

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref.: AIR 16 / 1029		76633				
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

INT 2877

SECRET

NO. 83 GROUP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 196
Up to 2359 hours, 1st January

PART I

1. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

The German Air Force today brought off an extremely well planned and, on the whole, well executed attack on a number of airfields in Holland and Eastern Belgium.

It seems that over 250 fighters, including a small proportion of fighter bombers, took part in the operation, coming from the RHEINE and PADERBORN Groups of bases. A captured map suggests that part at least of the force formed up at LIPESTADT, flew together until a few miles East of EINDHOVEN, then split to fly to their different targets.

Another force seems from captured maps to have come in across the ZUYDER ZEE. The forces seem to have been accompanied by a number of Me262's and reference has also been made to Me163's, though it is difficult to conceive of such aircraft being engaged on ground attack. A possible answer is that the Me262's, at least, were engaged in reconnaissance of the results.

Several reports also mention Allied aircraft with German markings leading the formations. This seems very improbable, for no useful purpose could possibly be served by such an expedient.

In this Group, EINDHOVEN, BRUSSELS/EVERE, VOLKEL, HEESECH and PEER were all attacked, the two first named suffering perhaps the greatest weight of the attack. Other airfields attacked include GILZE/RIJEN, WOENSDEPCHT, DEURNE, ST. DENIS/WESTREH, GRIMBERGHEM, BRUSSELS/MELSBRCK, MALDEGHEM and KNOCKE and two American Fields.

This sudden effort on the part of the enemy in which he displayed far greater enterprise and vigour than we have grown accustomed to expect from him, leads to the conclusion that something is afoot, and it does not require much imagination to guess that the German Army, which has suffered to no mean extent from the attentions of the Tactical Air Forces, wants to keep us on the ground while he attempts the next step, whatever that may be, in his counter-offensive.

The damage and casualties caused, while relatively heavy, cannot be considered exceptional in view of the scale of effort and casualties of the enemy. The fact that the Group was able to fly 547 sorties after these attacks shows how far away the enemy was from realising his aim. At EINDHOVEN, our losses were heavier than they might have been, because two squadrons were forming up for take-off. Had the attack come a few minutes later, those aircraft would not have been on the ground to be attacked.

Of these Typhoons, two were about to take off as FW190's came head on towards them down the runway. Both became airborne and certainly destroyed one enemy aircraft; one pilot was himself killed in the melee and nothing has been heard of the other. Another Typhoon, carrying out an airstest over the airfield, destroyed one aircraft, but was himself killed, crashing on the airfield. Two more enemy aircraft were destroyed and two damaged by the leader of a pair of Spitfires who were returning to base after carrying out an Arty/R.

The tactics employed seem to have been to fly in, very low and out of the sun if possible, strafing with cannon. Very few bombs seem to have been used; certainly there were none at EINDHOVEN.

The cost to the enemy was high. He lost 90 aircraft shot down by 83, 84 Group and the Americans, to say nothing of A.A. claims which are as yet incomplete but will certainly add a considerable number to the total. The R.A.F. Regiment Squadrons of this Group alone have claims for some 13 aircraft.

Later in the morning, the G.A.F. put up a moderately strong force to attack Bomber Command aircraft going to the DORTMUND-TIS Canal. Details are not yet known. During the rest of the day, aircraft were busy trying to

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref:		AIR 16 / 1029		76633		
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

- 2 -

our fighters and fighter bombers in the OSNABRUCK and RHEINE areas. It seems, however, that in order to carry out all the operations mentioned above, the battle area was left relatively unprotected.

2. 83 GROUP ACTIVITY

To describe all the combats which took place today would take too much space. Those connected with the morning attack on our airfields took place, for the most part, near the airfields themselves. For example 2 aircraft of 127 Wing were taking off when their base was attacked by 30 plus enemy aircraft and destroyed 3 and probably destroyed 2 of them. Others fell to our sweeps which were operating over the bases to which the enemy was returning and which engaged the enemy on their way, as in the case of 411 Squadron, which destroyed 2 FW190's near TWENTIE and 412 Squadron which destroyed four near VENLO.

The later claims were no doubt due to our aircraft meeting with the enemy who were endeavouring to intercept Bomber Command.

Two other combats are of interest. 412 Squadron destroyed a Ju88 over DORTMUND and 137 Squadron found 1 He111 flying East at zero feet near HAITLIN, and damaged it so that it made a forced landing.

Although the air battles of this morning tend to overshadow the rest of the day's work, it should be remembered that the work of today's Armed Recces has been of exceptional value. Much of the work carried out in the American battle area was done by 123 Wing, belonging to 84 Group but temporarily under this Group's control, while 143 Wing also had some success in this area. A fair amount of vehicles were seen and attacked, particularly near ST. VITH, but generally speaking, Met was scattered. A call to attack tanks near LAROCHE was answered, but no tanks were found.

The greatest successes against ground targets, however, were obtained in the area from RHEINE to OSNABRUCK, where the traffic, which this Summary commented on two days ago as having slackened off, has now certainly thickened up considerably. Near OSNABRUCK in particular, traffic was heavy and all the yards near by seemed well filled. Another good route was between ENSCHDE, RHEINE and BURGSTEIFURT.

121 Wing's 174 Squadron had one most spectacular attack on a locomotive and 30 trucks in a small station at ESCH, about 9 miles E.N.E. of RHEINE. The train disintegrated with a vivid orange explosion and removed with it the station, the signal box and the nearby houses.

122 Wing's 274 Squadron destroyed 2 locomotives and damaged a number of trucks East of OSNABRUCK and on their way home passed over LADBERGEN well after Bomber Command had left. A series of explosions were even then taking place on the banks of the DORTMUND-THAS Canal, which had clearly been heavily attacked.

The day's totals set out below are extremely creditable in view of the enemy's effort to prevent anything of the kind from taking place and must be a source of great discouragement to him.

STATISTICS

Sorties

Armed Recces	54 x 394
Immediate Support	2 x 20
Recces	13 x 22
Fighter Patrols	31 x 111
	<u>100 x 547</u>

Casualties

438 Sqn.	- F/L Wilson	Killed in combat over B.78
168 "	- F/L Gibbons	Killed - crashed on B.78 after combat.
438 "	- F/O Keller	NYR
439 "	- F/O Angelini	NYR
442 "	- F/O Bridgen	NYR
	- F/L Gordon	Wounded - 1 Spit Cat. E, flak.

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref.: AIR 16 / 1029		76633				
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

- 2A -

416 Sqn.	- F/L Harling	NYR
3 "	- P/O Pottinger	NYR flak baled out 4.5585
412 "	- F/L Doak	NYR shot down by o/a at B.4575.
183 "	- F/O Webber	Killed

Claims for Enemy Aircraft

3 Squadron	1 Me109 destroyed	F/S Rose.
	1 Me 109 destroyed	F/O Butcher
	2 FW190 damaged	F/O Worley.
56 Squadron	1 Me109 destroyed	F/O Shaw.
		F/O Ness.
137 Squadron	1 He111 damaged	F/L Clubley
		F/O Martyn
168 Squadron	1 Me109 damaged	F/L Stul
	1 FW190 destroyed	F/L Gibbons
80 Squadron	2 FW190 destroyed	F/O Garland
401 Squadron	1 FW190 damaged	F/L Foster
	3 Me109 destroyed	F/O Cameron
	2 Me109 destroyed	F/L MacKay
	1 FW190 destroyed	
	1 Me109 destroyed	
	1 Me109 probable	F/L Lee
	1 Me109 destroyed	
	1 FW190 damaged	F/O Church
	1 Me109 destroyed	P/O Hershburgh
	1 Me262 damaged	F/L McKay
		F/S Woodhill
403 Squadron	1 Me109 destroyed	
	1 FW190 destroyed	F/O Butte
	1 Me109 probable	
	1 FW190 destroyed	
	1 Me109 probable	F/L Lindsay
	2 FW190 destroyed	P/O Reeves
411 Squadron	2 FW190 destroyed	F/L Aulet
412 Squadron	1 FW190 destroyed	F/L Doak
	1 Ju88 destroyed	F/L Banks
	1 FW190 destroyed	F/O Smith
	1 Me109 destroyed	S/L Dover
	1 FW190 destroyed	F/L McPherson
	1 Me109 destroyed	F/L Swan
	1 FW190 destroyed	S/L Dover
		F/O Kelly
414 Squadron	2 Me109 destroyed	
	2 FW190 damaged	S/L Wonnacott
	1 FW190 destroyed	
	1 Me109 damaged	F/O Woloschuk
438 Squadron	1 FW190 destroyed	F/L Wilson
439 Squadron	2 FW190 destroyed	F/O Frazer
	2 FW190 destroyed	F/O Laurence
442 Squadron	2 Me109 destroyed	F/L Gordon
	2 FW190 destroyed	
	2 FW190 probable	F/L Pieri
	1 FW190 destroyed	F/L Keene
	1 Me109 destroyed	
	1 Me109 damaged	F/L Smith
	1 FW190 damaged	F/L Lumsden
		F/O Cousineau
	1 Me262 damaged	F/L Lumsden

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref:		AIR 16 / 1029		76633		
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

- 2 B -

442 Squadron (contd)

1 Mc262 damaged { F/L Tunley
F/L Dunne
F/L Dick
W/O Bauer

486 Squadron

1 FW190 destroyed } S/L Unbars
1 Me109 destroyed }
1 FW190 destroyed }
1 Me109 damaged } F/O Trott
1 FW190 destroyed } F/O Sheddian
1 FW190 destroyed }
1 Me109 damaged } P/O Hooper
1 FW190 probable } P/O Steedman

610 Squadron

1 e/a destroyed Details outstanding.

Wing	Sorties	Enemy A/C	Met	Locos	Trucks	Rail Cuts	Losses
121	54	-	2-0	6-9	55-158	1	-
122	115	10-1-4	0-2	11-17	0-9	-	1-1
123	32	-	2-0	-	-	-	1-1
124	30	0-0-1	-	3-1	0-12	1	-
125	70	1-0-0	0-2	-	-	-	-
126	141	24-3-7	-	1-1	0-1	-	3-2
127	48	5-2-0	2-1	0-1	-	-	1-1
143	34	5-0-2	3-5	-	-	-	4-4
39	23	3-0-3	-	-	-	-	-
547		48-6-17	9-10	21-29	55-180	2	10-9

...../Part II

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref:		AIR 16/1035		76633		
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

SECRET.

Appendix "B" to 84 Group
Int. Summary No. 146.

84 GROUP CLAIMS - JANUARY 1st, 1945.

AIR COMBAT:

Destroyed -

1 FW 190	F/L. LYLES	198 Sqn.	123 Wing.
1 JU 188	F/L. MERCER	268 "	35 "
1 ME 109	F/L. PACKWOOD	2 "	35 "
1 FW 190	F/L. OLSZEWSKI	308 "	131 "
1 ME 109			
1 FW 190	F/L. MACH, B.	308 "	131 "
1 FW 190	F/S. SOSZYNSKI	308 "	131 "
1 FW 190	F/O. SZLENKIER	308 "	131 "
1 FW 190	P/O. DROMIEWICZ	308 "	131 "
2 FW 190	F/S. STANOWSKI	308 "	131 "
1 FW 190	W/O. LEDNARCZY	308 "	131 "
2 FW 190	SGT. BREYER	308 "	131 "
1 FW 190	F/L. CHOJNICKI	308 "	131 "
1 FW 190	SGT. HUBERT, K.	317 "	131 "
1 FW 190	F/L. MROCZYK	317 "	131 "
1 FW 190	F/L. IRYCAK	317 "	131 "
1 FW 190	W/O. PIERSIK, S.	317 "	131 "
1 FW 190	W/O. WDOWCZYNSKI	317 "	131 "
1 FW 190	F/L. POWIERZA	317 "	131 "

TOTAL: 18 FW 190, 2 ME 109, 1 JU 188.

Probably Destroyed -

1 FW 190	SGT. HUBERT, K.	317 Sqn.	131 Wing.
1 FW 190	F/L. ZNIGRODDZKI	317 "	131 "

TOTAL: 2 FW 190.

Damaged -

1 FW 190	F/L. LYNE	268 Sqn.	35 Wing.
1 FW 190	F/L. MACH, B.	308 "	131 "
1 FW 190	W/O. PIERSIK, S.	317 "	131 "
1 FW 190	F/L. ZNIGRODDZKI	317 "	131 "
1 FW 190	F/S. IVANOWSKI	317 "	131 "
1 FW 190	SGT. GLOWCZEWSKI	308 "	131 "

TOTAL: 6 FW 190.

Miscellaneous -

1 FW 190 Crashed after hitting obstruction on B.61 - (131 Wing).

TOTAL: 1 FW 190.

GROUND ACTION AND CLAIMS BY R.A.F. REGIMENT.

Details attached.

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref.: AIR 16/1035				76633			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

~~SECRET.~~

NO. 84 GROUP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 144 (UP TO 2359 HRS 1st JAN. 1945.)

GENERAL - Air Situation.

PART ONE.

1. The unusual, but not the entirely unexpected, happened today. The G.A.F. staged a day offensive on the grand scale against our A/Fs. The first occasion in the West since the Battle of Britain. Aircraft engaged were FW 190s, Me 109s and a few Me 262s.
2. It was based on a plan on the grand scale, was pressed home with vigour and owing to circumstances undoubtedly caught us on the wrong foot in places. Full results are not, as yet available, but thanks to captured maps and identification of pilots units it is possible to piece together the general plan so far as it affected our area.
3. Three main formations apparently took part, in strength probably 60+ each formation with the addition of an unknown number of Me 262s.
4. Formation 1 started from the Steenwijk-Twente area, flew via Utrecht to the Hague, down the coast to Walcheren, then direct to Maldegem and St. Denis. It was probably an offshoot of this raid which attacked Woensdrecht.
5. Formation 2: starting point the Rheine area, flying to Rotterdam and then due South to the Brussels area. An offshoot of this was probably responsible for the attack on Antwerp.
6. Formation 3: from Bonninghardt - Kirchshellen area direct to the Eindhoven area.
7. Gilze was probably attacked by returning A/C of formations 1 and 2.
8. This gives a figure of approximately 150-200 aircraft.
9. The first intimation we had of the raid was an R/T flash from A/C of 35 Wing, who apparently ran into either formation 1 or 2, in the neighbourhood of Utrecht, which same A/C quite naturally having given the warning, decided to shoot instead of click cameras and destroyed two E/A without loss. Thereafter things moved with dramatic suddenness, even two ADLS Austers becoming involved, much against their will.
10. Was it worth while and will it be repeated? are the natural questions.
11. Answer to question 1. Yes and No. They inflicted a certain amount of damage and if their casualties, listed below are spread between Units so that total casualties can be hidden, then it may have the effect of stiffening morale, an important factor. On the other hand, aircraft for aircraft, the G.A.F. losses because we have destroyed pilots and aircraft, whilst he has only destroyed aircraft.
12. Answer to question 2, depends on a correct assessment of Hun mentality. If, as is believed the last desperate stage of the war is approaching, then he may well be prepared to completely ignore losses in an attempt to hit back in sheer desperation at the force which has cost him the War - Allied Air Power.

PROFIT AND LOSS TABLE (84 Group).

13. Claims.
In air combat 22-2-6.
By A.A. 7 - - Known dest.
" 14 - - Reported dest.
43-2-6

Casualties.
32 Spitfires destroyed on the ground.
2 Spits and one pilot NYR after air combat.

.....2.

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref.: AIR 16/1035			76633			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

SECRET.

14. While this was going on, the Group continued an intense effort against targets North of the Maas; in fact, 131 Wing were returning from an attack on a ferry crossing when they found strangers knocking their home about. In all, 14 attacks were made on pre-arranged targets - villages, barge concentrations, cross roads, ferry crossings, bridges and an O.P. Results were generally good, the OP for example being destroyed and the village of Neeuwen (E1251) wiped out. The road bridge at E. 2569 was holed by a DH from a 1,000 pounder and the barge concentration severely handled.

15. Sweeps to Rheine, Enschede and Venlo were uneventful, as were also escorts to Mediums. Patrols and base defence scrambles formed the rest of the "fighter ops". The only Armed Recce went to Amersfoort and bombed the railway line.

16. Apart from the enemy activity already mentioned, 2 Me 109s were sighted near Emmerich this afternoon and one Me 262 was "chased" towards Bocholt by a 35 Wing A/C.

146 WING.

17. 263 and 266 Squadrons attacked a concentration of barges E. of Dordrecht on the Waal. Two were destroyed and 20 damaged. In the afternoon 266 Squadron repeated the attack scoring many direct hits with RP. 193 Squadron were detailed to attack the ferry S. of Gorinchem but this was not seen, and instead bombs were dropped on a floating jetty very near to the target pinpoint. 266 Squadron attacked a factory housing enemy troops just North of the Maas. Two salvos scored direct hits and the remainder were in the target area. 263 Squadron attacked an OP in a tower NW of S. Hertogenbosch and destroyed it completely. 193 Squadron attacked a cross roads SW of Gorinchem scoring four direct hits and 2 near misses. 197 Squadron carried out attacks on three enemy occupied villages N. of the Maas, Neeuwen, Aalburg and Drongelen. Neeuwen is claimed as completely destroyed. Aalburg, 3 houses destroyed and many damaged, and Drongelen many buildings were left smoking. 193 Squadron attacked a road bridge SW of Utrecht scoring 2 direct hits on the Southern approach. 257 Squadron also went for a road bridge NE of Gorinchem and scored one direct hit which holed the bridge as well as some near misses.

131 WING.

18. 302 and 317 Squadrons attacked ferries over the Waal E. and W. of Gorinchem with good results. On their return to base a gaggle of FW 190s and Me 109s were found strafing the airfield so the Wing waded in and the result was the spectacular score of 19-2-5 for the loss of only three aircraft and 2 pilots - cracking show!

132 WING.

19. 331 and 332 Squadrons swept the Venlo-Enschede area uneventfully. 66 and 127 Squadrons swept the Rheine area and again it was quite uneventful, as was also an escort to medium bombers attacking concentration points in the battle area. Base defence patrols were also flown.

135 WING.

20. Medium bombers attacking the road bridge at Zaltbommel were uneventfully escorted by the Wing and two base defence patrols were flown.

145 WING.

21. 74 and 345 Squadrons acted as escort to medium bombers attacking concentration points in the battle area. The operation went 'according to plan' as did a sweep by 329 and 341 Squadrons flown as part of the same operation. 341 Squadron were scrambled but no E/A were sighted. Two uneventful patrols of Antwerp, Breda, Nijmegen and Venlo were also carried out.

123 WING.

22. Armed Recces were flown in areas Paderborn, Munster, Rheine /Euskirchen...

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref: AIR 16/1035			76633			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

SECRET

-3-

Euskirchen and Julich and MET 2-0 was claimed. 609 Squadron were detailed to attack tanks in the La Roche area but saw none and found some MET instead. One FW 190 was destroyed by FL Lawles of 198 Squadron.

35 WING.

23. Two enemy A/C were destroyed. Three successful Arty/R missions were flown and on top of that the usual excellent photo and Tac/R work went on. A very excellent days work.

STATISTICS.

24. Armed Recce	6	x	48	Claims: Enemy A/C 22-2-6.
Pre arranged support	15	x	124	Barges 2-20.
Immediate "			Nil	MET 2-0.
Tac /R	15	x	31	Other targets included: Ferries,
Photo R	21	x	21	Bridges, Road Junctions, Enemy
Arty R	3	x	6	occupied villages, OP in tower,
Fighter Operations	15	x	218	Factory (enemy billets).
	75	x	448.	

Casualties: 3 Spitfires and 2 pilots NYR.
 F/L Chojnacki (308 Sqdn),
 F/L Powierza (317 Sqdn)
 2 Typhoons and pilots NYR.
 F/L Smith (193 Sqdn),
 F/O Webber (183 Sqdn).
 2 Spitfires NDEA. Cat E and one pilot F/L Garland
 (2 Sqdn) killed.

83. GROUP.

547 Sorties. Area: Paderborn, Munster, Rheine, Julich.
Claims: E/A 48-6-17.
 Locos 21-29.
 Trucks 55-180.
 MET 9-10.
 Rail cuts 2.
Casualties: In the air 10 A/C and 9 pilots NYR.

PART TWO

GROUND SITUATION.

25. No new developments except further mopping up in the area West of Bastogne.

*Rivall
M/C*

Air Intelligence,
 1st January, 1944.

GROUP INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.