Sorties	nil	nil	1 P-38	1 Cat. B	Target
30.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	46 P-47	29 Sorties	nil	nil	1 P-47	-	Target
30.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	41 P-47	35 Sorties	0-2-1	nil	-	-	Withdrawal

U.S. VIIIth Fighter Command Results: Claims on 0-2-1 enemy aircraft in the air. Losses on 4 P-47s and 1 P-38. Five U.S. pilots missing. Damaged categories: 1 P-38 destroyed Cat. E, or seriously damaged, in England. VIIIth Fighter Command dispatched 309 effective sorties (289 P-47s and 20 P-38s) on eight missions. Enemy aircraft seen: 80 to 100-plus. U.S. bombers seen to go down: nil.

Types of Support :	Penetration	Target	Withdrawal	Totals
Number of Groups VIII th	7	3 Missions	3 Missions	8 Missions
P-47s on Mission	143 P-47s	79 P-47s	67 P-47s	289 P-47s
P-38s on Mission	nil	20 P-38s	nil	20 P-38s
Aircraft Lost :	3 P-47s	1 P-38 1 P-47	nil	4 P-47s 1 P-38
Aircraft crashed in England, Cat. E or badly damaged :-	nil	1 P-38	nil	1 P-38
Personnel Casualties	3 (MIA)	2 (MIA)	nil	5 (MIA)
Combat Claims (Air)	nil	nil	0-2-1	0-2-1
Enemy aircraft seen*	20	40-plus	30-plus	90-plus
Bombers seen to go down	nil	nil	nil	nil

*Possible duplications as compiled from individual Group sightings.

GENERAL NARRATIVE:

On this mission two Task Forces of heavy bombers were scheduled to bomb targets in Solingen. The First Task Force consisted of five combat wings of B-17s, and the Second Task Force consisted of four combat wings of B-17s and two combat wings of B-24s. Bombers were supported around the entire route by fighters, the R.A.F. furnished withdrawal support with Spitfire IXs. The 352nd Fighter Group was to furnish initial Penetration Support for the First Task Force of bombers. This group, upon entering the enemy coast, reported that the 1st Task Force of bombers had turned around and were on their way home. They continued on to the Rendezvous Point to give support to any part of the First Task Force which may not have turned around, but they found no bombers. At this point they were "bounced" by approximately five Me 109s from 34,000 feet. This group makes no claims, and has three pilots and P-47s missing. The 353rd Fighter Group, which were to have furnished Target Support to the First Task Force, continued to the Rendezvous Point. Contact with the Controller was apparently poor, consequently they were not informed the task force had turned back. This group had no claims or losses. The 4th Fighter Group, who were also to furnish Target Support to the First Task Force, continued to the Rendezvous Point, and returned after determining that the bombers were not there, with no claims or no losses. The 355th Fighter Group, scheduled to furnish Withdrawal Support to the First Task Force, proceeded to the Rendezvous Point and were informed by Controller that their bombers had returned, so this group furnished additional support to the Second Task Force. A few enemy aircraft were seen by this group, but no engagements were made, and the results were nil. The 78th 'A' Fighter Group, who were to furnish Withdrawal Support to the First Task Force, did not rendezvous with the bombers because of their task force returning early. The 356th Fighter Group furnished Penetration Support to the Second Task Force, with uneventful results during the escort. The 55th Fighter Group, flying P-38s, furnished Target Support to the rear end of the Second Task Force, and diverted several enemy attacks. One pilot and a P-38 are missing from this group, and no claims are made. The 56th Fighter Group furnished Target Support to the front units of this task force, and also diverted an attempted attack, otherwise the mission was uneventful. A P-47 and its pilot, which aborted early, are missing from this group. The 78th 'B' Fighter Group furnished Withdrawal Support to the Second Task Force and engaged with enemy aircraft at the point of rendezvous, claiming two enemy fighters probably destroyed and one damaged: no losses were reported in this group.

Bomber Report. Heavy Bomber Attack on Solingen by First Task Force: 226 B-17 bombers were dispatched to bomb targets at Solingen. The entire force aborted the mission due to unfavourable weather. Heavy Bomber Attack on Solingen by Second and Third Task Forces: 130 B-17s of the 2nd Task Force, and 29 B-24s of the 3rd Task Force, were dispatched to the target. Fifty of the B-17s, and all of the B-24s, were abortive. Eighty B-17s bombed the target with 240.0 tons of bombs. Some groups reported the bombing results as good, and others as unobserved. Two bombers were lost.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 193 - Fighter Support
First Task Force: Solingen (abortive).

✪	VIII FC	352 nd FG	60 P-47 Thunderbolt	10.36-12.41	F.O. 193	nil n/a	3 Lost	UK	Course unclear
			Penetration Support						
❖	Loss	30.11.43	1/Lt. Robert E. Babbit		352 nd FG	Missing P-47D-2	42-22516	☐	486 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	30.11.43	1/Lt. Robert M. Brown		352 nd FG	Missing P-47D-5	42-8411	☐	486 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	30.11.43	2/Lt. David C. Kramer		352 nd FG	Missing P-47D-5	42-8514	☐	486 th Sqn.

Colonel Mason led 352nd Fighter Group with 60 P-47s (4 aborts). Group out English coast at Southwold at 10.47 hrs. at 9,000 feet. In enemy coast at Schouwen at 11.09 hrs. at 22,000 feet, out enemy coast in the vicinity of Westhoofd at 12.05 hrs., at 23,000 feet. In English coast in the vicinity of Southwold at 12.34 hours. As the Group penetrated enemy coast, bombers were seen coming from head-on. Evidently the First Task Force had aborted and were on their way out. Group continued to Rendezvous Point and made several orbits in the rendezvous area at 11.20 hrs. at 26,000 feet. In the vicinity of Neerpelt at 11.30 hrs., Captain Gignac, leader of Green Flight, and Captain Andrews, leader of Blue Flight, of the 486th Squadron, were "bounced" very aggressively by approximately five Me 109s from 34,000 feet. Me 109s were painted a dirty-gray with red noses. One Me 109 was seen going down in smoke. Immediately thereafter the Second Task Force were sighted coming in to target with the fighters, penetrating to a point in the vicinity of Weert, leaving bombers at 11.37 hrs., at 26,000 feet. Captain Button, leader of Green Flight, 487th Squadron, saw one P-38 with old American red marking in a dog-fight with P-47s in the vicinity of Rethy at 11.35 hrs. at approximately 29,000 feet. He pulled up to the P-38 and fired his guns. Lieutenant Hamilton, of same flight, saw this P-38 attack a P-47, but did not see any guns fired. Captain Dilling, leader of Yellow Flight, 487th Squadron, reports another P-38 flying up through last box of bombers. There were no visible markings. This plane was seen by Lieutenant Sweeney of Yellow Flight, 487th Squadron, who also identified the plane and saw no markings. Approximately 10 to 12 Me 109s, flying in two's and three's, were sighted in the vicinity of rendezvous area which evidently had formed up to attack the First Task Force which had aborted. R/T good with the usual interference. Fighter-to-bomber intercom. was unsuccessful.

★ VIII FC 353rd FG 47 P-47 Thunderbolt 09.58-12.44 F.O. 193 nil n/a nil n/a Course unclear
Target Support

Major Rimerman led 353rd Fighter Group with 47 P-47s (4 aborts). Group passed over Schouwen Island on time at 10.52 hours. Flew on course to the Rendezvous Point at 11.13 hrs. and continued five minutes beyond when no bombers were seen. Left turn was made and a northerly course was flown until 11.22 hours. Thinking bombers to be late, another left turn was made, and a course of 270° flown until 11.30 hours. Still no bombers seen, so Group leader then forced to turn for home base, leaving enemy coast over Schouwen Island at 11.57 hrs., 26,000 feet. On the way in, one combat wing of B-17s was picked up in mid-Channel who appeared to abort over the Dutch Islands. Coming out at 11.30 hrs., a group of P-38s passed flying east, and at 11.37 hrs., four boxes of B-17s coming in paralleling our course to the north. Group of P-47s seen coming north of Antwerp and another group just off the Dutch Islands. Both fighters and bomber intercom. on Channel "C" inland from enemy coast was unsuccessful. No enemy aircraft seen. Usual R/T whine. Meagre Flak over the Dutch Islands, and at a point believed to be Köln. One P-47 landed at Thorpe Abbotts, rest at home base.

★ VIII FC 4th FG 52 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.07-12.30 F.O. 193 nil n/a nil n/a Course unclear
Target Support

Major Evans led 4th Fighter Group with 52 P-47s (2 aborts). Group encountered built up cloud layers on way across the Channel, sighted 60 B-17s flying west at mid-Channel and in general vicinity of Dutch Islands, 180 B-17s turning to port. Group continued toward the planned rendezvous until 11.10 hrs., then turned toward the north to accompany some returning bombers but did not catch up to them, unidentified smoke trails seen to the east at time of turning about. P-38 group and several groups of P-47s seen en-route. Nine bursts of inaccurate heavy Flak seen over the Dutch Islands while the bombers were going out. Group crossed out at 11.30 hrs. at 29,000 feet. Group returned with belly-tanks intact.

★ VIII FC 355th FG 46 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.19-13.15 F.O. 193 nil n/a nil n/a Eupen-Schelde
Withdrawal Support

Major Dix led 355th Fighter Group with 46 P-47s (8 aborts). Landfall in the Knokke area (overcast) at 11.10 hrs., at 29,000 feet. Group proceeded toward the Rendezvous Point when at 11.30 hrs., when approximately 8 miles west of Eupen, Controller reported that the bombers were 20 minutes late. Group made left orbit and rendezvoused at 11.35 hrs. at 30,000 feet, when north of Aachen while bombers were still on a south-east course. Escort continued until 11.50 hrs., when four miles south of Bergham, when bombers were on course to the Initial Point. Another P-47 group and a P-38 group were present during the entire escort. Landfall-out Walcheren Island at 12.19 hrs., at 28,000 feet. One flight of Me 109s was seen approaching the bombers at 11.45 hours. As we turned toward them they dove through to bomber formation from 32,000 feet, in string, 6 o'clock, continuing on down, and did not reappear. Four or five other enemy aircraft stooping singly or in pairs disappeared when turned into. No bombers or fighters seen to go down. Flak observed at Brussels, Bonn, Cologne, Aachen and Düren. A few small freighters seen in mouth of Westerschelde at 12.19 hours. R/T fair to good with differing reports on interference. No contact on "C" Channel.

★ VIII 78th 'A' FG 36 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.03-13.53 F.O. 193 nil n/a nil n/a Aachen-Ostend
Withdrawal Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts led 78th 'A' Fighter Group with 36 P-47s (4 aborts). Group flew south of course to find a break in the overcast. Overcast prevented time-place check on landfall at enemy coast. Flew approximately 20 miles beyond the Rendezvous Point, then turned north to vicinity of Aachen. "Bakehouse" called the "B" Group intercom. reported the bombers eight minutes late. Stayed in general area until 12.10 hrs., 12 minutes beyond the scheduled rendezvous time. No bombers seen. No contact on intercom., despite several calls. Flew north-west to Wester Schelde, turned south and crossed out at Ostend at 13.09 hours. "Westland" heard once, when call made for 'pip in'. Group on way out, approaching enemy coast. "Graywall" called for homing on "D" Channel. "Westland" asked him to wait for three minutes, and then said he was three miles south-east of the field. After letting down into overcast "Westland" called. They had different mark on "Graywall" and that he was 50 miles south of the field. Came out of the overcast over the centre of London.

Fighter Group Narratives:

Field Order No. 193 - Fighter Support
First & Second Task Forces: Solingen (partly abortive).

★ VIII FC 356th FG 49 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.33-13.03 F.O. 193 nil n/a nil n/a Turnhout-Jülich
Penetration Support

Lieutenant-Colonel Coen led 356th Fighter Group with 49 P-47s (5 aborts: one P-47 with propeller out, one with engine trouble, one with gyro failure, two with belly-tank feed failures). Group made landfall at 11.07 hrs., at 24,000 feet, over Schouwen Island on course to the rendezvous where the bombers were late. Group orbited and joined bombers at 11.25 hrs., at 30,000 feet, in the vicinity of Turnhout. There were three boxes of B-17s and about 60 bombers in all of the 3rd Bomb. Division, but the 2nd Bomb. Division was not in sight. At the rendezvous, two enemy aircraft were seen to dive away just as the Group joined the bombers. Group left bombers at 11.41 hrs. at Jülich, and were relieved by another P-47 group and P-38s. Landfall-out was made over Noord believed at 12.05 hours. R/T fair. No intercom. with bombers.

★ VIII FC 55th FG 44 P-38 Lightning 10.22-13.33 F.O. 193 nil n/a 1 Lost Mech. Aachen-Engelskirchen
Target Support

❖ Loss 30.11.43 1/Lt. Robert L. Thomas Jr. 55th FG Missing P-38H-5 42-67038 □ (20th Group) 77th Sqn.

Major Webb led 55th Fighter Group with 44 P-38s. Twenty-four (24) P-38s aborted the mission: two with radio failure, 15 with engine trouble, one with belly-tank, and six P-38s as escorts. Group made landfall north of Domburg at 29,000 feet. Five minutes early, proceeded to Woensdrecht, Oostal and Herrien where 30-plus enemy aircraft were sighted up-sun at 2 o'clock to the formation. Entire Group turned and broke into the enemy fighters which were diverted. Group rallied in the vicinity of Aachen, and rendezvoused with B-17s at Jülich at 11.33 hrs., at 29,000 to 30,000 feet. Strength of our force was 24 aircraft, four of which aborted shortly thereafter. Escort weaved over rear box of bombers with flights of 12 and 8 to the point of planned course south of Düsseldorf where eight P-38s had to drop out and the remainder of the

force turned back. One flight of four of the 20th Fighter Group escorted B-17s to the vicinity of Engelskirchen having failed to hear the "go home" conversation on the R/T. "Little Friends" and various enemy fighters were seen all along the route. R/T good except with "Westland." One P-38 damaged Cat. B, landing at Boxted. One P-38 and pilot missing: 1/Lt. Thomas of 20th Fighter Group on detachment.

★ VIII FC 56th FG 46 P-47 Thunderbolt 10.33-13.25 F.O. 193 nil n/a 1 Lost Mech. Schouwen-Solingen
Target Support

❖ Loss 30.11.43 1/Lt. William D. Grosvenor 56th FG Missing P-47D-11 42-75216 Evaded 61st Sqn.

Lieutenant-Colonel Schilling led 56th Fighter Group with 46 P-47s (17 aborts: 5 as escorts). Group crossed the enemy coast between Overflakkee and Schouwen Island at 11.17 hrs. at 27,000 feet, and made rendezvous at this point with two combat wings, one of B-17s and one of B-24s. Group leader not informed that the bombers were apparently 15 to 20 minutes late. Four combat wings of bombers seen to port and headed back to England at the rendezvous. Two combat wings were escorted over the target, and to approximately 15 miles south-west of target, at 30,000 to 31,000 feet, with 63rd Squadron. Positioning itself in front, 61st Squadron on the right and 62nd Squadron to the left of the bombers. These positions were maintained on uneventful sweep as only 5 to 6 single-engined fighters were seen and few of these attempted to attack the bombers. Only one engagement and that by Lieutenant-Colonel Schilling on one Me 109 near Bergheim, no claim made. Bombing results not observed. Group left bombers at approximately 12.07 hrs., when south of Düren. Landfall-out Walcheren Island at 13.40 hrs., at 28,000 feet. Group dropped belly-tanks before anticipated time and place because Group leader was informed by "WarmSun" Control of "bandits" over the Dutch coast, at 32,000 feet, and con-trails were observed by him at the same time. These are thought to have been friendly fighters returning with aborted bombers. Lieutenant Grosvenor, 63rd Squadron, called when in the vicinity of Denteloord that his engine was cutting out, and he was returning to base. "WarmSun" advised him to go onto Channel "B". He did not respond on this channel. Flak was intense over Düsseldorf, one aircraft of 62nd Squadron being hit on right aileron. Intense and accurate for altitude Flak over Antwerp and Düsseldorf and Monchen area. Light and inaccurate Flak over Cologne. Consistent radio jamming over Continent. Fighter-to-bomber intercom. was poor. One pilot not yet returned due to engine failure. One P-47 damaged Cat. A by Flak. One P-47 damaged Cat. A, with tire blowing out on landing at base.

★ VIII 78th 'B' FG 41 P-47 Thunderbolt 11.21-13.51 F.O. 193 0 - 2 - 1 S.E.F nil n/a Düren-Dutch Islands
Withdrawal Support

□	Claim 30.11.43	Maj.	Oberhansly	56 th FG	82 nd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	-	E. Antwerp
□	Claim 30.11.43	Lt.	Godard	56 th FG	82 nd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	-	Düren
□	Claim 30.11.43	Lt.	Wright	56 th FG	82 nd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-	Düren

Major Oberhansly led 78th 'B' Fighter Group with 41 P-47s. Six P-47s aborted the mission: one P-47 with propeller fault, one with engine trouble, and four P-47s lost formation in the overcast. Group took-off five minutes late in order to get through the heavy overcast. Crossed east coast north of Knokke three minutes late at 12.03 hrs., climbing through 27,000 feet. Flew on course to beyond the Rendezvous Point and made rendezvous with the bombers ("Phonebox" 2-2) when 8 minutes late at 12.28 hours. Bombers in two boxes with five or 6 stragglers. Bomber's intercom. was good. Informed by bombers that they were 15 minutes late, and low on gas and oxygen, and also letting down. Escorted bombers as far as enemy coast where Spits were seen coming in from the south. Some six-plus single-engined enemy aircraft seen. Several Me 109s and FW 190s were seen positioning themselves on bombers at the rendezvous Point, and chased by Red Flight 82nd Squadron, which claims a probable and a damaged. Enemy aircraft diving for the overcast, engagements taking place from 29,000 ft. A lone FW 190 was seen about to attack a straggler when east of Antwerp at 25,000 feet. The FW 190's nose and tail were painted in black-and-white checker-board, and it had a large cylindrical silver belly tank which apparently was not released. The FW 190 seemed considerably larger than the usual 190, and may have been a new FW 290. White leader of 82nd Squadron attacked and observed strikes on the enemy fighter diving into the overcast. Controller again could not be contacted by "Bakehouse." Meagre and inaccurate Flak from vicinity of Antwerp. One P-47 down at Debden with Cat. A damage.

R.A.F. Spitfire Withdrawal. From Oostmalle back to the English coast, withdrawal cover was provided by thirteen squadrons of Spitfires as follows: 36 Spitfires IX of 401, 411 and 412 Squadrons from Biggin Hill; 29 Spitfires IX of 19, 65 and 122 Squadrons from Gravesend; 32 Spitfires IX of 302, 308 and 317 Squadrons from Northolt; 24 Spitfires IX of 403 and 421 Squadrons from Kenley, and 24 Spitfires IX of 331 and 332 Squadrons from North Weald. A Me 109, the only enemy aircraft seen, dived away without attacking. Two Spitfires of 401 Squadron and their pilots are missing. Both aircraft had technical trouble over Holland and turned for home. One was seen to crash into the sea, and the other was not seen again.

Hq. VIII FC Reg. File 18140
Checked Sunday, May 02, 1999

SUMMARY LISTS

03.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	48 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
03.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	51 P-47	45 Sorties	5-0-1	nil	-	-	General
03.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	46 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
03.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	51 P-47	48 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
03.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	43 Sorties	2-0-0	nil	1 P-47	1 Cat. E	Penetration
03.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	45 Sorties	3-5-5	nil	-	1 Cat. B	Penetration
03.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	54 P-47	47 Sorties	3-0-1	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
03.11.43	VIII FC	78 th	Group	1 st Mission	76 P-47	57 Sorties	1-0-0	nil	-	-	Penetration
05.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	50 Sorties	nil	nil	-	1 Cat. B	Penetration
05.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	50 Sorties	5-3-5	nil	3 P-47	-	Target
05.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	47 P-47	45 Sorties	2-0-1	nil	1 P-47	-	Withdrawal
05.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	46 Sorties	0-0-2	nil	-	-	Penetration
05.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	49 P-47	35 Sorties	1-0-0	nil	-	-	Target
05.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	61 P-38	47 Sorties	5-2-2	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
05.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	49 P-47	46 Sorties	5-0-3	nil	-	-	Penetration
05.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	37 P-47	37 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Withdrawal
05.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	39 P-47	32 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration
07.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	54 P-47	51 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-	Penetration

07.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	39 P-47	32 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Target
07.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	46 P-47	40 Sorties	1-0-0	nil	5 P-47	1 Cat. B		Penetration
07.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	47 P-47	40 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Penetration
07.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	49 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Escort Cover
07.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	50 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Fighter Sweep
07.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	58 P-38	54 Sorties	nil	nil	2 P-38	-		Close Escort
07.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	47 Sorties	nil	nil	1 P-47	-		Target
07.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	41 P-47	35 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
07.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	39 P-47	34 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
11.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	48 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Penetration
11.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	45 Sorties	3-0-0	nil	-	-		Penetration
11.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	44 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Penetration
11.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	50 P-47	46 Sorties	nil	nil	1 P-47	-		Withdrawal
11.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	63 P-38	59 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Target
11.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	42 Sorties	5-1-2	nil	2 P-47	-		Withdrawal
11.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	36 P-47	32 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Penetration
11.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	38 P-47	38 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
11.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	47 Sorties	0-0-1	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
13.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	53 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
13.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	45 Sorties	0-0-1	nil	-	2 Cat. B		Withdrawal
13.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	39 P-47	33 Sorties	3-0-0	nil	2 P-47	-		Withdrawal
13.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	49 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
13.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	49 P-47	44 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
13.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	47 P-38	45 Sorties	7-3-5	nil	7 P-38	2 Cat. E		Target
13.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	47 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
13.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	41 P-47	39 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
13.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	40 P-47	36 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
25.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	46 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Fighter-sweep
25.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	52 Sorties	nil	nil	1 P-47	-		Fighter-bombing
25.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	48 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Escort-Cover
25.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	57 P-38	55 Sorties	3-3-4	nil	1 P-38	1 Cat. E		Fighter-sweep
25.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	50 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Fighter-bombing
25.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	40 P-47	40 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Escort-Cover
25.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	40 P-47	40 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Escort-Cover
26.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	63 P-47	63 Sorties	3-1-1	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
26.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	49 P-47	43 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Penetration
26.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	45 P-47	43 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
26.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	46 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
26.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	44 Sorties	1-0-0	nil	-	-		Penetration
26.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-38	28 Sorties	3-0-1	nil	-	-		Target
26.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	51 P-47	45 Sorties	26-2-7	nil	1 P-47	-		Withdrawal
26.11.43	VIII FC	78 th A & B	Group	1 st Mission	76 P-47	69 Sorties	3-0-0	nil	3 P-47	3 Cat. E		General
29.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	47 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
29.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	51 P-47	43 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Penetration
29.11.43	VIII FC	355 th	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	39 Sorties	1-0-1	nil	3 P-47	-		Withdrawal
29.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	47 Sorties	4-2-1	nil	5 P-47	-		Withdrawal
29.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	48 P-47	32 Sorties	0-3-0	nil	-	-		Penetration
29.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	55 P-38	38 Sorties	2-0-2	nil	7 P-38	-		Target
29.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	53 P-47	41 Sorties	8-0-2	nil	1 P-47	-		Penetration
29.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	39 P-47	36 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
29.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	37 P-47	29 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
30.11.43	VIII FC	352 nd	Group	1 st Mission	60 P-47	56 Sorties	nil	nil	3 P-47	-		Penetration
30.11.43	VIII FC	353 rd	Group	1 st Mission	47 P-47	43 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Penetration
30.11.43	VIII FC	356 th	Group	1 st Mission	49 P-47	44 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Penetration
30.11.43	VIII FC	4 th	Group	1 st Mission	52 P-47	50 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Target
30.11.43	VIII FC	55 th	Group	1 st Mission	44 P-38	20 Sorties	nil	nil	1 P-38	1 Cat. B		Target
30.11.43	VIII FC	56 th	Group	1 st Mission	46 P-47	29 Sorties	nil	nil	1 P-47	-		Target
30.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'A'	Group	1 st Mission	36 P-47	32 Sorties	nil	nil	-	-		Withdrawal
30.11.43	VIII FC	78 th 'B'	Group	1 st Mission	41 P-47	35 Sorties	0-2-1	nil	-	-		Withdrawal

□	Cat.B	13.11.43	Pilot	unknown.	353 rd FG	Present	P-47D	wanting	I: Hardwicke	Sqn.
□	Cat.B	13.11.43	Pilot	unknown.	353 rd FG	Present	P-47D	wanting	OK: Beccles	Sqn.
□	Cat.C	13.11.43	L/Col.	Jack S. Jenkins	55 th FG	Present	P-38H	wanting	OK: CL Nuthampstead.	Sqn.
□	Cat.E	13.11.43	Pilot	unknown.	55 th FG	Present	P-38H	wanting	OK: BL Debden.	Sqn.
□	Cat.E	13.11.43	Pilot	unknown.	55 th FG	Present	P-38H	wanting	OK: BL Wretham	Sqn.
□	Cat.E	25.11.43	2/Lt.	B. Lane	20 th FG	Present	P-38H-5	wanting	† cr. S. Nuthampstead	Sqn.
□	Cat.E	25.11.43	Pilot	unknown.	55 th FG	Present	P-38H-5	wanting	OK: cr. Duxford	Sqn.
□	Cat.E	26.11.43	Pilot	unknown.	78 th FG	Present	P-47D	wanting	OK: F/L in England	Sqn.
□	Cat.E	26.11.43	Pilot	unknown.	78 th FG	Present	P-47D	wanting	OK: F/L in England	Sqn.
□	Cat.E	26.11.43	Pilot	unknown.	78 th FG	Present	P-47D	wanting	OK: F/L in England	Sqn.
□	Cat.E	03.11.43	F/O	Lloyd W. Waterman	4 th FG	Present	P-47D	wanting	I: cr. Halesworth	335 th Sqn.

	Claim 03.11.43	1/Lt.	Rafalovitch	4 th FG	334 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Hypolithushoef
	Claim 03.11.43	2/Lt.	Frazier	4 th FG	334 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Hypolithushoef
	Claim 03.11.43	Capt.	Mahurin	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 109G	Shared	Nordeney Is.
	Claim 03.11.43	Capt.	Mahurin	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	-	Nordeney Is.
	Claim 03.11.43	Capt.	Malmstead	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Bf 109G	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Capt.	Myers	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Bauer	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Buttock	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Carroll	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Hahn	78 th FG	82 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Barszel
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Hooper	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Johnson R.S.	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Baltrum Is.
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Juntilla	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Morrison	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Newman	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	O'Connor	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 109G	Shared	Nordeney Is.
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Poindexter	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Poindexter	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Porter	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - ½ - 0	FW 190	Shared	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Ryan	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Sorace	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - ½ - 0	FW 190	Shared	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Stump	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.	Wisniewski	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 110	-	Nordeney Is.
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.Col.	Jenkins	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Lt.Col.	Jenkins	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 03.11.43	Maj.	Joel	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 2	FW 190	-	Wilhelmshaven
	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Adrianse	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Rheine-Münster
	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Ayers	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Do 217	-	Zwolle-Arnheim
	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Beckham	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	-	Gelsenkirchen-Duisburg
	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Beckham	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 410	-	Gelsenkirchen-Duisburg
	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Hyde	356 th FG	361 st Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-	15 sm. E. Eindhoven
	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Kinkade	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Gelsenkirchen-Duisburg
	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Myers	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Zwolle-Arnheim
	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Robertson	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Duisburg-Geldern
	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Shipman	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	½ - ½ - 0	Me 109G	Shared	Zwolle-Arnheim
	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Shipman	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Zwolle-Arnheim
	Claim 05.11.43	Capt.	Smith F.D.	4 th FG	335 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Monchengladbach
	Claim 05.11.43	Colonel	Zemke	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Rheine-Münster
	Claim 05.11.43	F/O	Peterson	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	-	Gelsenkirchen-Duisburg
	Claim 05.11.43	F/O	Robey	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Rheine-Münster
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Barnum	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Rheine-Münster
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Desvoignes	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	½ - ½ - 0	Me 109G	Shared	Zwolle-Arnheim
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Emory	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-	Duisburg-Geldern
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Emory	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 410	-	Duisburg-Geldern
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Forsblab	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-	Zwolle-Arnheim
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Hall	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-	Enschede
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Hurst	353 rd FG	350 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	-	Geldern
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Ista	353 rd FG	352 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Duisburg-Geldern
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Leinweber	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Zwolle-Arnheim
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Proce	353 rd FG	350 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-	Geldern
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Stearns	353 rd FG	350 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-	Geldern
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Steiner	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Do 217	-	Zwolle-Arnheim
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Vangos	356 th FG	361 st Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Wessel
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Wilson	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Rheine-Münster
	Claim 05.11.43	Maj.	Gabreski	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Rheine-Münster
	Claim 05.11.43	Maj.	Joel	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Zwolle-Arnheim
	Claim 05.11.43	Maj.	Rimmerman	353 rd FG	350 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 2	FW 190	-	Geldern
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Kelly	355 th FG	357 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-	Geldern-Breda
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Sluga	355 th FG	358 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-	Geldern-Breda
	Claim 05.11.43	Lt.	Sweat	355 th FG	354 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Geldern-Breda
	Claim 07.11.43	Capt.	Olsen	355 th FG	357 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-	Düren area
	Claim 11.11.43	Capt.	Beckham	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Münster
	Claim 11.11.43	Capt.	Burke	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	-	Münster-Arnheim
	Claim 11.11.43	Capt.	Cook	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Münster-Arnheim
	Claim 11.11.43	Capt.	O'Neill	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Münster-Arnheim
	Claim 11.11.43	Capt.	Schreiber	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Münster-Arnheim
	Claim 11.11.43	F/O	Icard	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Münster-Arnheim
	Claim 11.11.43	F/O	Jack Raphael	4 th FG	336 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Position unknown
	Claim 11.11.43	Lt.	Goldstein	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Münster-Arnheim
	Claim 11.11.43	Maj.	Duncan	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Münster
	Claim 11.11.43	Maj.	Duncan	353 rd FG	351 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Niemansdorp
	Claim 13.11.43	Capt.	Beaird	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Bremen-Löninge
	Claim 13.11.43	Capt.	Giller	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Ju 88	-	Bremen-Löninge
	Claim 13.11.43	Capt.	Marsiglia	55 th FG	338 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-	Bremen-Löninge
	Claim 13.11.43	Capt.	Myers	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Ju 88	-	Bremen-Löninge
	Claim 13.11.43	Capt.	Myers	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Bremen-Löninge
	Claim 13.11.43	Capt.	Olsen	355 th FG	357 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Cloppenburg-Lathen
	Claim 13.11.43	Capt.	Ryan	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Bremen-Löninge
	Claim 13.11.43	Lt.	Brown	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Ju 88	-	Bremen-Löninge
	Claim 13.11.43	Lt.	Dinse	353 rd FG	350 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-	Meppen
	Claim 13.11.43	Lt.	Garlock	55 th FG	338 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 210	-	Bremen-Löninge
	Claim 13.11.43	Lt.	Maloney	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-	Bremen-Löninge
	Claim 13.11.43	Lt.	Neal	355 th FG	358 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-	Cloppenburg-Lathen
	Claim 13.11.43	Lt.	Stacker	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - ½ - 0	Ju 88	Shared	Bremen-Löninge
	Claim 13.11.43	Lt.	Stacker	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - ½ - 0	Me 109G	Shared	Bremen-Löninge

□	Claim	13.11.43	Lt.	Vincent	355 th FG	358 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Cloppenburg-Lathen
□	Claim	13.11.43	Maj.	Joel	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-		Bremen-Löninge
□	Claim	13.11.43	Maj.	Joel	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - ½ - 0	Ju 88	Shared		Bremen-Löninge
□	Claim	13.11.43	Maj.	Joel	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - ½ - 0	Me 109G	Shared		Bremen-Löninge
□	Claim	13.11.43	Maj.	Joel	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Ju 88	-		Bremen-Löninge
□	Claim	25.11.43	2/Lt.	Birch	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		S.W. Lille
□	Claim	25.11.43	2/Lt.	Maloney	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 1	Me 109G	-		S.W. Lille
□	Claim	25.11.43	2/Lt.	Pruit	55 th FG	338 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	-		S.W. Lille
□	Claim	25.11.43	2/Lt.	Steiner	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-		S.W. Lille
□	Claim	25.11.43	Capt.	Malmstedt	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	-		S.W. Lille
□	Claim	25.11.43	Capt.	Patterson	55 th FG	338 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-		S.W. Lille
□	Claim	25.11.43	Capt.	Ryan	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 2	Me 109G	-		S.W. Lille
□	Claim	25.11.43	Lt.Col.	Jenkins	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-		S.W. Lille
□	Claim	26.11.43	2/Lt.	Erickson	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-		Bremen-Oldenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Capt.	Cook	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Capt.	Dilling	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	13.10 hrs.		E. Groningen
□	Claim	26.11.43	Capt.	Mahurin	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	3 - 1 - 0	Me 110	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Capt.	Malmstedt	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Ju 88C	-		Bremen-Oldenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Capt.	O'Neill	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 110	Shared		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Boyle	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 110	Shared		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Capt.	O'Neill	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Capt.	Johnson R.	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Me 110	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	F/O	Klibbe	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	F/O	Valenta	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	3 - 0 - 1	Me 110	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Ashelson	78 th FG	83 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Paris-Beauvais
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Bennett	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 109G	Shared		E. Groningen
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Berkshire	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	Me 109G	Shared		E. Groningen
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Bryant	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Carcione	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Christensen	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Comstock	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Comstock	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 1	Me 110	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	J. D. Brown	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Padgett	4 th FG	335 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Heide/Oldenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Petty	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 110	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	S. B. Morrill	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Truluck	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 110	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.	Truluck	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.Col.	Schilling	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 210	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Lt.Col.	Schilling	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Maj.	Craig	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 110	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Maj.	Craig	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Maj.	Gabreski	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Maj.	Johnson	55 th FG	20 th Group	1 - 0 - 0	Do 217	-		Bremen-Oldenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Maj.	Meyer	352 nd FG	487 th Sqn.	1 - 1 - 1	Me 109G	13.10 hrs.		E. Groningen
□	Claim	26.11.43	Maj.	Price	78 th FG	84 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	FW 190	-		Paris-Beauvais
□	Claim	26.11.43	Maj.	Price	78 th FG	84 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Paris-Beauvais
□	Claim	26.11.43	Maj.	Stewart	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Do 217	-		Oldenburg-Papenburg
□	Claim	26.11.43	Maj.	Webb	55 th FG	343 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-		Bremen-Oldenburg
□	Claim	29.11.43	1/Lt.	Metzger	356 th FG	361 st Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Unident.	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	1/Lt.	Withers	356 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Unident.	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Erickson	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-		Meppen-Hoogeveen
□	Claim	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Smith J. B.	356 th FG	Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Unident.	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Smith J. B.	356 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Suiter	55 th FG	338 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Meppen-Hoogeveen
□	Claim	29.11.43	Capt.	Ayres	55 th FG	38 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-		Meppen-Hoogeveen
□	Claim	29.11.43	Capt.	Bennett	356 th FG	Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Unident.	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	Capt.	Lamb	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 1	FW 190	-		Bremen
□	Claim	29.11.43	Capt.	Mahurin	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Leer
□	Claim	29.11.43	Capt.	Patterson	55 th FG	338 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Meppen-Hoogeveen
□	Claim	29.11.43	Capt.	Schreiber	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 210	-		S. Oldenburg
□	Claim	29.11.43	Capt.	Smith F. D.	4 th FG	335 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	-		Bremen
□	Claim	29.11.43	Capt.	White	356 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Beeson	4 th FG	334 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	-		Bremen
□	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Comstock	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Papenburg
□	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Godfrey	4 th FG	336 th Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	-		Bremen
□	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Hull	355 th FG	358 th Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Powers	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Bremen
□	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Smith	56 th FG	63 rd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-		Leer
□	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Williamson	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	FW 190	Shared		S. Oldenburg
□	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.	Woertz	355 th FG	358 th Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	Lt.Col.	Schilling	56 th FG	62 nd Sqn.	½ - 0 - 0	FW 190	Shared		S. Oldenburg
□	Claim	29.11.43	Maj.	Baccus	356 th FG	Sqn.	1 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Position unknown
□	Claim	29.11.43	Maj.	Gabreski	56 th FG	61 st Sqn.	2 - 0 - 0	Me 109G	-		Bremen
□	Claim	30.11.43	Lt.	Godard	56 th FG	82 nd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	Me 109G	-		Düren
□	Claim	30.11.43	Lt.	Wright	56 th FG	82 nd Sqn.	0 - 0 - 1	Me 109G	-		Düren
□	Claim	30.11.43	Maj.	Oberhansly	56 th FG	82 nd Sqn.	0 - 1 - 0	FW 190	-		E. Antwerp
❖	Loss	03.11.43	F/O	Frank D. Gallion	4 th FG	Missing	P-47D-1	42-7924	□		334 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	05.11.43	1/Lt.	Benedict E. Kraft	353 rd FG	Missing	P-47D-2	42-8428	POW		351 st Sqn.
❖	Loss	05.11.43	1/Lt.	Clark A. Collins	355 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8406	□		357 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	05.11.43	1/Lt.	Robert L. Newman	353 rd FG	Missing	P-47D-1	42-7907	□		350 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	05.11.43	Capt.	Orville A. Kinkade	353 rd FG	Missing	P-47C-5	41-6583	POW		351 st Sqn.

❖	Loss	07.11.43	1/Lt.	Edwin O. Carlson	355 th FG	Missing	P-47D-2	42-7984	☐	357 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	07.11.43	1/Lt.	James E. Westphall	355 th FG	Missing	P-47D-2	42-8370	POW	357 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	07.11.43	2/Lt.	William E. Roach	355 th FG	Missing	P-47D-2	42-22490	POW	358 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	07.11.43	Capt.	Herbert W. Cumming	20 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67039	☐	Hq. Group
❖	Loss	07.11.43	Capt.	Walter H. Kossack	355 th FG	Missing	P-47D-2	42-8477	POW	358 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	07.11.43	F/O	Chester W. Watson	355 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8629	☐	358 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	07.11.43	F/O	Robert E. Sheehan	56 th FG	Missing	P-47D-2	42-7975	Evaded	63 rd Sqn.
❖	Loss	07.11.43	Maj.	John C. Wilkins	20 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67022	☐	Hq. Group
❖	Loss	11.11.43	1/Lt.	Wayne J. O'Connor	56 th FG	Missing	P-47D-6	42-74722	☐	63 rd Sqn.
❖	Loss	11.11.43	2/Lt.	Dolor A. Martin	356 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8668	☐	Sqn. needed
❖	Loss	11.11.43	2/Lt.	Malcolm Van Meten	56 th FG	Missing	P-47D-6	42-74626	☐	62 nd Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	1/Lt.	Charles E. Beall	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67049	☐	338 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	1/Lt.	Lynn R. Goetzman	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67073	POW	338 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	2/Lt.	Gene C. Stephens	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67078	☐	338 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	2/Lt.	John Lanphier	355 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8626	☐	358 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	2/Lt.	John A. Stackler	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67059	☐	38 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	2/Lt.	Robert N. Jensen	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-66724	POW	338 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	2/Lt.	William C. Florentine Jr.	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-66732	POW	338 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	2/Lt.	William W. Shank	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-66727	☐	338 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	13.11.43	L/Col.	Thomas H. Hubbard	355 th FG	Missing	P-47D-1	42-7944	Evaded	Hq. 355 th FG
❖	Loss	25.11.43	2/Lt.	Manuel J. Aldecoa	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67061	MIA	343 rd Sqn.
❖	Loss	25.11.43	L/Col.	Loren G. McCollom	353 rd FG	Missing	P-47D-2	43-8395	POW	Hq. 353 rd FG
❖	Loss	26.11.43	1/Lt.	Byron L. Morrill	56 th FG	Missing	P-47D-2	42-7079	POW	62 nd Sqn.
❖	Loss	26.11.43	2/Lt.	John W. Herrick	78 th FG	Missing	P-47C-2	41-6188	POW	82 nd Sqn.
❖	Loss	26.11.43	2/Lt.	Wayne W. Dougherty	78 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8573	POW	84 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	26.11.43	F/O	Ralph E. Cormier	78 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8681	☐	83 rd Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	1/Lt.	Allan M. Metzger	356 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8509	☐	361 st Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	1/Lt.	John F. Miartin	356 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8692	☐	361 st Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	1/Lt.	Warren H. Beach	356 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8601	POW	359 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Albert A. Albino	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67051	☐	38 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Alfred J. Del Negroe	355 th FG	Missing	P-47D-2	42-7996	☐	354 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Charles K. Hecht	355 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8631	POW	358 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Fleming W. Suiter	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67069	POW	338 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Frederick C. Windmayer	56 th FG	Missing	P-47D-1	42-7893	☐	63 rd Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	James W. Gilbride	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67097	☐	343 rd Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	James M. Garvin	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67046	☐	38 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	John S. Hascall	20 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67016	☐	77 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	John D. Hull	356 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8598	POW	359 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	John J. Carroll	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67090	POW	38 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Julius B. Asbridge	356 th FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8502	POW	360 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	2/Lt.	Richard A. Peery	355 th FG	Missing	P-47D-2	42-22484	POW	358 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	29.11.43	Maj.	Milton Joel	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67020	☐	38 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	30.11.43	1/Lt.	Robert E. Babbit	352 nd FG	Missing	P-47D-2	42-22516	☐	486 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	30.11.43	1/Lt.	Robert L. Thomas Jr.	55 th FG	Missing	P-38H-5	42-67038	☐	(20 th Group) 77 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	30.11.43	1/Lt.	Robert M. Brown	352 nd FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8411	☐	486 th Sqn.
❖	Loss	30.11.43	1/Lt.	William D. Grosvenor	56 th FG	Missing	P-47D-11	42-75216	Evaded	61 st Sqn.
❖	Loss	30.11.43	2/Lt.	David C. Kramer	352 nd FG	Missing	P-47D-5	42-8514	☐	486 th Sqn.

Wednesday, June 23, 1999