

UNCLASSIFIED N-5160 <sup>Jul 44</sup>

*Am + Gen staff file*  
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EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

OPERATION No. 449

1 JULY 1944

OPERATION No. 450

2 JULY 1944

JUN 21 1965

Classification changed to  
~~RESTRICTED~~ JUN 10 1945  
by authority of AG of S, G-2, WDGS  
by *Ray M. Stroupe*  
RAY M STROUPE  
1st Lt Inf  
Ass't Custodian

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OPERATION NO. 449



JUN 21 1965

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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
APO 634

By authority of  
CG, Eighth Air Force  
Initials *E. B. Webb*  
Date *6 Jan. 1945*

COPY NO. 33

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

1 JULY, 1944

FIELD ORDER NO.

819

TARGET

CROSSBOW INSTALLATIONS,  
MONT LOUIS FERME

OPERATION NO.

449

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SECRET  
HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
APO 634

By authority of  
CG, Eighth Air Force  
Initials *RM*  
Date *6 Jan 1945*  
6 January, 1945  
COPY NO. 33

SUBJECT: Report of Operations, 1 July, 1944.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.  
(Through Channels).

1. IDENTIFICATION.

a. Operation No. 449.

b. Targets.

(1) Fourteen Crossbow Installations in Northern France.

2. PLANNING.

a. The weather forecast of the preceding afternoon indicated that heavy bomber bases would be non-operational on 1 July until 1600 hours. All Continental target areas were expected to be substantially overcast throughout the day.

b. On the morning of 1 July a relatively small-scale operation against Crossbow installations in the Pas de Calais area of France was planned for execution during the late afternoon. Three forces comprising a total of 26 B-24 aircraft Squadrons, each led by a GH equipped Pathfinder, were to be utilized for attacks on 14 objectives. The following target assignments were made:

FORCE I (3rd Bomb Division)

Vignacourt	1 B-24 Squadron
Belloy-sur-Somme	2 B-24 Squadrons
Mont Louis Ferme	2 B-24 Squadrons

FORCE II (2nd Bomb Division)

Coubronne	2 B-24 Squadrons
Cauche d'Ecques	2 B-24 Squadrons
Belle Croix/Les Bruyeres	2 B-24 Squadrons
Blanc Pignon Ferme	2 B-24 Squadrons
Fiefs	2 B-24 Squadrons
Crepy	2 B-24 Squadrons
Beaumetz Les Aire	2 B-24 Squadrons
Crepieul	1 B-24 Squadron

FORCE III (1st Bomb Division)

Fleury	2 B-17 Squadrons
Haute Cote	2 B-17 Squadrons
Fressin	2 B-17 Squadrons

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c. Force I was to depart the southern coast at Selsey Bill with Forces II and III leaving from Beachy Head. Routes to the objectives were essentially direct and provided for west-east bombing runs in most instances. The targets of Force II were in close proximity to those of Force III and to avoid congestion a time schedule was specified under which the latter would attack immediately after the former had cleared the area. The three forces were to withdraw to the north, crossing the French coast east and west of Dunkirk and returning to East Anglia.

d. Fighter support was to be provided by four P-51 Groups. Two under MEW control were to cover the main target area and a third under Type 16 control was to operate in the vicinity of St. Quentin, southeast of the objectives. Three bomber Squadrons of Force I were attacking two targets to the south of the other objectives; bombing runs in these instances were from the southwest and the courses took the formations to the south of the area in which the two P-51 Groups were to operate. The fourth P-51 Group was detailed to rendezvous at the French coast, furnish escort to the two targets, and then proceed to the Evreux area where it would operate under Type 16 control until all bombers had crossed out of France. All four fighter Groups were to execute strafing attacks against rail and road transportation targets upon completion of their supporting roles. (See Track Chart for bomber routes and timings and plan for fighter support)

### 3. EXECUTION.

#### a. Targets Bombed.

(1) Crossbow Installation, Mont Louis Ferme.

#### b. Narrative.

(1) A total of 325 heavy bombers were dispatched - 65 B-24's (5 Squadrons) by 3rd Bomb Division as Force I, 180 B-24's (15 Squadrons) by 2nd Bomb Division as Force II, and 78 B-17's (6 Squadrons) by 1st Bomb Division as Force III. Take-offs were accomplished without incident but Squadron assemblies were executed with much difficulty when considerable more middle cloud than forecast was encountered. Altocumulus of 0-3/10 density had been predicted, but existed in amounts as great as 8-10/10 with tops as high as 16-20,000 feet reported in some instances. In view of prevailing conditions and in anticipation of further deterioration of weather in base areas, it was decided to abandon the mission. All Squadrons turned back before crossing the English coast with one exception. As a result of a misunderstanding as to the type of formation being flown, recall messages were sent to only two Squadrons of Force I, it being presumed that these were the lead Squadrons of two Combat Wings. Of the three Squadrons which failed to receive the message, two abandoned the mission on the decision of the leaders, while the third, one of two detailed against Mont Louis Ferme, continued to its objective. All other Squadrons returned to base without incident.

(2) The single Squadron of Force I encountered dense cirrostratus at flying altitude while crossing the Channel but the base of the cloud was higher over the Continent. The primary target at Mont Louis Ferme was attacked on GH indications from the planned altitude of 23,000 feet through 8/10 low cloud. One aircraft experienced an accidental release when bomb bay doors were opened at the Initial Point and one

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other B-24 dropped at that time. Nine B-24's dropped 20.5 tons HE on the primary target. Strike photographs were largely cloud obscured but indicated that bombs fell approximately one mile northeast of the target with a few of the bursts visible on a railroad line. The formation withdrew to England essentially as planned.

(3) No enemy aircraft were seen but meager accurate anti-craft fire was reported in the target area and very accurate bursts from the St. Pol area accounted for the loss of one B-24. Four others sustained Category "B" damage.

(4) The four fighter Groups scheduled to support the operation were notified that the bombers had been recalled and were directed to proceed to assigned areas for strafing attacks or return to base at the Group leader's discretion. Three Groups continued the mission and received sortie credit (125 aircraft although one returned very early. The other two reached the designated areas by circuitous routes and both had engagements with enemy aircraft. In one instance one Group joined in a combat between an English Air Force P-47 Group which had been dispatched on an independent fighter-bomber mission and approximately 30 Me-109's. The P-51's claimed one destroyed and three damaged for no losses. The other P-51 Group engaged approximately eight Me-109's in the St. Quentin area and claimed four destroyed and two damaged for the loss of one P-51 in aerial combat. This was the only loss sustained by the fighters which had been scheduled to support the bombers, although one P-51 sustained Category "E" (Salvage) damage in a crash landing at base.

For the Commanding General:

*Walter E. Todd*

WALTER E. TODD,  
Brig. Gen., U.S.A.,  
Dep. C/S for Operations.

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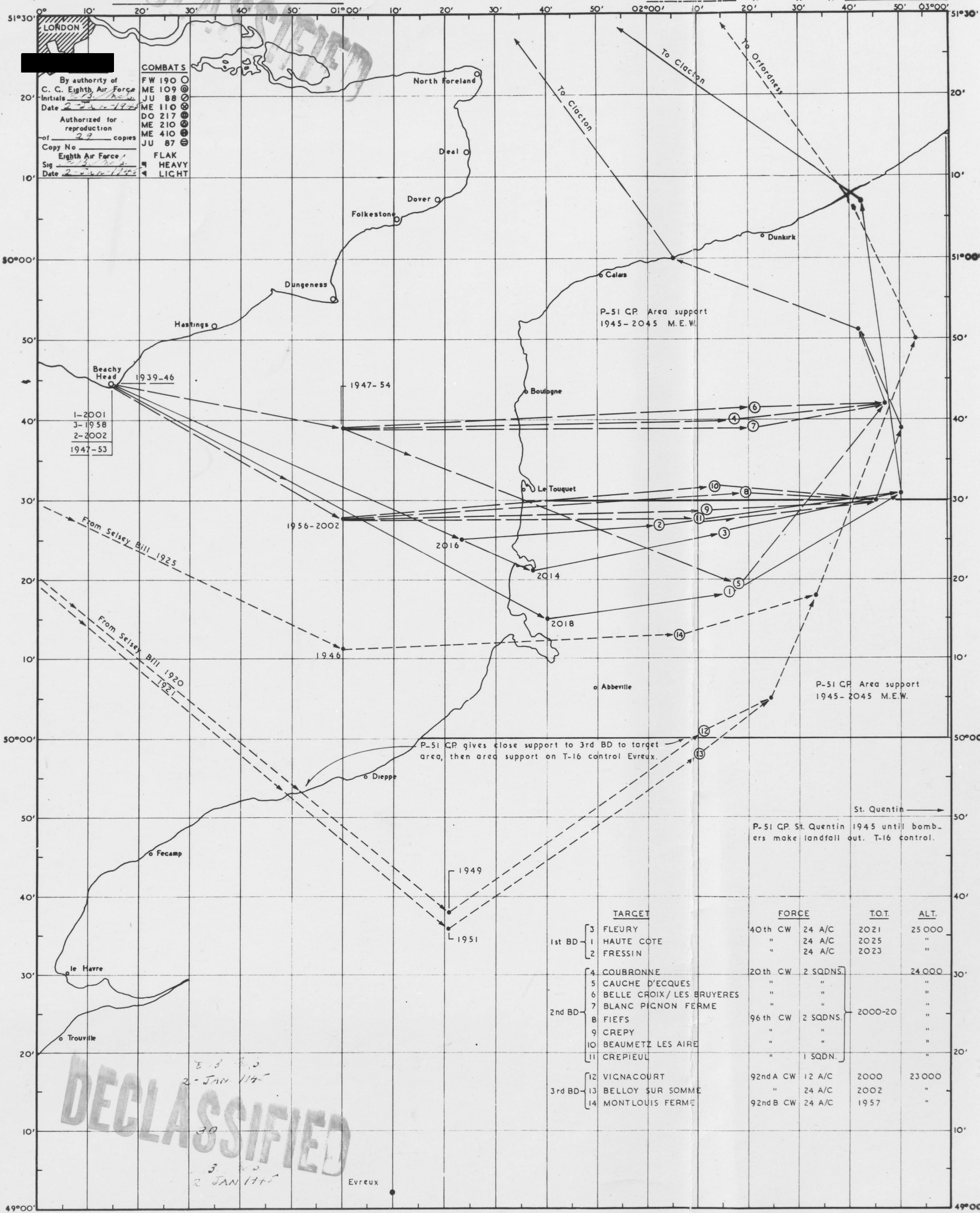
# TRACK CHART

DATE 1 JULY 1944

### TARGETS

PRIMARY AS LISTED BELOW

		ROUTE FOLLOWED BY		
_____	"	1st BD		
_____	"	2nd BD		
_____	"	3rd BD		
_____	"	"		
_____	"	"		
_____	"	"		



By authority of  
C. C. Eighth Air Force  
Initials 3 h c  
Date 2-2-1944  
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COMBATS  
FW 190 ○  
ME 109 ⊙  
JU 88 ⊙  
ME 110 ⊙  
DO 217 ⊙  
ME 210 ⊙  
ME 410 ⊙  
JU 87 ⊙  
FLAK  
HEAVY  
LIGHT

1-2001  
3-1958  
2-2002  
1947-53

From Selsey Bill 1925  
From Selsey Bill 1920

	TARGET	FORCE	T.O.T.	ALT.
1st BD	3 FLEURY	40th CW 24 A/C	2021	25 000
	1 HAUTE COTE	" 24 A/C	2025	"
	2 FRESSIN	" 24 A/C	2023	"
2nd BD	4 COUBRONNE	20th CW 2 SQDNS.		24 000
	5 CAUCHE D'ECQUES	" "		"
	6 BELLE CROIX / LES BRUYERES	" "		"
	7 BLANC PIGNON FERME	" "	2000-20	"
	8 FIEFS	96th CW 2 SQDNS.		"
	9 CREPY	" "		"
	10 BEAUMETZ LES AIRE	" "		"
3rd BD	11 CREPIEUL	" 1 SQDN.		"
	12 VIGNACOURT	92nd A CW 12 A/C	2000	23 000
	13 BELLOY SUR SOMME	" 24 A/C	2002	"
	14 MONTLOUIS FERME	92nd B CW 24 A/C	1957	"

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813 813  
2 JAN 1944

30

3 813  
2 JAN 1944



WEATHER FORECAST FOR MISSION TO ABBEVILLE AREA

WEATHER ENCOUNTERED ON MISSION TO \_\_\_\_\_

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Eighth Air Force  
Sig C. B. M. S.  
Date 17-July-1945

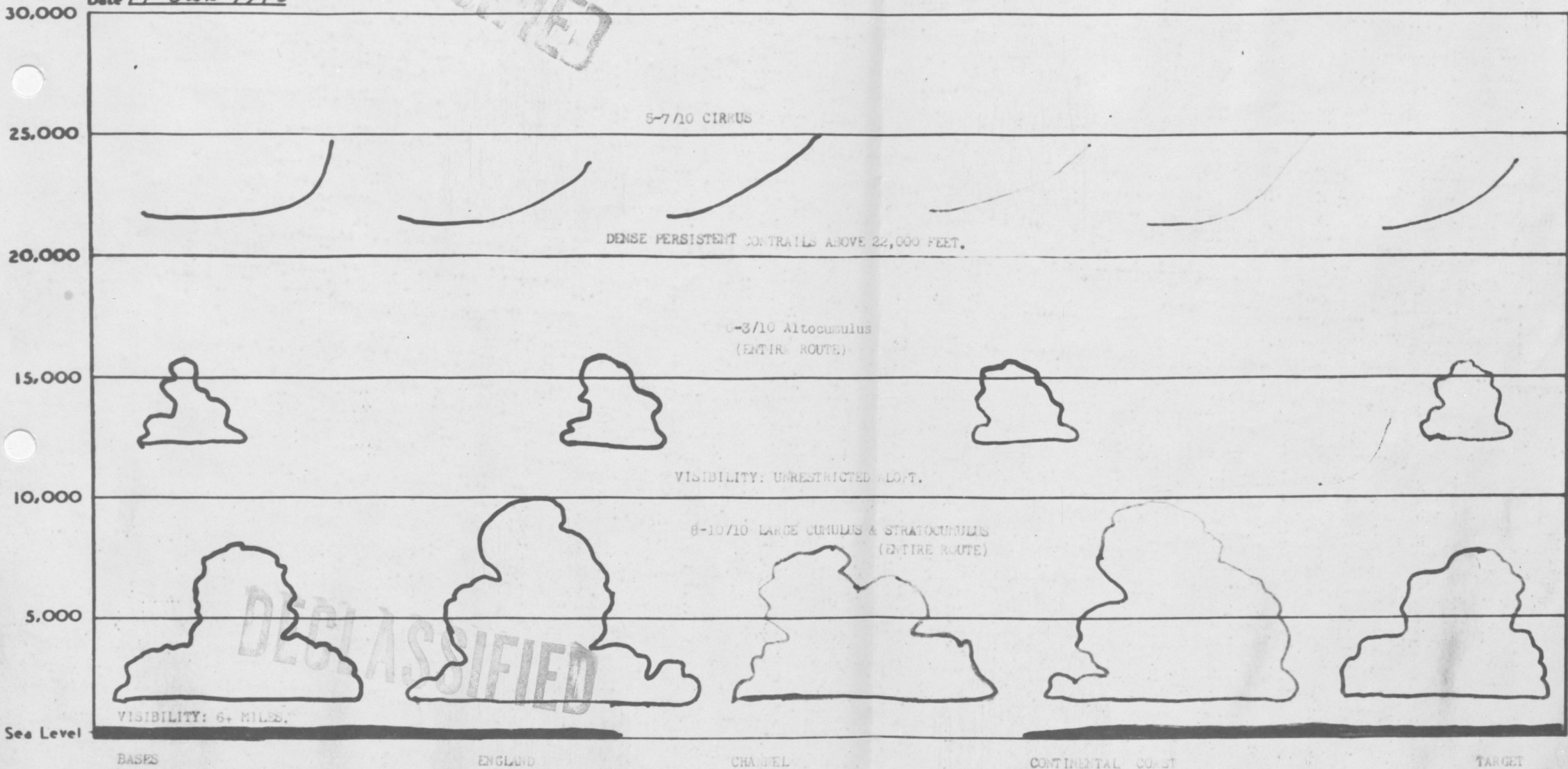
1st & 3rd BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

DATE 1 JULY, 1944.

1700-2200 HRS.

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By authority of  
C. C. Eighth Air Force  
Initials C. B. M. S.  
Date 17-July-1945

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WEATHER ENCOUNTERED ON MISSION TO ABBEEVILLE AREA

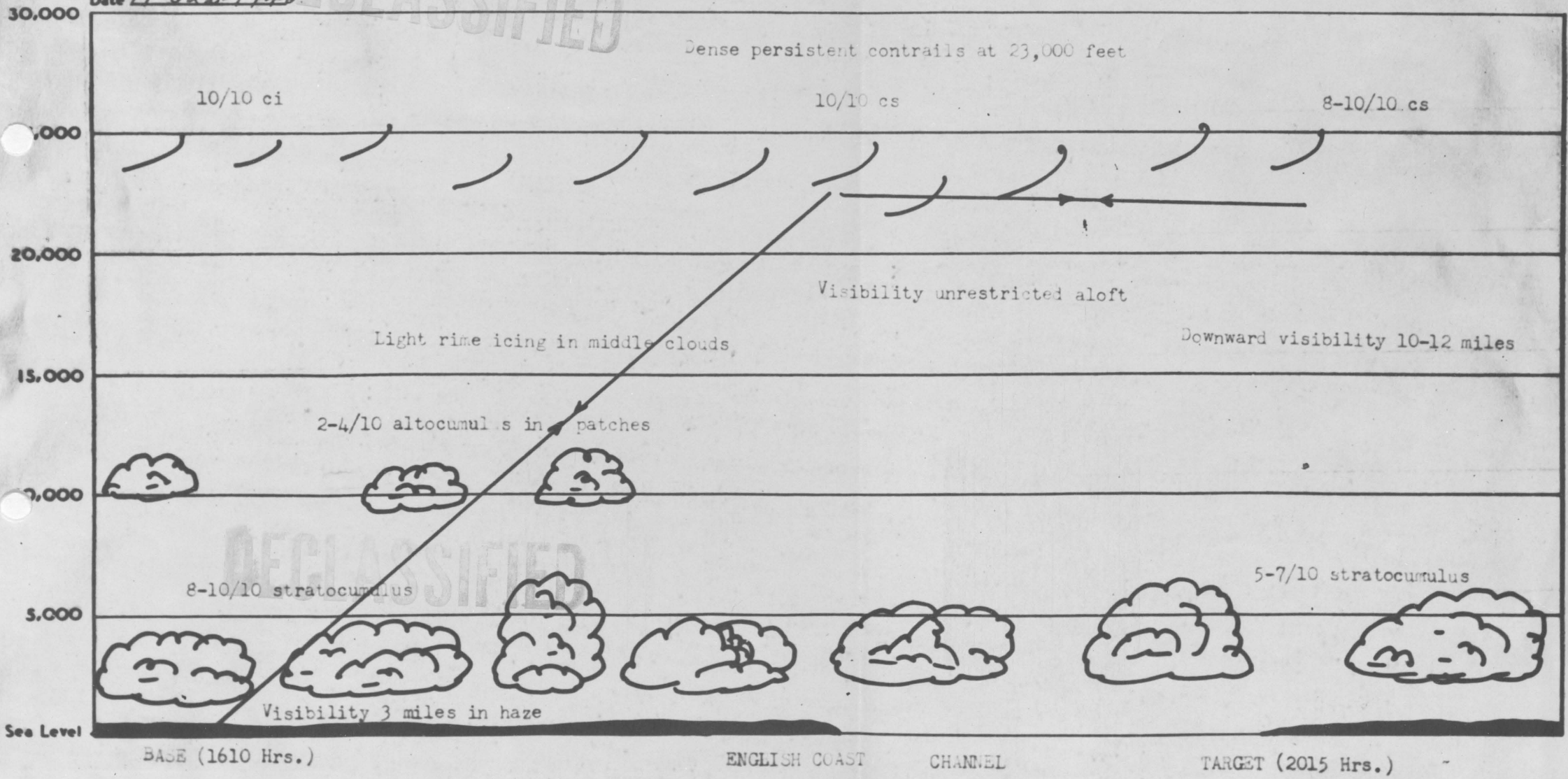
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Eighth Air Force  
Sig C. G. Meb.  
Date 17 Jan 1945

3rd BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

DATE 1 July, 1944

By authority of  
C. G. Eighth Air Force  
Initials C. G. Meb.  
Date 17 Jan 1945



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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
APO 634

OPERATIONAL FORECAST - 1 JULY, 1944

1st & 3rd Bomb Division

1. Base to Target to Base.

Cloudy to overcast with haze on return. 8-10/10 swelling cumulus and stratocumulus base 1000-1500 tops 8-10,000 feet. 0-3/10 altocumulus in patches base 12,000 tops 16,000 feet. 5-7/10 cirrus base 21,000 tops 25,000 feet. Freezing level 9000 feet, moderate clear ice in cumulus tops, light rime in medium clouds. Visibility 6 plus miles becoming unlimited aloft, plus 3-5 miles on return to bases.

2. Winds and Temperatures.

		<u>Temperatures</u>
Surface	20 knots	15°C
5,000 feet	25	08
10,000	25	-01
15,000	30	-10
20,000	30	-20
25,000	30	-31
30,000	35	-42

3. Indicated and True Altitude and Mean Temperatures.

<u>Indicated Altitude</u>	<u>True Altitude</u>	<u>Mean Temperatures</u>
18,000 feet	18,234 feet	0°C
20,000	20,303	- 1.5
22,000	22,380	- 3
24,000	24,426	- 5
26,000	26,472	- 7

Base altimeter setting on return 29.89 inches.

4. Remarks.

Contrails deep persistent above 20,000 feet.

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APO 634

SUMMARY OF WEATHER ENCOUNTERED - 1 JULY, 1944

1ST BOMB DIVISION

Take-Off

(1740-1819) 9-10/10 stratocumulus base 1-1500 feet top 5-6000 feet. 8-10/10 altocumulus base 7-8000 feet top 16-20,000 feet. 5-8/10 cirrus above 23-25,000 feet. Visibility 5-8 miles in intermittent rain.

Mission Abandoned

Return To Base

Time of let-down. Layered altocumulus and altostratus base 8000 feet top 18-20,000 feet, cirrus above 23-25,000 feet. 10/10 stratocumulus base 8-900 feet top 6000 feet.

Bases on Return

(1924-2200) Visibility 3 miles.

Remarks

Winds reported 10° to 30° more southerly than forecast. Light non-persistent contrails in medium layer above 14,000 feet. Moderate rime in medium cloud.

3RD BOMB DIVISION

Base at Take-Off

(1610-1700) Over England and Route Out - 8-10/10 stratocumulus, base 1000-2000 feet, tops 4000-5000 feet, with cumulus tops 5000-7000 feet. 2-4/10 altocumulus in patches, base 9000 feet, tops 12,000 feet. 10/10 cirrus above 23,000 feet. Visibility 3 miles in haze. Clouds continued and thickened en route with 10/10 cirrostratus between 20,000 and 24,000 feet, to Continental coast. Visibility aloft unrestricted.

Target - Near Abbeville

(2015) 5-7/10 stratocumulus with no tops above 10,000 feet. 8-10/10 cirrostratus, base 23,000 feet. Visibility downward 10-12 miles.

Return Route

Similar to route out with 10/10 stratocumulus to southern England.

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SUMMARY OF WEATHER ENCOUNTERED (Continued)

1 July, 1944

3RD BOMB DIVISION (Continued)

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Base on Return

(2000-2200) - 7-10/10 stratocumulus, base 1500-2000 feet, tops 5000 feet. Visibility 3 miles.

Remarks

Light rime icing in middle clouds. Dense persistent contrails at 23,000 feet.

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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
APO 634

BOMBER SUMMARY

1 July, 1944

	<u>1ST BOMB DIV.</u>	<u>2ND BOMB DIV.</u>	<u>3RD BOMB DIV.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Number A/C Dispatched	78	182	65	325
Number Sorties	0	0	13	13
Attack. Pri.	0	0	9 Mont Louis Ferne	9
Bombs on Target Pri. (HE)	0	0	20.5 Mont Louis Ferne	20.5
Number A/C Lost	0	0	1	1
AA	0	0	1	1
Other	0	0	0	0
Combat Damage	0	0	4	4
Cat. "B"	0	0	4	4
Cat. "E"	0	0	0	0
Cause of Damage	0	0	4	4
AA	0	0	4	4
Other	0	0	0	0
Casualties				
Wounded	0	0	1	1
M.I.A.	0	0	9	9
E/A Encounters	0	0	0	0

BOMBING DATA

GROUP	DIRECT. OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	AFCE	MANUAL	NUMBER OF BOMBS	DROPPED RANGE ON LDR.
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3RD BOMB DIVISION

Mont Louis Ferne

486B	082	10 Min.	23,000	2016	X		152x250 HE 6x500 HE	1 8
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FIGHTER SUMMARY

1 July, 1944

GROUP	TYPE	TYPE SUPPORT	A/C		BATTLE DAM.		CASUALTIES			CLAIMS		
			A/B	SOR- TIES	A/C LOST	CAT. "E"	OTH.	K.or	MIA	WND.	DES.	PROB.
352	P-51	Area	28	28	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
357	P-51	Area	53	53	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	2
361	P-51	Area*	47	44	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operation Total			128	125	1	1	0	1	0	5	0	5

\* Abandoned mission before reaching French coast.

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OPERATION NO. 450



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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
APO 634

By authority of  
CC Eighth Air Force  
Initials *EAM*  
Date *27 Jan. 1945*

Copy No. 33

TACTICAL MISSION REPORT

2 July, 1944

FIELD ORDER NO.

822

TARGETS

CROSSBOW INSTALLATIONS  
IN PAS DE CALAIS AREA

OPERATION NO.

450

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REPORT OF OPERATIONS

ROUTES

WEATHER

BOMBING DATA AND STATISTICS

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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
APO 634

By authority of   
CG, Eighth Air Force  
Initials *EBM*  
Date *27 Jan. 1945*

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27 January, 1945

COPY NO. 33

SUBJECT: Report of Operations, 2 July, 1944.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.  
(Through Channels).

1. IDENTIFICATION.

a. Operation No. 450.

b. Targets.

(1) Fourteen (14) Crossbow installations in the Pas de Calais area of France.

2. PLANNING.

a. Cloud layers at operating levels were expected to cover the continental area except along the coast. In the latter area 7-9/10 low and layered medium cloud was predicted extending as high as 16,000 feet, with 5-7/10 cirrus above 22,000 feet.

b. With the area of operations greatly restricted by forecast weather conditions, it was decided to dispatch a small force of bombers against 14 Crossbow installations in the Pas de Calais, employing GH bombing technique. These installations, 12 launching sites and two supply sites, were located outside built-up localities and constituted the only priority objectives near the coast which were suitable for attack by Pathfinder methods. A total of 28 units of B-24 aircraft each were scheduled with the following target assignments:

1st Bomb Division

(Tactical Unit - Group of 12 B-17's with one GH aircraft per Group)

Blangermont	Launching Site	2 Groups
Fleury	Launching Site	2 Groups
Fressin	Launching Site	2 Groups

2nd Bomb Division

(Tactical Unit - Squadron of 12 B-24's with one GH aircraft per Squadron)

Renescure	Supply Site	3 Squadrons
Coubronne	Launching Site	2 Squadrons
Blanc Pignon Ferme	Launching Site	2 Squadrons
Fiefs	Launching Site	2 Squadrons
Crepy	Launching Site	2 Squadrons
Crepieul	Launching Site	1 Squadron
Sautrecourt	Supply Site	3 Squadrons

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3rd Bomb Division

(Tactical Unit, - Squadron of 12 B-24's with one GH aircraft per Squadron)

Vignacourt	Launching Site	2 Squadrons
Belloy-sur-Somme	Launching Site	2 Squadrons
Haute Cote	Launching Site	2 Squadrons
Mont Louis Ferme	Launching Site	1 Squadron

c. Details of the operation were planned by the Bomb Divisions except for the overall time control which was established to prevent interference in the target area. Second Bomb Division was to attack and clear the area within the period 1245 - 1315 hours, 1st Bomb Division within the following 30 minutes and 3rd Bomb Division in the next 30 minutes. Routes selected involved southeasterly penetrations from the south coast to the Initial Points and, after easterly bombing runs governed by GH requirements, a return nearly due north to Orfordness or Clacton. The only exception to these general routings was the single 3rd Bomb Division Squadron making the shallowest penetration (against Mont Louis Ferme) which was to return across the channel to Beachy Head. Prescribed bombing altitudes (25,000 feet for 1st Bomb Division Groups, 24,000 feet for 2nd Bomb Division Squadrons and 22,000 feet for 3rd Bomb Division Squadrons) were to be attained prior to departing the English coast and maintained, cloud conditions permitting, during the entire time over enemy territory.

d. Four P-51 Groups were detailed to provide support for the bombers. Because of the shallow penetration and the small overall target area it was considered that area support was most practicable. Two P-51 Groups under MEW ground control were to patrol sectors of the target area and two P-51 Groups under Type 16 ground control were to sweep the St. Quentin and Beauvais areas. All fighters were to be in position by 1230 hours and remain until the bombers withdrew or to the limit of their endurance.

3. EXECUTION.

a. Targets Bombed.

- (1) Blangermont.
- (2) Fleury.
- (3) Fressin.
- (4) Rencscure.
- (5) Coubronne.
- (6) Blanc Pignon Ferme.
- (7) Fiefs (including one Squadron attacking the site as a Target of Opportunity).
- (8) Crepy.
- (9) Sautrecourt.
- (10) Vignacourt.
- (11) Belloy-sur-Somme.
- (12) Haute Cote.
- (13) Mont Louis Ferme.

b. Narrative.

(1) Twenty-eight 12 plane units, six B-17 Groups from 1st Bomb Division, 15 B-24 Squadrons from 2nd Bomb Division and seven B-24 Squadrons from 3rd Bomb Division, were detailed to attack the 14 Crossbow installations. One GH Pathfinder was assigned to lead each 12 aircraft except the second B-17 Group against Fleury. It had been learned that none would be available for this Group which was thereupon instructed to drop on the release of the preceding Group. B-17 Groups and B-24 Squadrons were to fly in trail at one and two minute intervals respectively.

(2) There were 345 bombers airborne, 73 B-17's from 1st Bomb Division, 182 B-24's from 2nd Bomb Division and 90 B-24's from 3rd Bomb Division. Normal assemblies were accomplished and routes to and from the targets were substantially as ordered save for two Squadrons assigned to Renescure which were several miles north of course during the penetration and early withdrawal. Cloud cover over the target area required GH bombing procedure. All targets except Crepieul were attacked but inoperative equipment compelled four B-24 Squadrons to return without attacking and prevented the Squadron assigned to Crepieul from attacking the primary although this unit was able to join and follow another Squadron and to release on the latter's markers at Fiefs. Misinterpretation of weak signals also caused one unit to fly several miles north of course and release 10 minutes early approximately 35 miles short of the assigned target. The 1st Bomb Division Group which was not led by a GH aircraft released on the preceding Group at Fleury according to plan. Prescribed bombing altitudes were maintained and target times were within three minutes of schedule for all units other than the 2nd Bomb Division Squadron which was several miles north of course (A second Squadron made the same route deviation but did not attack due to inoperative GH equipment.) and bombed ten minutes early.

(3) A total of 280 aircraft attacked with 710.9 tons HE. Due to the cloud cover, strike photographs were not revealing except at Belloy and Vignacourt where the bombfalls appeared to be outside the target areas. Reconnaissance photographs covered eight to sixteen day periods and as the Crossbow installations were being attacked almost daily by RAF Bomber Command and both American and British tactical aircraft as well as the Eighth Air Force, in no instances can items of damage be attributed specifically to this operation. Within the period covered, there was no evidence of fresh damage or craters at Blangermont, Renescure, Blanc Pignon Ferme, Crepy, Sautrecourt, Vignacourt, Belloy and Mont Louis Ferme. Damage to the other four targets attacked was as follows:

Fressin (24 B-17's dropped 428x250 HE) - There were many new craters in the target area including one hit at the base of the launching point and a very near miss which destroyed a portion of one side of the large square building. Damage Category "B".

Goubronne (22 B-24's dropped 38x100 and 492x250 HE) - 50% of the large rectangular building was destroyed by a very near miss. Other craters in the target area were evident but no further damage to installations. Damage Category "B".

Fiefs (35 B-24's, including 11 attacking as a target of opportunity, dropped 76x100 and 638x250 HE) - Both the square building and the rectangular building sustained roof damage and a smaller building adjoining the latter received a direct hit which collapsed the roof. Several other craters were within the target area but there was no additional damage. Damage Category "C".

Haute Cote (12 B-24's dropped 5x500 and 196x250 HE) - A number of fresh craters were in the target area including one hit at the base of the launching point. The square building and the rectangular building had been removed prior to the photography. Damage Category "A".

(4) Planned area patrols in support of the bombers were executed uneventfully by four P-51 Groups under ground control. Two Groups patrolled the target area, one Group swept the Cambrai St. Quentin area and one Group swept the Beauvais-Paris-Rouen area. One Squadron provided close escort to the 3rd Bomb Division B-24 Squadrons assigned to the most southerly targets from the vicinity of Poix to the French coast. A total of 168 P-51's were airborne of which 163 flew sorties.

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(5) No enemy aircraft were encountered by bombers or supporting fighters. Anti-aircraft fire was meager and inaccurate at all targets. Pinpointing of ground defenses in action en route was not possible due to the cloud cover but meager accurate gunfire was reported in the vicinity of Neufchatel and in the St. Pol-Bethune area.

(6) One B-24 was lost to anti-aircraft fire and there were two instances of Category "E" (salvage) damage, one due to a crash on take-off and the other to an explosion in flight. Limited damage was sustained by 14 bombers (11 Category "A", 3 Category "AC") with anti-aircraft fire the cause in each instance. The supporting fighters suffered neither loss nor damage and there were no claims against enemy aircraft.

For the Commanding General:

*Walter E. Todd*  
WALTER E. TODD  
Brigadier General, USA  
Dep. C/S for Operations

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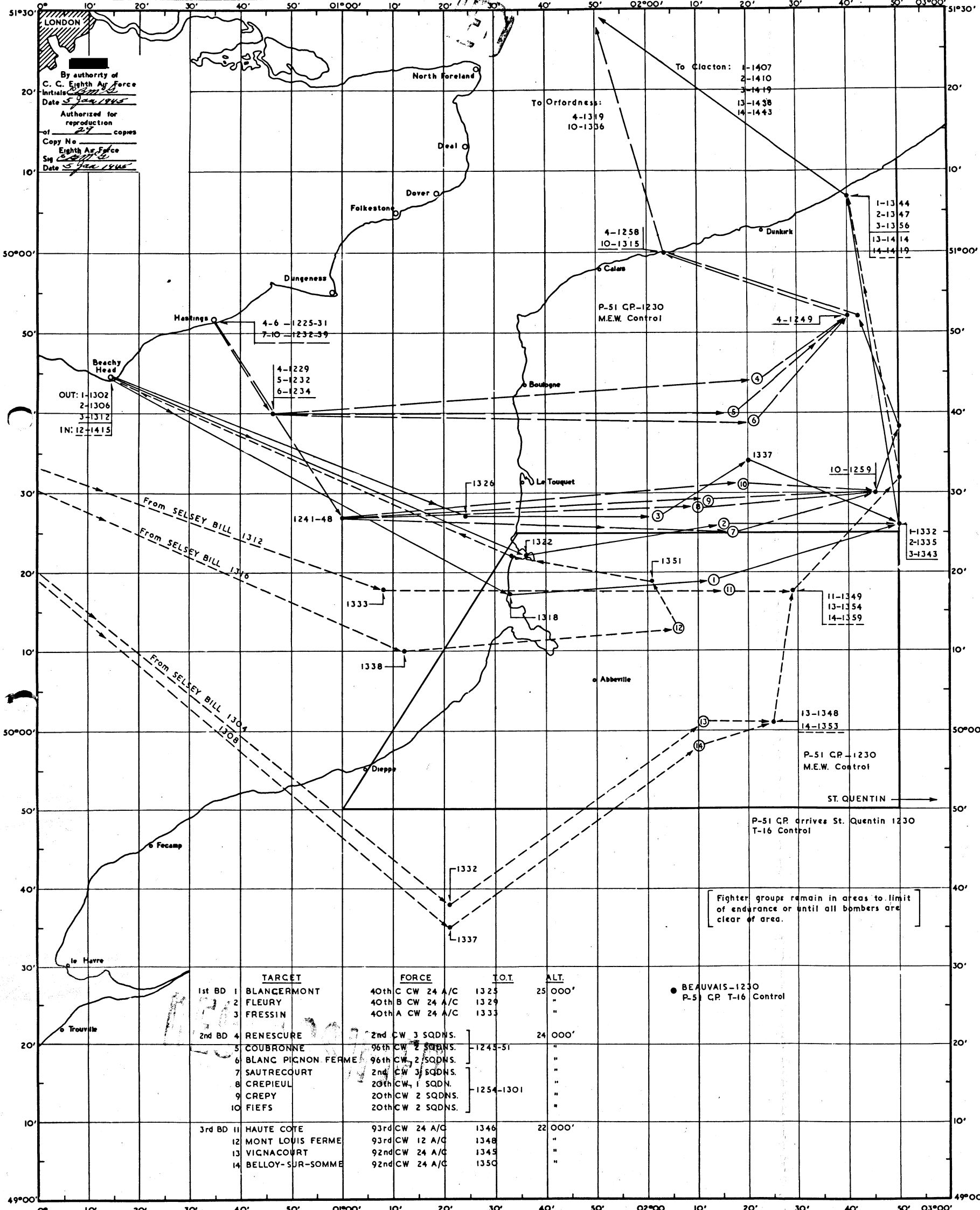
EIGHTH AIR FORCE PLAN  
TRACK CHART

DATE 2 JULY 1944

TARGETS  
PRIMARY AS LISTED

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY  
1st BD  
2nd BD  
3rd BD

SECRET



By authority of  
C. C. Eighth Air Force  
Initials *CCM*  
Date *5 Jan 1945*  
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Date *5 Jan 1945*

	TARGET	FORCE	T.O.T.	ALT.
1st BD 1	BLANCERMONT	40th C CW 24 A/C	1325	25 000'
2	FLEURY	40th B CW 24 A/C	1329	"
3	FRESSIN	40th A CW 24 A/C	1333	"
2nd BD 4	RENECURE	2nd CW 3 SQDNS.	1245-51	24 000'
5	COUBRONNE	96th CW 2 SQDNS.		"
6	BLANC PICNON FERME	96th CW 2 SQDNS.	1254-1301	"
7	SAUTRECOURT	2nd CW 3 SQDNS.		"
8	CREPIEUL	20th CW 1 SQDN.		"
9	CREPY	20th CW 2 SQDNS.	1350	"
10	FIEFS	20th CW 2 SQDNS.		"
3rd BD 11	HAUTE COTE	93rd CW 24 A/C	1346	22 000'
12	MONT LOUIS FERME	93rd CW 12 A/C	1348	"
13	VIGNACOURT	92nd CW 24 A/C	1345	"
14	BELLOY-SUR-SOMME	92nd CW 24 A/C	1350	"

● BEAUVAIS-1230  
P-51 CP T-16 Control

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WEATHER FORECAST FOR MISSION TO PAS de CALAIS AREA

~~WEATHER ENCOUNTERED ON MISSION TO~~ \_\_\_\_\_

1, 2, 3 BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

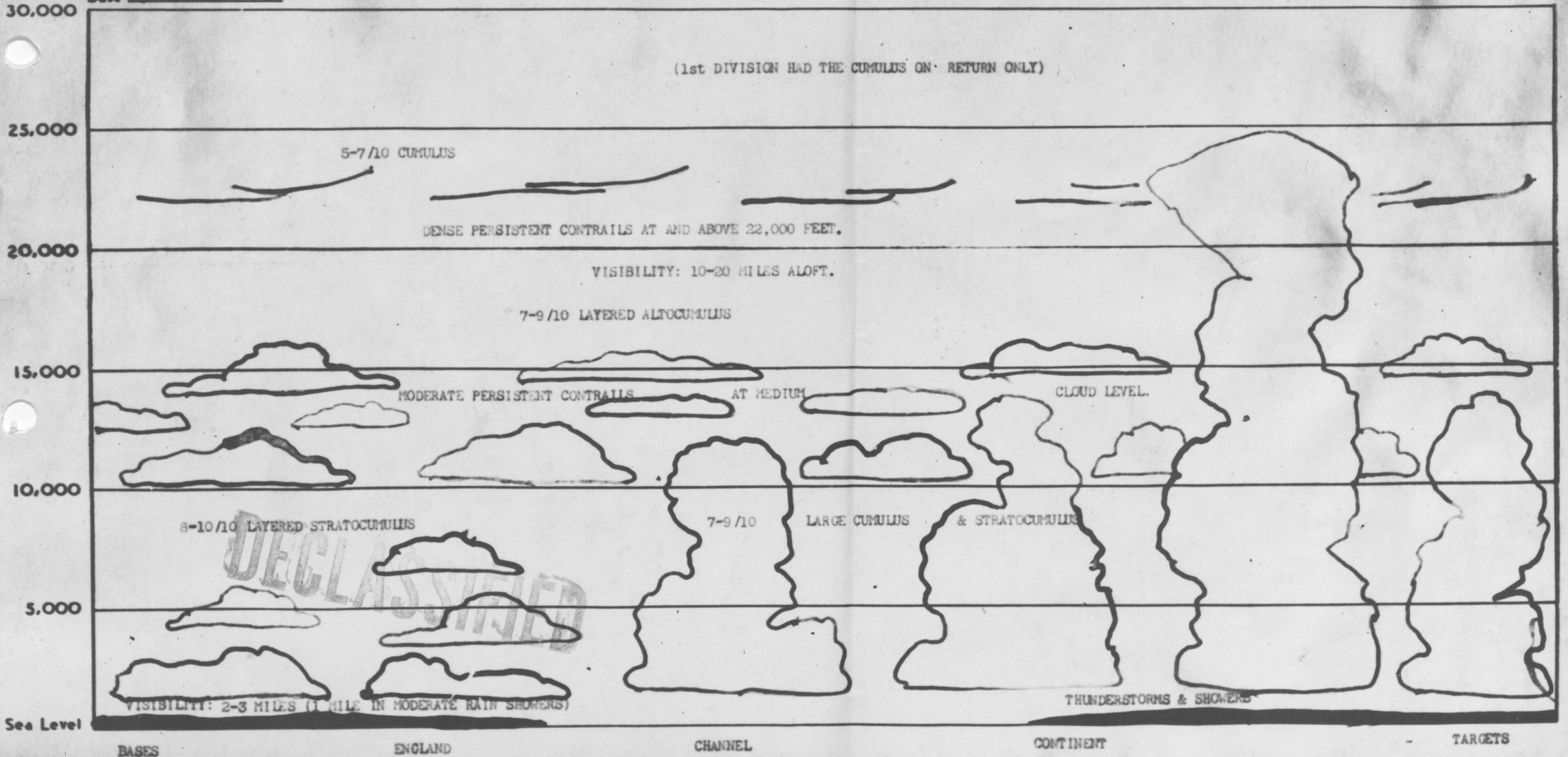
DATE 2 JULY, 1944.

0930-1600 HRS.

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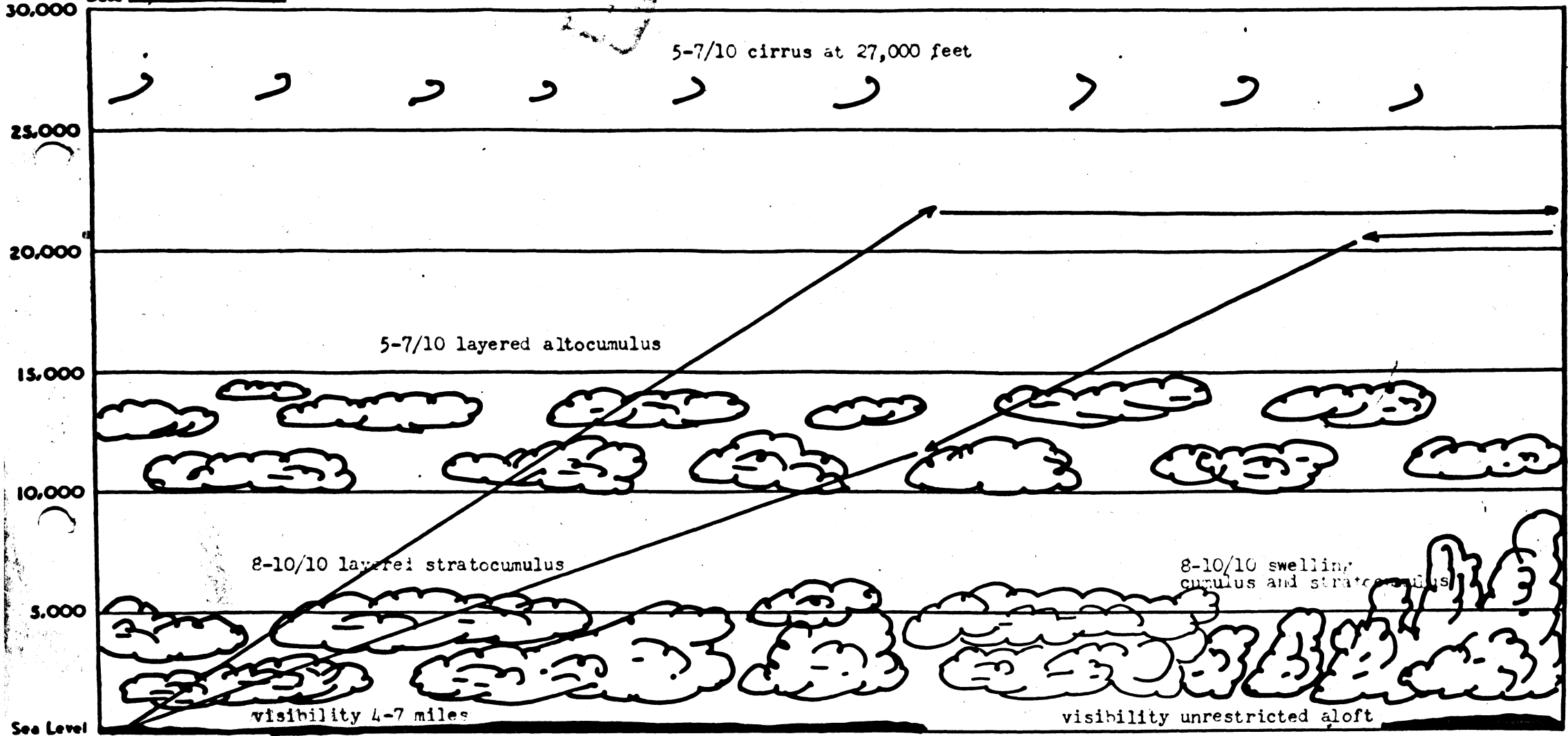
WEATHER ENCOUNTERED ON MISSION TO PAS DE CALAIS

1st BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

DATE 2nd July, 1944

By authority of  
C. G. Eighth Air Force  
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Date 17-2-2-1945

WEATHER ENCOUNTERED



30,000  
25,000  
20,000  
15,000  
10,000  
5,000  
Sea Level

5-7/10 cirrus at 27,000 feet

5-7/10 layered altocumulus

8-10/10 layered stratocumulus

8-10/10 swelling cumulus and stratocumulus

visibility 4-7 miles

visibility unrestricted aloft

TAKE-OFF (1102 Hrs.)      ENGLISH COAST      CHANNEL      PAS DE CALAIS (1313 Hrs.)

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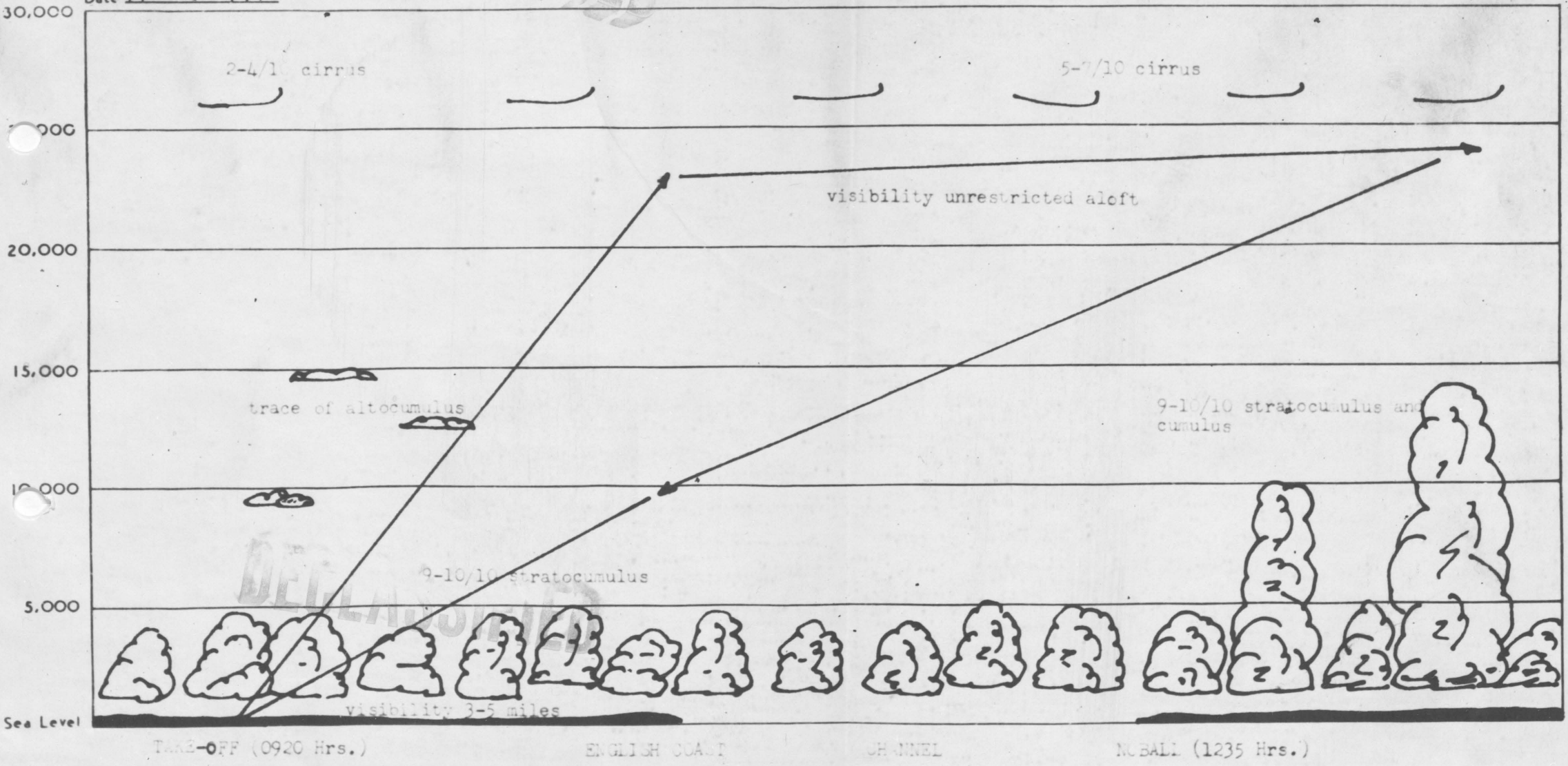
WEATHER ENCOUNTERED ON MISSION TO CROSSBOW

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Date 17 Jan 1945

2nd BOMBARDMENT DIVISION  
DATE 2 July, 1944

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Date 17 Jan 1945



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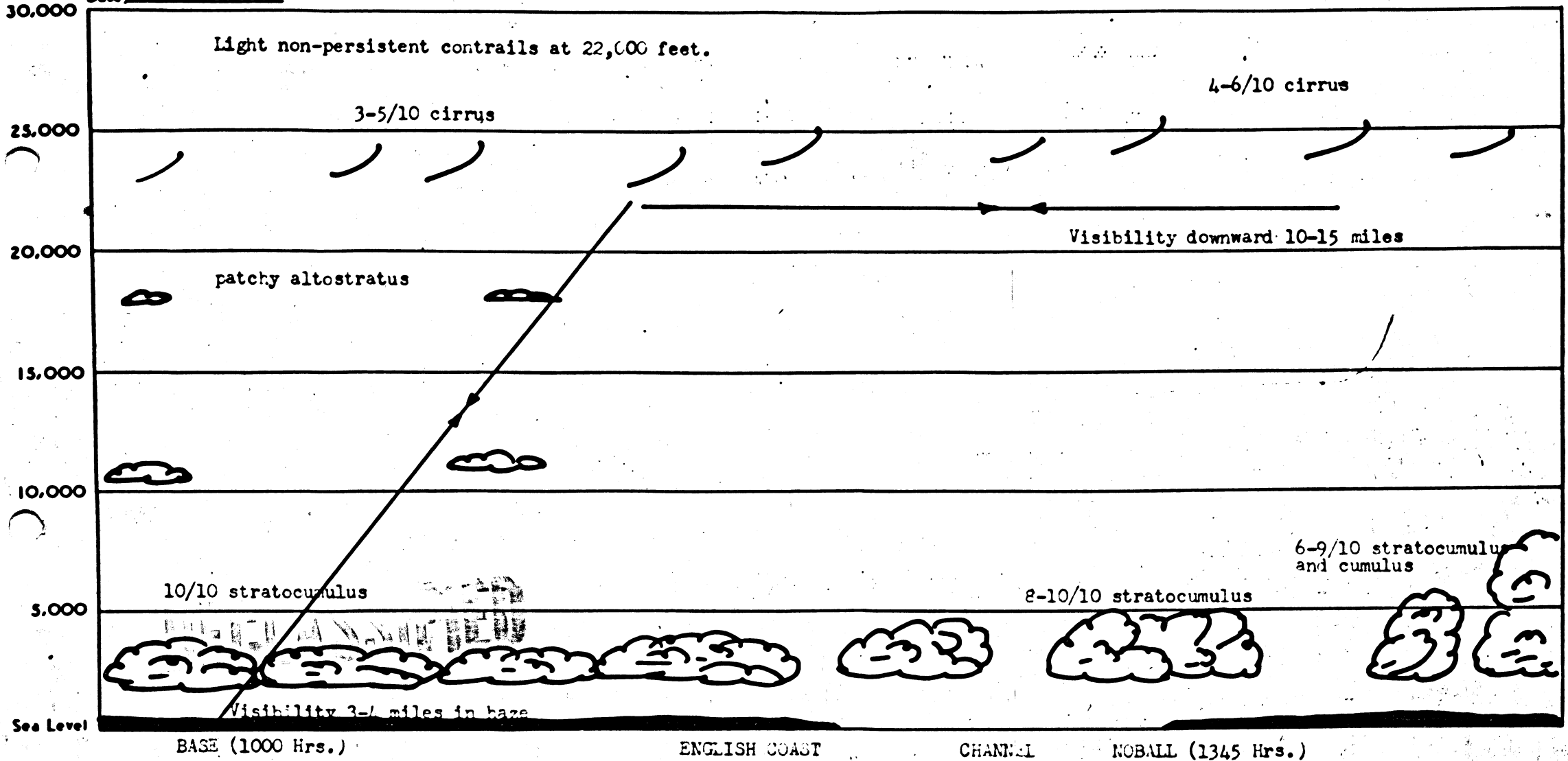
WEATHER ENCOUNTERED ON MISSION TO ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ CROSSBOW

3rd BOMBARDMENT DIVISION

DATE 2 July, 1944

By authority of  
C. C. Eighth Air Force  
Initials E. B. Meb  
Date 17 Jan 1945

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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
APO 634

OPERATIONAL FORECAST - 2 JULY 1944

1ST, 2ND AND 3RD BOMB DIVISIONS

1. Base to Target to Base:

Overcast with light drizzle becoming broken clouds to overcast with showers and thunderstorms. 8-10/10 stratocumulus base 800-1500 tops 6-8000 feet becoming 7-9/10 swelling cumulus base 1500-2000 tops 12-14,000 feet with occasional tops to 25,000 feet, base 1000 feet in showers and thunderstorms. 7-9/10 altocumulus and altostratus base 10,000 tops 16,000 feet in thin layers. 5-7/10 cirrostratus base 22,000 feet. Freezing level 12,000 feet, moderate rime ice at first becoming heavy clear ice in cumulus clouds. Visibility 2-3 miles except 1 mile in drizzle becoming 10-20 miles aloft and 6 plus miles on return.

2. Winds and Temperatures:

	<u>Base to Target</u>	<u>Temperatures</u>
Surface	220° 15 knots	17° C
5000 ft.	230 20	09
10,000	240 20	00
15,000	240 20	-09
20,000	240 25	-19
25,000	240 30	-30
30,000	240 35	-41

3. Indicated and True Altitude and Mean Temperatures:

<u>Ind. Alt.</u>	<u>True Alt.</u>	<u>Mean Temperatures</u>	
16,000 ft.	16,304 ft.	3.5° C	
18,000	18,356	1.5	Base altimeter setting on return - 29.86 in.
20,000	20,400	-0.5	
22,000	22,489	-2	
24,000	24,540	-4	
26,000	26,696	-6	
28,000	28,651	-8	

4. Remarks:

Contrails moderate persistent at medium cloud level and dense persistent contrails at 22,000 feet and above.

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SUMMARY OF WEATHER ENCOUNTERED - 2 JULY 1944

1ST BOMB DIVISION

Take-Off (1102-1138):

8-10/10 stratocumulus, base 800-1000 feet, tops 6-7000 feet (layered).  
5-7/10 thin altocumulus layered, base 8-10,000 feet, tops 13-15,000 feet,  
5-7/10 cirrus, base 27,000 feet plus.

Route Out:

8-10/10 stratocumulus, tops 6-7000 feet, 6-8/10 altocumulus, layered,  
base 10,000 feet, tops 14-16,000 feet, 5-7/10 cirrostratus, base 25-27,000  
feet becoming 3-5/10 over Continent. Visibility unrestricted aloft.

Target (1330-1335):

8-10/10 swelling cumulus and stratocumulus, tops 8-1000 feet (one  
report, tops 23,000 feet). 4-6/10 altocumulus, base 10-12,000 feet, tops  
15-16,000 feet, 3-5/10 cirrus, base 27,000 feet plus. Visibility unres-  
tricted aloft. Downward visibility 10 miles in breaks.

Return Route:

Same as route out except more breaks in low cloud over England.

Bases on Return (1500-1530):

6-8/10 stratocumulus and cumulus, base 2-2500 feet, tops 5-6000 feet,  
3-5/10 altocumulus, base 10,000 feet, tops 12-14,000 feet, 6-8/10 cirrus  
at 27,000 feet. Visibility 5-7 miles.

Remarks:

Winds and temperatures as forecast. No contrails.

2ND BOMB DIVISION

Take-Off (0920-0945):

9-10/10 stratocumulus, base 800-1000 feet, tops 4-6000 feet with trace  
of altostratus in small patches between 8000 and 15,000 feet. 2-4/10 cirrus  
with base estimated at 26,000 feet. Visibility 3-6 miles in light haze.  
Surface winds S-SSE, 8-12 miles per hour.

Route Out:

9-10/10 cumulus and stratocumulus, base 800-1000 feet, tops 4-6000  
feet entire route except for occasional small breaks over Channel and  
isolated tops over the Continent 10-14,000 feet. Trace of patchy alto-  
stratus decreased to nil over southern England and Continent. 2-4/10 cirrus  
increasing slowly over southern England and Continent to 5-7/10, base 26,000  
feet. Visibility unrestricted at flight level.

Targets (Crossbow 50°25"N and 50°44"N - 02°11"E and 02°22"E)(1235-1258):

9-10/10 stratocumulus and cumulus, estimated tops 4-6000 feet and iso-  
lated tops in target area to 10-14,000 feet. Nil medium clouds. 5-7/10  
cirrus, base estimated 26,000 feet. Visibility unrestricted aloft.

Return Route:

Reverse of Route In.

Bases on Return (1400-1430):

Same as bases at Take-Off except surface winds S-SSW, 6-12 miles per  
hour.

Remarks:

Light non-persistent contrails over bases 18-20,000 feet during assem-  
bly. Winds as forecast. Temperatures at altitude 3-4° warmer than forecast.

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2 July 1944

3RD BOMB DIVISION

Take-Off (1000 hours):

10/10 stratocumulus base 800-1200 feet, tops 3500 feet with patchy thin altostratus between 10-12,000 feet and 18-18,300 feet and 3-5/10 cirrus estimated 20-25,000 feet. The Visibility was restricted in haze to 3-4 miles.

Route Out:

Base conditions persisted until over the Channel where the stratocumulus broke to 8-10/10 tops estimated 5-6000 feet and decreased further to 6-9/10 cumulus and stratocumulus over France.

Target Crossbow (1345):

6-9/10 cumulus and stratocumulus tops 5-6000 feet with swelling cumulus tops to 10,000 feet north of the target. 4-6/10 cirrus above 23,000 feet and visibility of 10-15 miles.

Return Route:

Similar to the route out except the cumulus became 6-8/10 over England tops 6-8000 feet with occasional tops to 10,000 feet. The bases on return at 1445 hours had 6-8/10 cumulus and stratocumulus base 2500 feet, tops 4500 feet with 4/10 cirrus above 23,000 feet. Haze restricted the visibility to 4 miles.

Remarks:

Winds were reported more northwesterly than forecast and light non-persistent contrails were reported over England at 22,000 feet.

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
APO 634

BOMBING DATA

2 July 1944

DIRECT. GROUP	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	AFCE	MANUAL	NUMBER OF BOMBS	RANGE & DEFLECT.	DROPPED ON LEADER
<u>1ST BOMB DIVISION</u>						40th Combat Wing		
FRESSIN								
306A	85	4 Min	25615	1332½	X	214x250 HE	GH	11
306B	85	4 Min	25615	1332½	X	214x250 HE	GH	11
Fleury								
305C	80	7 Min	25500	1329	X	196x250 HE	GH	10
305D	77	7 Min	24100	1330½	X	232x250 HE	O	13
BLANGERMONT								
92E	95	6 Min	25150	1325	X	143x500 HE	GH	11
92F	95	6 Min	25150	1328	X	152x250 HE	GH	8
* Not equipped with GH - dropped on 305 C Group								
<u>2ND BOMB DIVISION</u>						2,20, &96 Combat Wing		
COUBRONNE								
458A	89	18 Min	24000	1247	X	( 478x250 HE	GH	9
458B	86	18 Min	24300	1247	X	(	GH	11
BLANC PIGNON FERME								
467A	83	18 Min	24000	1250	X	( 420x250 HE	GH	12
467B	71	15 Min	24300	1253	X	(	GH	11
FIEFS								
448A	88	14 Min	24000	1253	X	( 424x250 HE	GH	12
448B	95	15 Min	24300	1255	X	(	GH	10
93	166	13 Min	24000	1256	X	200x250 HE	O	10
CREPY								
446A	88	10 Min	24000	1256	X	( 479x250 HE	GH	10
446B	83	8 Min	24000	1259	X	(	GH	10
445	83	18½ Min	24000	1257½	X	156x500 HE	GH	13
RENESCURE								
389	91	15 Min	24000	1235	X	132x500	GH	11
453	85	16 Min	24000	1246	X	96x500 HE	GH	8
SAUTRECOURT								
453	85	16 Min	24000	1246	X	144x500 HE	GH	12

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DEFI ACQUIRED  
2 July 1944

BOMBING DATA (continued)

GROUP	DIRECT. OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	AFCE MANUAL	NUMBER OF BOMBS	RANGE & DROPPED DEFLECT. ON LDR.
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3RD BOMB DIVISION

92nd & 93rd Combat Wing

VIGNACOURT

486A	054	9 Min	22090	1342	X	40x250 HE 5x500 HE	GH 12
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486B	054	13 Min	22090	1347	X	200x250 HE 5x500 HE	GH 10
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BELLOU - SUR - SOMME

487B	073	15 Min	22090	1348	X	242x250 HE	GH 10
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HAUTE - COTE

34A	080	15 Min	22000	1344	X	196x250 HE	GH 10
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MONT LOUIS FERME

34C	073	8 Min	22090	1348	X	216x250 HE	GH 11
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DEFI ACQUIRED



HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE

APD 524  
DECLASSIFIED

BOMBER SUMMARY

2 July, 1944

1ST BOMB DIVISION

	<u>BLANGERMONT</u>	<u>FLEURY</u>	<u>FRESSIN</u>	<u>1ST B.D. TOTAL</u>
Number A/C Dispatched	24	25	24	73
Number Sorties	23	24	24	71
Attack. Pri.	21	24	24	69
Bombs on Target Pri. (HE)	54.7	53.5	53.5	161.7
Number A/C Lost	0	0	0	0
Combat Damage	0	0	1	1
Cat. "A"	0	0	1	1
Cat. "E"	0	0	0	0
Cause of Damage	0	0	1	1
AA	0	0	1	1
Others	0	0	0	0
Casualties	0	0	0	0
E/A Encounters	0	0	0	0

2ND BOMB DIVISION

	<u>RENESECURE</u>	<u>SAUTRECOURT</u>	<u>FIEFS</u>	<u>GREPIEUL</u>
Number A/C Dispatched	34	37	26	12
Number Sorties	32	36	24	12
Attack. Pri.	21	27	24	0
Attack. T.O.	0	0	0	11*
Bombs on Target				
Pri. (HE)	60.8	78.8	56.8	0
T.O. (HE)	0	0	0	26.8
Number A/C Lost	0	0	0	0
Combat Damage - Cat. "E"	1	0	1	0
Cause of Damage	1	0	1	0
Other	1		1	
Casualties - Wounded			2	0
E/A Encounters			0	0

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BOMBER SUMMARY (Continued)

2 July, 1944

2ND BOMB DIVISION

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	<u>COUBRONNE</u>	<u>BLANC PIGNON FERME</u>	<u>CREPY</u>	<u>2ND B.D. TOTAL</u>
Number A/C Dispatched	24	25	24	182
Number Sorties	22	23	22	171
Attack. Pri.	22	23	22	139
Attack. T.O.	0	0	0	11
Bombs on Target				
Pri. (HE)	63.4	56.2	63.5	379.5
T.O. (HE)	0	0	0	26.8
Number A/C Lost	0	0	0	0
Combat Damage - Cat. "E"	0	0	0	2
Cause of Damage - Other	0	0	0	2
Casualties				
Wounded	0	0	0	2
E/A Encounters	0	0	0	0

3RD BOMB DIVISION

	<u>VIGNACOURT</u>	<u>BELLOY- SUR-SOMME</u>	<u>HAUTE-COTE</u>	<u>MONT LOUIS FERME</u>
Number A/C Dispatched	26	25	26	13
Number Sorties	26	24	24	13
Attack. Pri.	24	12	12	13
Bombs on Target				
Pri. (HE)	57.5	31.4	25.8	28.2
Number A/C Lost	0	1	0	0
AA	0	1	0	0
Combat Damage	5	8	0	0
Cat. "A"	5	5	0	0
Cat. "AC"	0	3	0	0
Cause of Damage	5	8	0	0
AA	5	8	0	0
Casualties				
Wounded	0	2	0	0
M.I.A.	0	9	0	0
E/A Encounters	0	0	0	0

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BOMBER SUMMARY (Continued)

2 July, 1944

	<u>3RD BOMB DIVISION</u> <u>TOTAL</u>	<u>OPERATION</u> <u>TOTAL</u>
Number A/C Dispatched	90	345
Number Sorties	87	329
Attack. Pri.	61	269
Attack. Sec.	0	11
Bombs on Target		
Pri. (HE)	142.9	684.1
T.O. (HE)	0	26.8
Number A/C Lost	1	1
AA	1	1
Combat Damage	13	16
Cat. "A"	10	11
Cat. "AC"	3	3
Cat. "E"	0	2
Cause of Damage	13	16
AA	13	14
Other	0	2
Casualties		
Wounded	2	4
M.I.A.	9	9

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
APO 634

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FIGHTER SUMMARY

2 July, 1944

GROUP	TYPE	TYPE SUPPORT	A/C A/B	SOR- TIES	A/C LOST	CASUALTIES K. or MIA	BATTLE DAM.		CLAIMS			
							WIND. CAT.	"E" OTH.	DES.	PROB.	DAM.	
339*	P-51	Patrol Tgt. Area	48	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
359*	P-51	Patrol Tgt. Area	40	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
355#	P-51	Sweep St. Quentin Area	37	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
361#	P-51	Sweep Beauvais Area	43	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OPERATION TOTAL			168	165	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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