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WAR DIARY OF
LUFTFLOTTE 3 (WESTERN FRONT).
SEPTEMBER, 1944

TRANSLATED BY
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Daily report - 1 September 1944

German Operations

Night: No operations

Day: Formations of II Jagdkorps attacked M/T and tank concentrations at the river and bivouac camp north-east of Commercy.

Fliegerkorps IX:

No operations owing to weather and fuel conditions.

Operational strength (by day only)

II Jagdkorps: 121 aircraft

Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: 2 aircraft
Total 123 aircraft

Successes against the enemy

II Jagdkorps: 1 tank destroyed, several vehicles set on fire. 3 - 4 flak positions (2 cm.) silenced. Rocket hits were scored on tank concentrations. 121 aircraft were in action of which 1 (?) was lost.

Enemy operations

Night operations:

Single and small groups of aircraft were in action over the Belgium - northern France area, presumably carrying supplies for Resistance organisations.

Several single aircraft and a Mosquito formation were in action over the Reich. Bombs were dropped in the Cologne and Düsseldorf areas.

Day operations:

In the morning 150 British heavy bombers attacked the Ile de Cécembre (off St. Malo).

About 1,000 American heavy bombers were in action over northern France. Formations dropped bombs in the Charleville - Rocroy area.

Towards evening 150 American heavy bombers flew over the Scheldt estuary - Belgium area. No bombing reported.

During the day fighter and fighter-bomber activity was moderate in the area north of the Seine to Compiègne and Laon. Fighter-bomber activity was strong in the area of northern France and Westmark. Attacks were made on transport in the Metz, Pont à Mousson and Diedenhofen areas. Bombs were dropped on Trier-Euren and on Trier railway station.

Orders:

The following OKL Operations Staff orders are brought to the attention of II Jagdkorps and of both Luftgau Field H.Q.s:

1. All night fighting in the West is under Luftflotte Reich command. The Luftflotte 3 request for the use of night fighters in its sphere of operations will be complied with.

2. 4th Jagddivision and the Metz aircraft plotting service come under Luftflotte Reich command, while the front aircraft plotting service remains under Luftflotte 3 command.

/3.

3. II Jagdkorps and 5th Jagddivision will remain under Luftflotte 3 command for day fighter operations in co-operation with Army H.Q. authorities.

4. Subordination of formation H.Q.s for the control of night fighter units, using the Luftflotte Reich aircraft plotting service, will be undertaken independently by both Luftflotten or in cooperation if occasion arises.

OKL Operations Staff order to Long-range Recce Gruppe 123 and II Jagdkorps:

Owing to the speed of developments in the West involving delay in receiving reports, Luftflotte 3 will carry out extensive reconnaissance operations to help clarify the situation.

These reconnaissance operations must be carried out over concentration areas, the gap between Army Group B and Army Group G, and also over the main enemy wedges. In addition the situation of German forces must also be frequently reconnoitred, especially in the case of units which have been cut off.

It is stressed that all reports must be sent to the Army H.Q. authorities responsible and to OKL Operations Staff as quickly as possible.

Transfers, reorganisation, arrivals and departures

1. Columns detailed for transfer of Luftflotte 3 H.Q. from Arlon to Mayen.

2. Communication to Fliegerkorps IX that Staffeln 1 and 3 (Ju 87) of Night Ground Attack Gruppe 2 will be sent to Voerden by Luftflotte 6 via Luftflotte Reich. Luftflotte 3 requests Luftflotte Reich to send all transport required for transfer of Night Ground Attack Gruppe 2 to Melsbroek.

3. Order regarding disbandment of H.Q. of the 5th Jagddivision, H.Q. of Jagdfuehrer 4 and of Jagdfuehrer Stüd.

Transfer of Staff of Luftflotte 3 H.Q.

Staffel A of Luftflotte 3 H.Q. and a rear party moved off from Arlon in 6 columns towards Mayen in the evening. The operations staff will be accommodated in the grammar school. The unit will join Staffel B and C.

Daily report - 2 September 1944

German operations

During the night formations of Fliegerkorps IX carried out attacks on Verdun (73 aircraft), St. Meneshould (10 aircraft) and on shipping off the Orne estuary (15 aircraft).

During the day formations of II Jagdkorps (91 aircraft) supported ground forces and carried out armed reconnaissance operations.

Operational strength

| | <u>Night</u> | <u>Day</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Fliegerkorps IX: | 98 | - |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 94 |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | - | 2 |
| | <hr/> 98 | <hr/> 96 aircraft |

Total: 194 aircraft

/Successes

Successes against the enemy

Targets at sea Explosions, at times with sheets of flame, observed amongst shipping concentrations off the Orne estuary.

Targets on land Verdun: Most of the bombs fell in town area. Heavy explosions and large mushroom of smoke observed directly west of target. Explosions in St. Meneshould.

Losses

Fliegerkorps IX: 5 aircraft
II Jagdkorps: 20(?) aircraft

Enemy operations

Only slight enemy activity during the day and night.

Night operations:

Some 20 long range night fighters and intruders were in action over Belgium, and a further 10 aircraft over north-western Germany.

Day operations:

Owing to weather conditions only slight enemy air operations were carried out, including reconnaissance in the Metz - Diedenhofen - Ludwigshafen - Zabern areas.

A heavy bomber formation was in operation in the early afternoon, but its strength and target could not be identified (presumably an attack on Brest).

Defence

Vessels off the Orne estuary put up moderately well aimed light and heavy flak during the German attack.

Orders

II Jagdkorps and both Luftgau Field H.Q.s are informed of operational airfields which, according to a Luftflotte Reich telephone message, are available for fighter units of II Jagdkorps. These airfields will be made serviceable by the Luftgau concerned. Surveying and construction of secondary runways have been commenced.

Report to Luftgau Western France Field H.Q. and III Flakkorps that OKL has ordered the transfer of the 9th Flakdivision (18 heavy, 18 medium and light batteries) to the Metz - Diedenhofen area to be carried out as quickly as possible to protect the German western positions against land and air attacks. The unit will be under Luftflotte Reich command and will cooperate with the deputy G.O.C. and C. in C. of Wehrkreis XII.

1st Luftwaffe Training Division will be placed at the disposal of OKW immediately.

Daily report - 3 September 1944

German operations

During the night 23 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX made a nuisance raid on Verdun.

/Only

Only 2 aircraft out of 6 sent to attack Commercy reached the target. The other 4 dropped their bombs on targets in the Bar-le-Duc - Verdun area. 2 vehicles were destroyed.

During the day 47 aircraft of II Jagdkorps operating in groups supported Army units in the Mons - Charleroi - Longwy - Metz - Verdun area. The effect of low-level attacks on ground targets was not observed. No enemy aircraft were encountered.

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Fliegerkorps IX: | 30 | - |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 47 |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | - | 4 |
| | <hr/> 30 | <hr/> 51 |

Total - 87 aircraft

Enemy operations

In the morning a strong formation of American heavy bombers and, according to the BBC, 150 American twin-engined bombers attacked Brest.

350 Fortresses attacked Mannheim-Ludwigshafen, concentrating on Rhine bridges and railway installations. No bridges were hit, but heavy damage was caused to railway installations.

In the afternoon a fighter formation of 20 - 30 aircraft attacked transport in the Zabern and Hagenau areas.

A very strong force of British heavy bombers (about 600 aircraft) flew over southern and central Holland, attacking airfields at Gilze-Rijen, Venlo, Volkel, Eindhoven, Soesterberg (airfields unusable), Deelen (damage not yet reported), and the dummy airfield at Dun. According to the BBC, Brest was attacked again in the evening by American twin-engined aircraft and fighter-bombers.

Orders

III Flakkorps will be transferred to between Morbach and Kastellaun for a refresher course. Units will hold the area around the city of Luxembourg until the 1st Panzer Brigade arrives.

After the above order has been carried Flak Regiment 15, Flak Battery 599, Light Flak Battery 919 and the Schäfer battle group will come under direct command of the 1st Flak Brigade.

13th Flakdivision with the exception of Signals Unit 133 and signals platoons, is placed under direct Luftflotte Reich command and will be despatched to Detmold (airfield).

OKL Quartermaster General order regarding renaming of Luftgau Western France Field H.Q. as Luftgau XXIX Field H.Q. Subordination to Luftflotte 3 unchanged. The following are also included in Luftgau XXIX Field H.Q.: H.Q. Airfield Regional Command Metz, and parts of H.Q. Airfield Regional Command Stuttgart situated on the left bank of the Rhine. The new boundary between Luftflotte 3 and Luftflotte Reich is as follows:

Basle - along the Rhine to Mannheim

Report to OKL Operations Staff that Luftflotte 3 has ordered the following battle headquarters to be set up:

/H.Q. Luftflotte 3:

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| H.Q. Luftflotte 3: | Usingen or Wiesbaden area |
| Fliegerkorps IX: | Osnabrück and Stuttgart areas |
| II Jagdkorps: | Siegen - Weyerbusch area |
| 5th Jagddivision | Karlsruhe - Pforzheim area |
| Luftgau Belgium - Northern France H.Q.: | Lippstadt - Wiedenbrück area |
| Luftgau XXIX H.Q.: | Stuttgart - Ulm area |

Transfer, arrivals and departures, reorganisation etc.

The following will be transferred:

- 1(F)/123 from Niedermendig to Linburg
- 4(F)/123 from Trier-Euren to Niedermendig
- 5(F)/123 from Trier-Euren to Hagenau and Reconnaissance Staffel
- Kaatsch from Dijon to Luzeuil

Daily report - 4 September 1944

German operations

41 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX attacked Toul during the night. Bombs were dropped in the town and surrounding areas. Explosions and a few fires were observed. In view of the small number of aircraft operational the effect can be described as good.

During the day 22 aircraft of II Jagdkorps carried out 2 reconnaissance sorties in the Brussels - Charleville - Longwy - Metz - Verdun area.

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Fliegerkorps IX: | 42 | - |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 22 |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | - | 2 |
| | <hr/> 42 | <hr/> 24 |

Total - 66 aircraft

Losses

Fliegerkorps IX: 1 Ju 88S

Enemy operations

During the night 3/4 September only 3 enemy aircraft were operational in the Belfort area, the Ansbach - Ulm - Sigmaringen area, and the Munich - Landhut - Wels area.

From midday onwards about 200 fighters, operating singly and in groups, were in action over the Nuenchen - Gladbach - Aachen - Liege and Trier - Idar/Oberstein - Homburg/Saar areas. 2 Mosquitoes dropped bombs in the Emden - Meppen area.

Orders

Order to Luftgau Belgium - Northern France H.Q., II Jagdkorps and Fliegerkorps IX to evacuate the area up to the line Aachen - along the German frontier to Nimegeun - along the course of the Vaal.

Vechta, Ahlhorn and Varrelbusch airfields will be placed at the disposal of III/K.G.3.

/Orders

Orders regarding the protection of aircraft against air attack will be issued in view of the expected increase in air operations against airfields in the Reich, and low-level attacks on parked aircraft.

Transfers, arrivals and departures, reorganisation etc.

Order to Fliegerkorps IX to transfer Sonderverband Einhorn to Munich-Riem.

Daily report - 5 September 1944

German operations.

No operations during the night. During the day 152 aircraft of II Jagdkorps carried out operations against enemy fighter-bombers and low-level attacks on ground targets. 1 Thunderbolt was shot down and a Boeing damaged during these operations.

Operational strength (day only)

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| II Jagdkorps: | 152 aircraft |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | 1 aircraft |
| <u>Total -</u> | <u>153 aircraft</u> |

Losses

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| II Jagdkorps: | 2 Me 109 |
| | 1 Fw 190 |

Aircraft lost on the ground:

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 23 Fw 190 | } | Destroyed in attack on Gelnhausen airfield |
| 1 Fi 156 | | |
| 1 Me 108 | | |
| 2 Me 109 | | Destroyed in attack on Merzhausen airfield |

Enemy operations

During the night 4/5 September 20 - 30 Mosquitoes attacked Karlsruhe and Mannheim.

In the morning 1,000 - 1,200 Fortresses and Liberators escorted by 400 - 500 fighters were in operation over south-western Germany. 300 - 400 aircraft attacked transport targets and war industries in Stuttgart, 200 - 300 aircraft attacked Karlsruhe, and some 350 aircraft attacked Mannheim-Ludwigshafen. Low-level attacks were carried out on airfields at Böblingen, Göppingen, Lachen-Speyerdorf, Merzhausen, Gelnhausen, Langendiebach and Mannheim-Sandhofen.

In the afternoon 5 heavy bomber formations flew over Holland. Objectives not known yet.

Strong formations of fighter-bombers attacked roads and transport in Holland during the afternoon.

At 1300 hours 60 aircraft flew into the Stadtlohn - Münster - Wiedenbrück area.

At 1700 hours 100 Lightnings made a fighter sweep over western and central Germany, as far as the Fulda - Meiningen area.

/Orders

Orders

1. A proposal is put to OKL Operations Staff that valuable personnel freed for other duties by the intended withdrawal of Fliegerkorps IX units be formed into a tank-buster division under the command of the present GOC Fliegerkorps IX, for use in the West.
2. In view of the critical shortage of fuel, and because of ground organisation difficulties an operational directive is issued to II Jagdkorps instructing that economy and consideration be exercised in the use of fighter units.
3. Luftgau Belgium - Northern France Field H.Q. is instructed to disperse eastwards all Luftwaffe units and installations in northern Holland situated north of the Waal. Preparations will be made for the destruction of airfields and other Luftwaffe installations, but these will not be put into effect until a special Luftflotte 3 order is received.
4. Owing to ground organisation difficulties and consequent difficulties in accommodating flying units, Fliegerkorps IX, II Jagdkorps and Long-range Recce Gruppe 123 are instructed not to transfer flying units before consulting Luftflotte 3 H.Q. Only diversion of units to alternative airfields is still left to the discretion of unit commanders.
5. OKL Operations Staff is urgently requested to countermand the order regarding the 4,000 m. attacking height for the Me 262, as it usually excludes operations by this aircraft in present weather conditions.
6. Report to Luftgau VI H.Q. that Wiedenbrück is considered exclusively as battle headquarters for Reporting Centre 1, and that Luftflotte 3 has agreed to the suggestion that Fliegerkorps IX be diverted to Brunswick.
7. Luftgau Belgium - Northern France Field H.Q., Luftgau XXIX Field H.Q. (formerly Western France) and the 1st Flak Brigade are ordered to put A.A. artillery into the German western position to provide defence against air attack for troops fighting there, and also to cover defiles, bridges, etc. on supply routes. Sectors will be occupied as follows:

Luftgau Belgium - Northern France Field H.Q. between Antwerp and Maastricht.
III Flakkorps in Maastricht area to Coblenz.
Luftflotte Reich (General Bogatsch) from Coblenz area to the Swiss border.
8. Luftgau XXIX Field H.Q. is ordered to send all members of flak units dispersed throughout its sector and a Flak Brigade Staff to General Bogatsch (in charge of flak in the German western position south of the line Coblenz - Wittlich - Esch) at battle headquarters Wiesbaden (Luftflotte Reich). In addition Luftgau VII H.Q. will send 13 heavy flak batteries and one light flak battery.
9. As holding the Antwerp bridgehead and the Albert Canal - Maastricht position is of decisive importance for the further conduct of operations, 1st Paratroop Army H.Q. is ordered to defend the Albert Canal position between Antwerp and Maastricht, being at the same time under the command of Army Group B. Artillery command is transferred to the G.O.C. and C. in C. Belgium - Northern France in cooperation with 1st Paratroop Army H.Q.
10. Field Marshal von Rundstedt is re-appointed C. in C. West and the former C. in C. West, Field Marshal Model, is appointed C. in C. of Army Group B.
11. Issue of OKL Quartermaster General order regarding the employment of Luftwaffe auxiliaries in the battle area and their withdrawal from threatened

/areas

areas according to the situation.

12. OKL Quartermaster General order regarding release of East Prussians from H.Q. staffs, and of supply troops and units in the rear who volunteer to defend their homeland with Army or Waffen-SS units is passed on to subordinate H.Q. authorities.

13. O.C. K.G. 100 reports on the transfer of III/K.G.100 from Toulouse to Giebelstadt.

Transfer, arrivals and departures, reorganisation etc.

Fliegerkorps IX is ordered to transfer K.G.6 to airfields at Röhrensee, Puntshrau and Rockau.

Daily report - 6 September 1944

German operations

During the night 2 transport aircraft carried ammunition and medical supplies to Brest.

110 aircraft of II Jagdkorps were in action during the day, making rocket and low-level attacks on the Conflance - Jarny - west Metz assembly area. Owing to low-lying clouds and bad visibility in the target area a large part of the force broke off or did not reach the target area.

Losses

Fliegerkorps IX: 1 Ju 52 destroyed on the ground

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----|
| Transport Fliegerführer 1: | 3 | |
| II Jagdkorps: | | 110 |
| <u>Total - 113 aircraft</u> | | |

Enemy operations

During the night a number of single aircraft were operational in the Saarbrücken - Strassburg - Zabern area. A formation of about 40 Mosquitoes dropped bombs in the Hanover area.

A small bomber formation was observed in the Luxemburg - Longwy area; no bombs reported.

Several aircraft carried out nuisance operations in the Ahrweiler - Waldbroel - Limburg - Coblenz area, 4 of them penetrating to the Brandenburg district.

In the morning 30 fighter-bombers were operational in the Trier - Wittlich - Gerolstein - Euskirchen area, dropping bombs on Gerolstein railway station, Luxemburg goods station, and in the Hermeskeil area.

Small fighter formations penetrated into the Bocholt - Stadtlohn, Geldern - Wesel - Munchen Gladbach, and Luxemburg - Idar Oberstein - Pirmasens areas.

According to a BBC report 300 Marauders and Havocs attacked Brest.

At midday 100 - 120 aircraft, mainly fighter-bombers, were operational in the Aachen - Euskirchen - Coblenz - Wiesbaden - Mannheim - Idar Oberstein - Trier - St. Vieth area.

250 - 300 aircraft were operational over the Wesel - Dortmund - St. Vieth area. Bombs were dropped in the Eupen, Cologne and Geilenkirchen areas.

In the afternoon a number of fighters were operational in the Saarlautern - Metz area. According to unconfirmed reports, bombs were dropped in the Saarlautern area.

Orders

OKL Wehramt order regarding west German frontier reception camp issued to Luftflotte 3 main assembly camp at Ahrbrück.

As the application for Office 600 at Giessen as Luftflotte 3 battle headquarters was rejected, OKL Operations Staff is requested to make the Wiesbaden-Aukam battle headquarters available, and to effect immediate vacation by the Bogatsch Staff. For operational and air defence purposes Luftflotte 3 prefers to be accommodated in bunkers and barracks rather than in hotels or castles.

Arrivals and departures, transfers, reorganisation

1. III/K.G.54 will transfer to Neuburg/Danube for re-equipping with Me 262
2. K.G.51 will transfer to Schwäbisch-Hall for re-equipping with Me 262
3. 6 (F)/123 will transfer to Kötten
4. In accordance with OKL Operations Staff instructions, II Jagdkorps is ordered to transfer to their Geschwader H.Q.s ground units of fighter formations on refresher courses in Germany.
5. Stab and III and IV Gruppen of Tactical Bombing Geschwader 2 are disbanded with immediate effect.

Daily report - 7 September 1944

German operations

During the night 2 aircraft carried supplies to Brest and another to Lorient. 1 aircraft broke off owing to technical difficulties.

II Jagdkorps: day operations:

Although 337 aircraft were serviceable, only 2 reconnaissance sorties were carried out by 4 aircraft during the day owing to continued bad weather. 1 Me 109 was shot down, the pilot probably jumped clear.

Sonderkommande Kaatsch:

6 aircraft carried out armed reconnaissance operations during the course of the day.

Enemy operations

During the night some 30 enemy aircraft were operational over Holland. Several aircraft carried out nuisance raids and reconnaissance operations in the Rhine - Westphalia industrial area and over central Germany. 2 aircraft were operational over the Saarburg - Heidelberg - Kitzingen and Erlangen areas.

From 0930 hours onwards single aircraft (about 25 - 30 in all) carried out operations over the Antwerp - Diest - Eindhoven - Breda area.

/Orders

Orders

1. Order issued regarding further limitation of operations owing to the acute fuel situation.
2. Stab L.G.1 is placed under Luftflotte 3 command with immediate effect and will operate the following units as "Gefechtsverband Helbig":
 - (a) III/K.G.51
 - (b) Night Ground Attack Gruppe 2
 - (c) Einsatzkommando I/K.G. 51 (until arrival of an Me 262 Gruppe)
 - (d) Remaining units of Einsatzgruppe 101 (pick-a-back aircraft Staffel)
3. Fliegerkorps IX will be transferred to airfields in the Reich together with the following subordinate units:
 - Stab, I and II/K.G.2
 - Stab, I, II and III/K.G.6
 - Stab, I and II/K.G.30
 - I, 4 and 5/K.G.66
 - I and III/L.G.1
4. Flak sections of 1, 2, and 3 companies of Air Defence Unit 31 (motorised) will be used temporarily to defend Luftflotte 3 H.Q., but will return to their unit in the event of a large-scale operation.
5. C. in C. West order for concentrated attack against the extended eastern flank and rear of American units.

Arrivals and departures, reorganisation, transfers etc.

1. III/K.G.3 has been allocated Hesepe airfield instead of Vechta. Transfer will take place immediately.
2. The H.Q. and 2nd Company of Air Defence Unit 31 (motorised) will be situated in Bassenheim, 3rd company in Rillbenach, and 1st company in Metterich.
3. 1 (F)/121 will transfer from Niedermendig to Langendiebach.

Daily report - 8 September 1944

German operations

During the night 4 aircraft carried supplies to Brest, 4 to La Rochelle, and another to St. Nazaire.

Although 323 aircraft of II Jagdkorps were serviceable, only 56 could be sent on operations during the day owing to the fuel shortage. Attacks were made on vehicle and tank concentrations and flak positions in the Huy area. 1 enemy aircraft was destroyed in the course of these operations.

Enemy operations

During the night 25 - 30 single aircraft were operational over the Vlieland - Groningen - Meppeln - Arnhem - Venlo - Breda - Schouwen island area. According to an unconfirmed report, bombs were dropped in the Stenwijk area.

60 - 70 Mosquitoes bombed Karlsruhe.

In the morning several hundred Lancasters attacked Le Havre fortress. 1,000 - 1,200 aircraft with fighter escort attacked transport and industrial targets in the Upper Rhine area. 400 aircraft attacked Mannheim, several bombs falling near Rhine bridges (bridges not damaged). The IG-Farben plant in Oppau was hit.

250 - 350 aircraft were operational in the Mainz - Wiesbaden area. Railway bridges over the Main were hit by bombs. Buildings and tracks in the Mainz-Kastell railway station were damaged. The Rhine bridge was not hit; tracks in Wiesbaden-Ost were heavily damaged.

About 100 aircraft bombed Neuwied. The Rhine bridge was not hit. Most of the bombs fell outside the station. Tracks were destroyed.

250 aircraft attacked Karlsruhe, causing very heavy damage in the main railway station and shunting yards. Durlach goods station was also damaged. Bombs were dropped on the Wiesbaden-Erbenheim airfield.

Fighters and fighter-bombers were very active throughout the day. In the morning low-level attacks were made in the Arnhem, Hertogenbosch, Helmond and Hasselt areas.

In the afternoon several fighter-bomber formations (about 250 aircraft in all) were operational. Low-level attacks have been reported in the Euskirchen area, at Bonn, in the Mayen area, at Bingen, on railway stations at Türkismühl and Wadern, and in the Schweinfurt area.

Orders

OKL Chief of General Staff order regarding new command organisation, necessitated by the withdrawal of Luftflotten into the Reich, is issued within Luftflotte 3 H.Q.

Luftflotte Reich retains command authority for the whole area of the Reich. Luftflotten brought back into the Reich will send demands regarding supply and extension of ground organisation to Luftflotte Reich. Air defence throughout the Reich will be controlled by Luftflotte Reich. All flak units west of the Rhine will be controlled and supplied by Luftflotte 3. All other flak units on or east of the Rhine remain under Luftflotte Reich command. Luftgau XXIX Field H.Q. and Luftgau Belgium - Northern France Field H.Q. will be renamed Luftgau V H.Q. and Luftgau XIV H.Q. respectively, and will come under Luftflotte Reich command.

Luftgau V will cover the Stuttgart Airfield Regional Command district and the area of the former Luftgau XXIX Field H.Q. west of the German border to the front.

Luftgau XIV will cover the Wiesbaden and Metz Airfield Regional Command districts. Thus the Stuttgart, Metz and Wiesbaden Airfield Regional Command areas will be finally separated from the Luftgau VII H.Q. district. Remaining areas of the former Luftgau Belgium - Northern France Field H.Q. will be taken over by Luftgau XI H.Q.

Request to OKL Operations Staff to replace pick-a-back aircraft production by fighter production.

/Daily

Daily report - 9 September 1944

German operations

During the night Brest, St. Nazaire, Lorient, La Rochelle and Royan were each supplied by one transport aircraft.

II Jagdkorps:

In the evening two formations totalling 64 aircraft took off on ground support operations in the Huy - Liege area. The first formation was attacked by Thunderbolts and did not reach the target area. The second formation carried out low-level attacks on transport concentrations south of Liege, setting fire to several vehicles. Further effects could not be observed owing to dog-fights with numerically superior Thunderbolt formations. 4 enemy aircraft were shot down. 1 Fw 190 turned over on landing and was destroyed; the pilot was killed.

Einsatzkommando Schenk:

4 aircraft dropped bombs on Diest. Results of the attack were not observed.

Enemy operations

During the night 70 - 80 Mosquitoes bombed Nürnberg. 4 aircraft were operational in the Freiburg - Crailsheim - Heilbronn - Mannheim - Luxemburg area and several others in the Rheine - Osnabrück - Bielsfeld - Münster - Wesel area.

In the morning 1,200 heavy bombers with strong fighter escort attacked transport installations, industrial targets and airfields in western and southern Germany. So far the following details have been reported:

350 aircraft dropped bombs on the Mannheim-Ludwigshafen city centre. Hits were obtained on the I.G.-Farben plant.

300 aircraft released a bomb carpet on the Worms city centre.

300 aircraft attacked the city area of Mainz.

In addition, small bomb loads were dropped on Bad Dürkheim and Rüsselheim and airfields at Wiesbaden-Erbenheim and Bonn-Hangelar.

Bomber formations were escorted by several hundred fighters. In addition, some 400 - 500 fighters and fighter-bombers were operational over northern Belgium and Holland, the Rhine - Main area and south-west Germany during the day. Aircraft bombed and shot up targets in the Coblenz, Limburg, Mulhausen and Altkirch areas, as well as airfields at Giessen, Erbenheim, Trier, Diedenhofen and Freiburg.

Orders

1. Request to OKL Operations Staff for re-equipment of 1 (F)/121 (Me 410) with Me 109 G6/R2.
2. Report to Luftwaffe reception camps that Luftflotte 3 is authorised to take personnel required to complete operational units.

Daily report - 10 September 1944

German operations

During the night 18 Fw 190 made a nuisance raid on the western quarter of Liege.

2 aircraft flew supplies to Brest.

In the morning 15 aircraft of Einsatzkommando Schenk attacked the western quarter of Liege and the road to Huy. 1 aircraft is missing.

14 He 111 were destroyed on the ground during an attack on Zellhausen airfield.

Enemy operations

During the night 50 Mosquitoes dropped bombs in the Brunswick area. 40 Mosquitoes and 150 - 200 unidentified aircraft bombed Düsseldorf and München-Gladbach.

In the morning 1,200 Liberators and Fortresses with fighter escort were operational over southern Germany. The following attacks were reported:

Heilbronn: Heavy damage to buildings; Knorr food factory hit
Stuttgart: Industrial plant in Feuerbach and railway installations in Kornwestheim damaged
Ulm: Heavy damage to buildings, including Army Ordnance Department
Nürnberg: Heavy damage to buildings in the southern part of the city and considerable damage to industrial plant in places

Bombs were also dropped on railway installations south of Mainz, at Strassburg, Enzheim, in the Baden-Baden area, at Schwäbisch-Hall, and in the Nürnberg - Furth area.

Low-level attacks were made on Roermoos railway station and on airfields at Freiburg, Gross-Sachsenhausen, Neu-Ulm, Neubiberg, München-Riem, Manching, Illesheim, Brunnthal, Kitzingen, Dornberg and Zellhausen, causing considerable damage in places. Low-level attacks were also made in the Augsburg and Kitzingen areas.

According to the BBC 1,000 Lancasters and Halifaxes dropped 5,000 tons of bombs on Le Havre fortress.

Fighter-bombers were very active throughout the day.

In the morning several formations were operational over western Germany. According to unconfirmed reports bombs were dropped north-east of Erkelenz.

From midday onwards several formations, totalling about 100 aircraft, were operational in the München-Gladbach - Siegen - Frankfurt - Heilbronn - Karlsruhe - Longwy area.

In the afternoon single and small groups of aircraft were operational in the area between Cologne and Kaiserslautern, some penetrating to the Wetzlar - Frankfurt area.

In the evening 30 fighter-bombers were observed in the Trier - Idar/Oberstein - Kaiserslautern area. According to unconfirmed reports bombs were dropped north of Kaiserslautern and south-east of Trier.

Orders

1. In view of the situation and changes in command organisation, C. in C. West is requested to take over control of demands for Army air support (reconnaissance, bomber and fighter formations), in accordance with the Luftflotte 3 proposal.

/2.

2. OKL Operations Staff and OKL Quartermaster General are requested to despatch an experienced radio specialist acquainted with the Me 262, as radio installations on practically every aircraft broke down during Einsatzkommando I/K.G.51 operations on 8 and 9 September. On both days an aircraft was lost, radio communication breaking down just as it was approaching the target area. A radio specialist from a night fighter Geschwader based in Rheine was unable to establish the causes of the breakdown.
3. Order to 5th Jagddivision to find alternative airstrips for 7 fighter Gruppen near airfields in the Strassburg - Freiburg area.
4. Report to Chief of Luftwaffe General Staff on fuel requirements for air support of the panzer advance ordered by the Fuehrer.

Arrivals and departures, transfers etc.

Air Defence Unit 15 (motorised) has transferred to the Frankfurt/Main area in accordance with OKL orders.

Daily report - 11 September 1944

German operations

During the night 1 aircraft flew supplies to Brest.

During the day 240 aircraft of II Jagdkorps carried out fighter-bomber sweeps and operations against artillery spotter aircraft in the Beeringen, Aachen, Maastricht and Liege areas, as well as providing cover for German jumping-off points.

3 Thunderbolts were shot down and another probably destroyed. 1 Fw 190 crashed as a result of damage to its engine; the pilot was unhurt.

10 aircraft of Einsatzkommando Schenk attacked Liege and canal crossings at Beeringen.

Enemy operations

During the night 30 - 40 long-range night fighters were operational over the Holland-northern Belgium area and the western zone. Several long-range night fighters were operational over southern and south-western Germany.

In the morning 1,000 - 1,200 American heavy bombers with strong fighter escort (800 aircraft according to the BBC) were operational over central Germany and the Sudetenland, attacking fuel production plants, ammunition and war production industries and transport targets. So far the following attacks have been reported:

Misburg hydrogenation plants near Hannover and Brdx; industrial plants in the Magdeburg area; aero-engine works in Eisenach; the town of Stendal, Leipzig and Chemnitz.

At about the same time several hundred Halifaxes attacked the Le Havre fortress.

According to the BBC 9 waves of Marauders and Havocs took part in the fighting on the Moselle sector.

In the afternoon 300 Lancasters attacked fuel production plants in the Duisburg - Dortmund area.

/Fighters

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

In the morning aircraft carried out continuous sweeps over Holland, concentrating on river crossing points, and over western and south-western Germany. According to unconfirmed reports, bombs were dropped in the areas of Bonn, Euskirchen, and west and south of Mayen (about 100 aircraft altogether).

In the afternoon 250 - 350 fighters and fighter-bombers were operational, concentrating on the frontier area and western and southern Germany. According to unconfirmed reports bombs were dropped west of Freiburg and east of Eupen.

Orders

1. Report to C. in C. West, Chief of General Staff, that in view of OKL decision the plan to employ Fliegorkorps IX personnel (formation of a tank-buster unit) is not practicable. Some of personnel will be sent into aircraft production, and the rest - unsuitable for this purpose - will be formed into construction units for ground organisation duties.
2. Report to Einsatzkommando I/K.G.51 through Luftflotte Reich that Schleswig, Wittmundhaven, and Achmer airfields are ready for immediate use by Me 262 aircraft.
3. 4th Jagddivision is ordered to investigate the technical and tactical serviceability of airfields allocated by Luftgau VII, as Luftflotte 3 considers some of them unsuitable.

Transfers etc.

1. Order to 5 (F)/123 to transfer immediately from Hagenau to Buer-Gelsenkirchen.
2. Order to K.G.200, Sonderkommando Einhorn, to transfer immediately to München-Riem to be at disposal of Luftflotte 2 H.Q.

Daily report - 12 September 1944

German operations

During the night 20 aircraft of III/K.G.51 attacked bridges over the Albert Canal at Beeringen. 9 aircraft of Night Ground Attack Gruppe 2 carried out nuisance attacks on enemy movements in the southern part of Liege and on roads in the Meuse bend south of Liege and west of Verviers. 1 Ju 87 is missing. 2 aircraft flew supplies to St. Nazaire.

During the day 151 aircraft of II Jagdkorps were operational, carrying out fighter-bomber sweeps in the Aachen - Maastricht and Metz areas as well as providing cover for civilians working on West Wall defences. Owing to strong enemy air activity dog-fights developed between German bases and the target area. 12 enemy aircraft were shot down and another 8 probably destroyed for the loss of 17 German aircraft.

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| III/K.G.51: | 20 | - |
| Night Ground Attack Gruppe 2: | 9 | - |
| Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: | 3 | - |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 151 |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | - | 7 |
| | <u>32</u> | <u>158</u> |

Total - 190 aircraft

/Successes

Successes

Against enemy aircraft:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| II Jagdkorps: | 12 aircraft destroyed and 8 probables |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | 1 aircraft destroyed |
| Flak: | 8 aircraft destroyed |

Against ground targets:

| | |
|-------|--|
| Flak: | 7 tanks, 8 armoured reconnaissance cars and 7 vehicles destroyed |
|-------|--|

Losses

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gefechtsverband Helbig: | 1 Ju 87, 1 Fw 190 (lost on ground) |
| II Jagdkorps: | 12 Fw 190, 5 Me 109 |

Enemy operations

During the night two heavy bomber formations of 50 - 80 and 100 - 140 aircraft bombed Darmstadt. Some aircraft continued into the Stuttgart area. Single long-range night fighters were also operational over north-western, western, and south-western Germany. Several low-level attacks were made in the Frankfurt/Main area.

After incursions by 1,200 heavy bombers with strong fighter escort over Heligoland Bight and by 4 - 500 heavy bombers from Italy, some 400 British heavy bombers were operational at midday and during the evening, bombing Bocholt and Recklinghausen and the Dortmund, Essen and Duisburg areas.

During the morning and evening some 400 American twin-engined aircraft were operational over the Malmedy, Mayen, Pirmasens and Diedenhofen areas. A bombing attack was reported in the Echternach area.

During the day some 900 American and 300 British fighters were operational over the battle area, concentrating on the Albert Canal, the Meuse sector and the Belfort area. Aircraft bombed and shot up targets in the following areas: Aachen, Eupen, Euskirchen, Bonn, south-west of Siegen, Ahrweiler, Mayen, St. Vith and Echternach.

Daily report - 13 September 1944

German operations

In the evening 12 aircraft of Gefechtsverband Helbig attacked bridges and the town of Beeringen. A further 26 aircraft made a nuisance attack on enemy supply transport in the Liege - Verviers area.

2 aircraft flew supplies to Brest and another to Royan.

105 aircraft of II Jagdkorps carried out fighter-bomber sweeps, operations against artillery spotter aircraft, and provided cover for civilians working on West Wall defences.

5 aircraft of Einsatzkommando Schenk attacked enemy targets in the Lommel area. A further 2 aircraft attacked enemy concentrations in the area north of Hechtel - Maas/Scheldt Canal.

/Operational

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Gefechtsverband Helbig: | 38 | 7 |
| Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: | 3 | - |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 107 |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | - | 7 |
| Close-range Recce Grupe 13: | - | 2 |
| Einsatzkommando Schenk: | - | 7 |
| | <hr/> 41 | <hr/> 130 |
| | <u>Total - 171 aircraft</u> | |

Losses

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| II Jagdkorps: | 1 Me 109 |
| Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: | 3 He 111 (lost on ground at Zellhausen airfield) |

Enemy operations

800 - 900 British heavy bombers attacked Stuttgart, Ludwigshafen, Calw, Karlsruhe, Darmstadt and Frankfurt/Main.

At the same time 100 - 150 British heavy bombers were operational over the Northern Belgium - holland area. No attack reported as yet.

Some 30 - 40 long-range night fighters were operational over north-western, western and south-western Germany.

In the morning 1,200 American heavy bombers strongly escorted by fighters attacked industrial and fuel production plants and transport installations in southern (700) and central Germany (500). Bombs were dropped on the following places in southern Germany: Stuttgart, Ulm, Heidelberg, Mannheim, Darmstadt, Wiesbaden, and Böblingen and Schwäbisch Hall airfields.

In central Germany Eisenach, Weimar, Gera, Leipzig, Plauen and Louna were bombed.

30 twin-engined aircraft bombed Halle.

In the afternoon 150 - 200 Lancasters were operational over southern Holland. No bombs were dropped. 250 - 300 Halifaxes dropped bombs in the Dortmund and Osnabrück areas.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

During the day some 700 American and 300 British aircraft were operational. Attacks were made on transport targets and movements, and aircraft carried out freelance patrols in the battle area concentrating north of the Albert Canal, and on the Meuse sector and the area left of the Rhine (including Pfalz). Bombing attacks were reported on Mayen, Kreuznach, Ida/Oberstein and Neunkirchen.

Orders

1. Report to C. in C. West that the 15th Army H.Q. request for air supply (500 - 600 tons) of Dunkirk cannot be complied with owing to fuel shortage.
2. C. in C. West is requested to direct requests for air support via Army Groups.

/3.

3. Instructions to I/K.G.51 (Einsatzkommando Schenk) that, by order of O.C. I/K.G.51, attacks will be directed exclusively against troop concentrations in the Beverlo area until further notice.

Transfers etc.

Air Defence Unit 31 (motorised) will transfer immediately to Darmstadt - Griesheim. The unit will come under Luftgau VII H.Q. command.

Daily report - 14 September 1944

German operations

During the night 21 aircraft of Gefechtsverband Helbig attacked bridges at Beeringen.

Only slight reconnaissance operations were carried out during the day.

Enemy operations

Owing to weather conditions enemy night and day operations were slight.

Aircraft operating singly and in groups were operational over the Belgium - Holland area and western Germany.

About 30 - 40 intruders and long-range night fighters, flying singly and in groups, were operational over south-western Germany.

In the afternoon 300 British heavy bombers were operational over Holland. According to unconfirmed reports bombs were dropped on The Hague.

According to the BBC 200 Marauders and Havocs attacked bases at Brest in the afternoon.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

During the day 300 American and 10 British fighters and fighter-bombers were operational over Holland and western Germany. The attacking aircraft concentrated on German river crossings in the Scheldt area, with considerable nuisance effect in places.

Orders

1. The Reichsmarschall's order that German fighters will not operate in less than Staffel strength owing to recent battle experience in the West is passed on to II Jagdkorps and 5 Jagddivision.
2. C. in C. West is requested to supply all fortress areas with anti-tank equipment as supplies cannot be brought in by air after encirclement owing to the strained fuel situation.
3. After expending all serviceable pick-a-back aircraft Einsatzgruppe 101 (Rhine - Main) will be placed under Luftflotte 3 command.
4. 16th Flak Division and subordinate units will be placed under III Flak Korps command with effect from 0000 hours on 15 September. For the time being III Flak Korps battle headquarters is at Bad Wildstein near Traben-Trarbach, and will later move to the Münster-Eifel area.

Transfers etc.

II/J.G.11 will transfer from Gymnich to Breitscheid.

III/J.G.1 will transfer from Gymnich to Lippe.

/Daily

Daily report - 15 September 1944

German operations

During the night 8 aircraft flew supplies to Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne.

48 aircraft of II Jagdkorps carried out patrols in the Aachen - Düren area. Owing to unfavourable weather conditions there was no contact with enemy forces. No German aircraft was lost.

Enemy operations

10 long-range night fighters were operational in the Aachen - Rügen - Brunswick - Frankfurt/Main - Diedenhofen area.

During the morning 200 - 250 fighters and fighter-bombers were operational, 100 in the Malmedy - Coblenz - Cologne - Maastricht area, 10 in the Trier - Darmstadt - Frankfurt/Main area, 110 over the northern Belgium - Holland area, and 30 off the West Frisian islands. A bombing attack was reported in the Cologne area, and aircraft shot up targets in the Euskirchen, Bonn, Ahrweiler, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt/Main areas.

Enemy air activity increased in the afternoon as a result of improved weather conditions.

From 1830 hours some 900 American and 100 British fighters and fighter-bombers attacked transport targets and movements and carried out free-lance patrols in the area on the left bank of the Rhine between Mulhausen and Cologne - Aachen. Small formations were operational in the Frankfurt/Main - Karlsruhe area. During these operations bombs were dropped on Wittlich, Traben-Trarbach, and east of Malmedy.

Orders

OKL Operations Staff is requested to issue pictures and accurate descriptions of the Me 262 to prevent further German flak operations against this aircraft.

Transfers etc.

1. 5th Jagddivision is informed that the application for transfer of I/J.G.4 from Lachen-Speyerdorf and Gemmersheim to Goetzenhain has been approved.
2. IV Flak Korps is informed that the Staff of 12th Flak Brigade has been placed under Luftflotte Reich command. The unit will be brought up to Leune near Merseburg.
3. III Flak Korps with operational units of Flak Assault Regiment 3 will transfer immediately to the Bitburg area.
4. With the exception of aircrews at present with Sonderstaffel Kaatsch, Jagdgruppe 200 will be disbanded.

Daily report - 16 September 1944

German operations

8 transport aircraft flew supplies to Dunkirk, Boulogne and Cap Gris Nez. 2 aircraft broke off owing to damage to tyres and engine trouble.

61 aircraft flew covering operations for civilians working on West Wall defences. Dog-fights with Lightning, Thunderbolt and Spitfire formations

/developed,

developed, during which 3 enemy aircraft were shot down and another probably destroyed for the loss of 2 Fw 190.

3 aircraft of Gefechtsverband Helbig dropped 6 bombs on Lommel.

Enemy operations

Long-range night fighters flying singly and in small groups were operational over northern Belgium and Holland, and northern, north-western and south-western Germany.

40 - 50 Mosquitoes bombed Berlin. According to unconfirmed reports single Mosquitoes dropped bombs in the Rheine area.

In the morning operations were limited by weather conditions. Altogether 100 British and 200 - 300 American fighters and fighter-bombers were operational over the front.

Air activity increased in the afternoon when 200 - 300 British and 700 - 800 American aircraft were operational over Holland and western and south-western Germany. Attacks were reported on Giessen, Düsseldorf and Boppard.

Orders

Flak Assault Regiment 3 (Bitburg area) will be under IV Flak Korps command for operational purposes.

Transfers etc.

1. Long-range Recce Gruppe 23 will transfer the following units immediately:
 - (a) Gruppe H.Q. and H.Q. company from Niedermendig to Limburg
 - (b) 4 (F)/123 from Niedermendig to Limburg.
 - (c) Kommando Götze from Rheine to Münster-Handorf
2. The first battalion of Land Defence Regiment Lisieux (and units of the 2nd battalion if necessary) at present stationed at Wilsberg (Lower Alsace) will be converted into Luftwaffe Fortress Battalion XXIII with immediate effect.
3. Subordinate H.Q. authorities are instructed to ensure that all available weapons are used against low-flying enemy aircraft at the front and in Army rear areas, as well as in western districts of the Reich. In view of the strained air situation it is disgraceful that German soldiers should only take cover during low-level attacks instead of engaging enemy aircraft with every weapon available.

Daily report - 17 September 1944

German operations

During the night La Rochelle was supplied by 3 aircraft and Calais by one aircraft.

In the morning 145 aircraft of II Jagdkorps provided cover for civilians working on West Wall defences in the Aachen - Bitburg area.

In the afternoon 6 formations (about 25 aircraft each) were made ready to attack enemy airborne landings in the Arnhem - Nijmegen area, but only 3 formations carried out operations in the battle area. The remaining aircraft could not take off owing to the approach of bad weather.

9 enemy aircraft were shot down and a further 3 probably destroyed for the loss of 2 German aircraft.

6 aircraft of Gefechtsverband Helbig attacked Maastricht.

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: | 4 | - |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 255 |
| 5th Jagddivision: | - | 30 |
| Gefechtsverband Helbig: | - | 12 |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | - | 4 |
| Close-range Recce Gruppe 13: | - | 2 |
| | <hr/> 4 | <hr/> 303 |
| <u>Total - 307 aircraft</u> | | |

Enemy operations

Some 200 long-range night fighters were operational over north-western Germany and the Brunswick area. Bombs were reported in the Rheine, Coblenz, Brunswick and Luenen area.

In the morning 800 - 1,000 American heavy bombers with strong fighter escort carried out heavy attacks, concentrating on battery positions, in the Arnhem - Nijmegen - Emmerich - Kleve - Eindhoven and Hertogenbosch areas.

600 - 800 British heavy bombers attacked the Boulogne fortress between 0830 and 1300 hours.

In the afternoon several hundred four-engined aircraft and gliders carried out airborne operations in the Arnhem - Nijmegen - Eindhoven and Tilburg areas.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

In the morning some 300 aircraft were operational over north-western and western Germany. So far attacks have been reported on Geilenkirchen, Stolberg, Cologne, Siegen and Trier.

In the afternoon fighters concentrated over the airborne landing area.

Orders

1. C. in C. West's order on the conduct of operations on German territory issued:-

From now on defence will be static. Positions will be held to the last man, and the struggle pursued with the utmost fanaticism. Every pillbox, every block of houses in the cities, every German village will become a fortress which will either bleed the enemy to death or bury its garrison in battle.

2. The Reichsmarchall orders all Luftwaffe units to use every available weapon for anti-aircraft defence.

3. Report to OKL Operations Staff that Rheine airfield runway was badly damaged by bombs at 0300 hours on 17 September and will probably not be ready for use again before 18 September.

4. C. in C. West orders all available Army, Luftflotte 3 and Marine Gruppe West forces stationed east of the West Wall up to the Rhine to be formed into emergency units under the command of officers, to defend the West Wall. Reports

/will

will be submitted on the strength of these units and the sectors they occupy. Luftflotte 3 reports that all its units are still in action and therefore a nil return has been sent in.

Daily report - 18 September 1944

German operations

During the night 2 aircraft flew supplies to Dunkirk and Cap Gris Nez.

3 aircraft of I/K.G.51 and 12 aircraft of III/K.G.51 attacked targets in the Neerpelt area.

Two groups of II Jagdkorps aircraft were operational during the day. The first, consisting of 193 aircraft, set out to attack enemy gliders in the air and ground targets in the Arnhem - Tiel - Nijmegen area. Constant air cover was provided for German movements between 1100 - 1400 hours. Owing to bad weather enemy aircraft were only contacted once. Low-level attacks were made on troops near gliders but effects could not be observed.

In the afternoon the second group of 85 aircraft, operating in 4 formations, set out to attack fresh enemy landing operations in the Breda - Venlo area. Owing to strong enemy fighter cover all the German aircraft were involved in dog-fights and did not succeed in breaking through to the gliders. 25 aircraft of 5th Jagddivision also took part in this operation.

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: | 7 | - |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | - | 13 |
| Close-range Recce Gruppe 13: | - | 2 |
| Gefechtsverband Hogeback: | - | 21 |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 284 |
| 5th Jagddivision: | - | 27 |
| III/K.G.3 | 10 | - |
| | <u>17</u> | <u>347</u> |

Total - 364 aircraft

Successes against enemy aircraft

II Jagdkorps: 6 enemy aircraft shot down, 1 probably destroyed

Losses

II Jagdkorps: ? aircraft
5th Jagddivision: 1 aircraft

Enemy operations

During the night 6 Mosquitoes were operational in the Kiel - Wiesmar area, a formation of 60 - 80 Mosquitoes in the Bremen - Hanover area (bombs dropped on Bremen) and 10 single aircraft in the Hanover - Magdeburg and Darmstadt - Wildungen areas.

60 aircraft were operational over the sea area between the West and East Frisian Islands and Heligoland.

20 Mosquitoes carried out long-range night fighter operations in the Münster - Lippstadt - Lüdenscheid - Cologne area. Bombs were dropped on Dortmund.

/In

In the morning 140 American bombers escorted by fighters were operational in the Warsaw area. According to the BBC they were carrying supplies of food and ammunition to the Resistance movement in Warsaw.

In the afternoon 500 aircraft with gliders flew into the Breda - Arnhem - Hertogenbosch area. Enemy troops landed in the area on both sides of Arnhem and north of Breda. At 1510 hours 500 parachute troops landed west of Arnhem. At the same time Marauder formations totalling 200 - 300 aircraft were operational in the landing area. No bombing attacks have been reported.

In the afternoon some 1,500 aircraft were operational in the Holland - western Germany area. Two fighter formations covered landing operations, some of them flying into the Lünen - Arnsberg - Lüdenscheid - Remscheid area. Attacks were reported north of Stadtkyll and north-west of Mayen.

Daily report - 19 September 1944

German operations

7 transport aircraft were operational during the night. 2 flew ammunition to Royan and Cap Gris Nez, 2 broke off owing to bad visibility, and 3 are missing.

14 aircraft of III/K.G.51 attacked enemy supply traffic on the Neerpelt - Volkenwaard road.

Aircraft of Night Ground Attack Gruppe 2 made a nuisance raid on Maastricht, concentrating on bridges and river crossings in the eastern part of the town.

In the morning 48 fighter-bombers of II Jagdkorps were operational in the Nijmegen area. 4 low-level attacks were made on M/T concentrations at Groesbeek.

In the afternoon 148 aircraft were operational, most of which engaged in dog-fights with enemy fighter formations over the target area. By concentrated effort air superiority was gained over the landing area between 1715 and 1800 hours.

14 aircraft of I/K.G.51 took part in operations against enemy gliders. 4 carried out attacks in the Nijmegen - Groesbeek area, and 10 in the Deelen - Arnhem - Bennekom area. Bombs fell amongst equipment and gliders, several of which were left burning.

In the evening 17 aircraft of III/K.G.51 made a nuisance raid on Maastricht.

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: | 7 | - |
| Gefechtsverband Hogeback: | 19 | 14 |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | 2 | 7 |
| Close-range Recce Gruppe 13: | - | 6 |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 196 |
| III/K.G.3: | 14 | - |
| | <u>42</u> | <u>223</u> |
| | <u>Total - 265 aircraft</u> | |

Successes against enemy aircraft

II Jagdkorps: 9 aircraft shot down, 1 probably destroyed

/Losses

Losses

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: | 3 He 111 |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | 4 aircraft |
| II Jagdkorps: | ? |
| III/K.G.3: | 3 aircraft |

Enemy operations

Some 400 enemy aircraft were operational during the night. 300 Lancasters made a medium-heavy attack on Wesermünde. Mosquito formations bombed Leipzig and Rheine. Single long-range night fighters were also operational over north-western Germany.

In the afternoon 700 Fortresses with strong fighter cover bombed Dortmund, Werne, Hamm, Soest, Siegen, Giessen, Limburg, Coblenz and Traben-Trarbach.

It is reported that 1,000 gliders (presumably carrying supplies) landed in the Arnhem area towards 1600 hours.

At about the same time 25 Marauders were operational in the Aachen area. Bombs were dropped on Düren and on transport targets.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

Apart from the 700 fighters escorting the bomber formations, medium-sized fighter and fighter-bomber formations carried out continuous operations over the front area and north-western Germany. A formation of 70 - 80 aircraft was operational in the Coblenz - Karlsruhe - Metz area.

Orders

1. Luftflotte Reich is requested to withdraw III/J.G.3 from operations, for a refresher course.

2. Following order from C. in C. West issued:

Every soldier in the tactical area of operations will keep his weapons at hand while in barracks, take them with him every time he goes out, and use them against low-flying aircraft.

Machine-gun posts will be set up and manned in such a way that surprise low-level attacks can be driven off immediately.

Machine-gun nests will be set up to protect main roads and supply routes against low-level attacks.

Daily report - 20 September 1944

German operations

During the night 20 aircraft of III/K.G.51 made a nuisance raid on Maastricht, concentrating on bridges and river crossings.

3 Ju 87s of Night Ground Attack Gruppe 2 attacked targets in the Maastricht area. 7 other aircraft of the same unit attacked the town of Eupen and the railway station on the line south-west of Aachen. Hits were scored on tracks and rolling stock and 2 fires were observed.

78 aircraft of Fliegerkorps IX (no longer under Luftflotte 3 command) set out to make a concentrated attack on Eindhoven. A Do 217 crashed soon after take-off, the crew were killed. 75 aircraft carried out the attack, 1 aircraft attacked a secondary target, and another broke off.

3 transport aircraft were operational during the night, one of which is missing.

Only small-scale reconnaissance operations were carried out during the day owing to weather conditions.

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| III/K.G.51: | 20 | - |
| Night Ground Attack Gruppe 2: | 10 | - |
| Transport Fliegerführer 1: | 3 | - |
| Fliegerkorps IX: | 78 | - |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | - | 1 |
| Close-range Recce Gruppe 13: | - | 4 |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 4 |
| III/K.G.3: | 14 | - |
| Gefechtsverband Hallensleben: | - | 2 |
| | <u>125</u> | <u>11</u> |

Total - 136 aircraft

Losses

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Fliegerkorps IX: | 1 Do 217 |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | 1 Me 410 |

Enemy operations

During the night a number of reconnaissance aircraft and long-range night fighters were operational in the Emden - Osnabrück - Dortmund - Venlo area. 150 aircraft were operational in the Venlo - München-Gladbach - Aachen area. Bombs were dropped on München-Gladbach and Rheydt, causing large fires and heavy damage to industrial plant.

In the afternoon at least 500 British four-engined aircraft flew into the south-eastern Holland - Lower Rhine landing area, presumably carrying supplies. According to the BBC the aircraft were bringing in reinforcements.

In the late afternoon 150 Marauders were operational in the Stadtholm - Coesfeld - Haltern - Wesel area. 20 aircraft were operational in the Luxemburg - Trier - Diekirch area, and according to unconfirmed reports bombs were dropped on Trier.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

Only limited reconnaissance operations were carried out during the morning in the Krefeld - Trier - Luxemburg area.

From midday onwards continuous operations were carried out over Holland and west and south-west Germany by small fighter and fighter-bomber formations, totalling some 1,000 aircraft in all. Attacks have been reported on Worms, the Siegen area, St. Vith, Gerolstein, Trier, and St. Avold.

Orders

1. Stab K.G.2, directly subordinate to Luftflotte 3, will take over the duties of Gefechtsverband Helbig immediately. Stab K.G.2 will operate as Gefechtsverband Hallensleben.
2. 5th Jagddivision is informed that the General der Jagdflieger has agreed to the withdrawal of III/J.G. 3 for a refresher course (at Götzenhof).

/3.

3. II Jagdkorps' application for the transfer of I/J.G.11 to Altenstadt has been approved.

4. 16th Flak Division (motorised) has been placed under 1st Paratroop Army H.Q. command for operational purposes.

5. The new boundary line between the two Army Groups will also serve to separate III and IV Flak Korps areas. Orders were also issued for the transfer of III Flak Korps units (not Flak Regiment 15) in the Bitburg area to the Aachen area, and for the subordination of III Flak Korps of the 16th Flak Division and units of the 7th Flak Division in the Aachen area. 1st Flak Brigade, Flak Regiment 15, and units of Flak Regiment 59 north of the boundary line have been placed under III Flak Korps command again. Units of Flak Regiment 59 south of the boundary line will remain under IV Flak Korps command.

6. In view of the employment of the civilian population on the construction of fortifications at the front, the Reichsmarschall ordered the immediate vacation of civilian billets by Luftflotte 3 units and their transfer to barracks or camps. H.Q. authorities were instructed accordingly, and passed on reports to the Reichsmarschall after the order had been carried out.

7. C. in C. West's objection to the subordination of Luftflotte 3 to Luftflotte Reich has been passed on to the Chief of Air Force General Staff.

Daily report - 21 September 1944

German operations

During the night the Lindemann battery and the Boulogne garrison were supplied by one aircraft each. 21 aircraft of III/K.G.3 were also operational, but no details are available.

Two formations of II Jagdkorps, one of 67 aircraft and the other of 40 aircraft set out on fighter-bomber operations in the Nijmegen - Arnhem area and low-level operations in the Wyler - Nijmegen - Groesbeck area. In spite of bad visibility German formations succeeded in drawing off fighter cover and attacking a formation of Douglas transport aircraft. Altogether 20 Douglas transports, 1 Thunderbolt and 1 Lightning were shot down, and 2 more Lightnings probably destroyed. 10 paratroopers jumping from a Douglas which had been attacked were fired on and 2 gliders were destroyed on the ground. 7 Fw 190 and 6 Me 109 are missing.

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: | 2 | - |
| III/K.G.3: | 21 | - |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | - | 2 |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 109 |
| | <hr/> 23 | <hr/> 111 |
| | <u>Total - 134 aircraft</u> | |

Successes against enemy aircraft

II Jagdkorps: 23 aircraft destroyed, 2 gliders destroyed on the ground.
 Flak: Since 17 September, Luftflotte 3 A.A. units have destroyed the following in Holland:

73 aircraft
 24 gliders
 1 armoured reconnaissance car
 1 tank

/Losses

Losses

III/K.G.3: 1 aircraft
II Jagdkorps: 14? aircraft

Enemy operations

15 long-range night fighters were operational over the Rheine - Osnabrück - Münster - Wesel area during the night.

In the afternoon 500 - 600 Fortresses and Liberators escorted by fighters dropped bombs on Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, west of Speyer, Neustadt, Mainz, in the Wiesbaden - Schierstein area, on Coblenz town and airfield, and on Karthause. The attacking force concentrated on industrial and transport targets.

Aircraft with supplies and reinforcements flew into the Arnhem - Nijmegen landing area.

Two American twin-engined aircraft formations were operational in the Metz - Nancy area. According to the BBC the objective was Metz.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

From 1100 hours small and medium formations of fighters and fighter-bombers carried out continuous sweeps over Holland and western and south-western Germany. Altogether some 1,200 aircraft were engaged in these operations. So far attacks have been reported on Jülich, Cologne, Düren, Euskirchen, Neuwied, south of Mayen, Kochem, Wittlich, Bitburg, Trier-Euren, Idar-Oberstein, Bingen, Hagenau, and Saarburg.

Orders

In accordance with Luftflotte 3 application, OKL operations Staff ordered (via Luftflotte Reich) the reinforcement of Gefechtsverband Hallensleben to ensure operation of night formations.

Transfers etc.

1. After restoring serviceability 2/Close-range Recce Gruppe 13 will transfer to Freiburg.

Long-range Recce Gruppe 123 will withdraw the Kaatsch Staffel from operations and disband it on arrival of 2/Close-range Recce Gruppe 13 in Freiburg.

Daily report - 22 September 1944

German operations

No operations were carried out during the night owing to weather conditions.

During the day 10 aircraft of 5th Jagddivision carried out patrols in the St. Die - Epinal - Mühlhausen area and provided cover for civilians working on fortifications. Apart from this only 6 reconnaissance aircraft were operational.

Enemy operations

Only slight reconnaissance operations in the Holland - Belgium area.

In the afternoon 800 - 1,000 American heavy bombers with a strong fighter escort attacked industrial areas in Kassel, causing considerable damage in places.

/According

According to reports low-flying aircraft concentrated on positions and battle headquarters in southern Holland.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

During the morning only 200 aircraft were operational over western Germany in the Cologne - Bad Kreuznach area, owing to weather conditions.

After an improvement in the weather in the afternoon some 1,600 aircraft were operational. According to reports fighter-bombers concentrated on the Metz - Saarbrücken - Nancy area. Unconfirmed attacks have been reported on Lüdenscheid, Siegen, Wetzlar, Friedberg, Wiesbaden, Jülich, Düren, Cologne, Brühl, Euskirchen, St. Vith, Merzig, Ottweiler, St. Avold, Mainz, Bingen and Mannheim.

The expected air operations in support of airborne forces in Holland did not materialise, presumably owing to unsatisfactory weather conditions and the confused ground situation.

Orders

1. Luftflotte 3 requests Luftflotte Reich liaison officer to ensure that military railway authorities report the progress of trains efficiently, as owing to the air situation the same conditions experienced in France will shortly prevail.

Luftflotte 3 H.Q. suggests the use of horse-drawn vehicles to relieve transport difficulties (which particularly threaten A.A. ammunition supply), as M/T can no longer provide assistance owing to the fuel situation.

2. By order of OKL Operations Staff, Luftflotte 3 H.Q. has been renamed Luftwaffe West H.Q.

3. The Fuehrer has issued an order for a 5th Panzer Army offensive in the direction of Nancy.

Transfers etc.

II Jagdkorps will withdraw all III/J.G.1 personnel and equipment from operations and transfer them to Fels/Wagram for a refresher course.

Daily report - 23 September 1944

German operations

During the night III/K.G.3 carried out V1 operations. No details are available.

In the afternoon 44 aircraft of II Jagdkorps carried out fighter-bomber operations in the Nijmegen - Arnhem area. German aircraft engaged enemy fighter formations in the Venlo area and shot down 7 Mustangs. One Fw 190 was lost over German territory and 3 others are missing.

Enemy operations

12 long-range night fighters and reconnaissance aircraft were operational over north-western, western and south-western Germany.

No operations were carried out during the morning owing to weather conditions. In the afternoon fighter and fighter-bomber formations were operational, concentrating on the landing area in Holland, the Aachen - Euskirchen area, and the Moselle valley.

/Daily

Daily report - 24 September 1949

German operations

During the night 2 transport aircraft flew supplies to the Channel Islands.

During the day two formations of II Jagdkorps, one of 66 and the other of 45 aircraft, set out on operations over the Nijmegen - Eindhoven area. Owing to weather conditions the first formation broke off before reaching the target area. The second formation engaged rocket-carrying Typhoons north of Venlo, shooting down 2 enemy aircraft and forcing the rest to jettison their rockets.

Two formations of 5th Jagddivision (29 and 37 aircraft) took off on operations against fighter-bombers in the Dieuze - Chateau Salins - Einville area.

The first formation was not able to reach the target area owing to unfavourable weather conditions. The second formation made low-level attacks on A.A. positions. 1 Boston was shot down.

10 aircraft took off on similar operations in the Epinal area, but found no targets to attack. In all these operations 2 German aircraft were lost.

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: | 2 | - |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | - | 8 |
| Close-range Recce Gruppe 13: | - | 2 |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 113 |
| 5th Jagddivision: | - | 78 |
| III/K.G.3: | 18 | - |
| | <hr/> 20 | <hr/> 201 |
| | <u>Total - 221 aircraft</u> | |

Successes against enemy aircraft

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| II Jagdkorps: | 2 aircraft destroyed |
| 5th Jagddivision: | 1 aircraft destroyed |

Losses

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 5th Jagddivision: | 2 Me 109 |
| III/K.G.3: | 1 aircraft |

Enemy operations

During the night several hundred bombers were operational over the Rhine - Westphalia industrial area. Enemy aircraft concentrated on Düsseldorf, and attacks were also reported on Münster, Dortmund, Herne, Bochum, Neuss, Duisburg, Rheine and München-Gladbach.

In addition some 20 long-range night fighters and a formation of 30 - 40 Mosquitoes were operational over western and north-western Germany.

During the day several formations of twin-engined bombers were operational over the Netherlands and western Germany but no attacks were reported.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

Some 800 aircraft were in action during the day, concentrating on the lower Rhine and airborne landing areas. So far attacks have been reported on Kleve, Goch, Geldern, and Krefeld.

/Orders

G.236751/EJW/8.49/35.

Orders

1. The Fuehrer orders the annihilation of enemy forces in the Arnhem area.
2. Order for 5th Panzer Army attack on Nancy.

Transfers etc.

Staff of Luftwaffe West H.Q. transferred from Mayen to Dehrn.

Daily report - 25 September 1944

German operations

During the night 11 aircraft set out on supply operations to St. Nazaire, Lorient and Calais. 6 of the aircraft broke off.

III/K.G.3 aircraft carried out V1 operations.

In the morning 46 aircraft of II Jagdkorps carried out operations against enemy forces attempting to cross the Lower Rhine west of Oesterbeck. Since there was only slight enemy air activity no enemy aircraft were engaged. Low-level attacks were made on the Oesterbeck - Doornwerth road and on river transport in the area.

After an improvement in the weather in the afternoon 104 aircraft carried out operations in the Arnhem - Nijmegen area. 10 enemy aircraft were shot down and 4 others probably destroyed. 4 German aircraft were lost and 14 others are missing.

Enemy operations

About 10 long-range night fighters were operational over western Germany during the night.

At about midday 1,200 heavy bombers attacked the central Rhine railway network, dropping bombs on Coblenz, Frankfurt, Mannheim and Ludwigshafen. Attacks were also made on secondary targets.

At about the same time a medium-strong formation of British heavy bombers attacked Calais.

In the afternoon some 200 heavy bombers carried out operations in the Arnhem area.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

At midday some 500 aircraft were operational in the same area attacked by heavy bomber formations.

In the afternoon several hundred fighters were operational over the battle area in Holland and western Germany, attacking transport installations and any other possible targets.

Orders

1. II Jagdkorps and 5th Jagddivision are informed of the Reichmarschall's order, according to which all Luftwaffe West fighter formations will be used exclusively for operations against fighter-bombers. German aircraft will carry out ground support operations only in areas where heavy fighting is in progress or as an alternative operation if no enemy aircraft are encountered. Ground support operations may not be carried out without previous Luftwaffe West H.Q. permission.

/By

By direct arrangement with Army Group B permission has been given for operations by rocket-firing aircraft against enemy airborne troops in Holland.

2. In consideration of the sharp drop in III/K.G.3 serviceability a proposal was made to Luftflotte Reich that instead of re-equipping a further bomber Gruppe with He 111s, as ordered by OKL, III/K.G.3 be completely equipped with all available aircraft of this type. Re-equipment of a second Gruppe is not justified as long as III/K.G.3 has not even a quarter of its aircraft establishment.
3. Luftflotte Reich orders II Jagdkorps and 5th Jagddivision to delay take-off when enemy aircraft are known to be approaching, to avoid German aircraft being shot down when most vulnerable.
4. Gefechtsverband Hallensleben is ordered to find the following in the event of transfers becoming necessary:
 - (a) Operational bases for III/K.G.51 and Night Ground Attack Gruppe 2 in the Münster - Lippstadt - Paderborn area.
 - (b) Operational bases for the same units in the Giessen - Merzhausen - Nidda - Kirtorf area.
 - (c) Battle headquarters for the Gefechtsverband H.Q. in the Giessen area.
 - (d) Jumping-off bases for subordinate units in the Quackenbrück and Schwäbisch Hall areas.

Daily report - 26 September 1944

German operations

During the night 5 aircraft of III/K.G.51, one of which broke off owing to engine trouble, carried out armed reconnaissance operations in the Nijmegen area. 4 bombs were dropped on a bridge north of Nijmegen and fires were observed in the Nijmegen town area and surrounding districts.

Aircraft of III/K.G.3 carried out V1 operations. 2 aircraft were lost.

6 transport aircraft, 2 of which broke off, were operational. 3 dropped supplies over La Rochelle and another over Gironde-Nord.

20 aircraft of I/K.G.51 attacked enemy targets in the Nijmegen area.

87 aircraft of II Jagdkorps took off on operations against enemy airborne landings in the Arnhem - Nijmegen - Hertogenbosch area. Owing to strong enemy fighter cover German aircraft were unable to reach troop transports.

1 Thunderbolt was shot down and a Spitfire probably destroyed. 1 Me 109, was lost and 10 other aircraft are missing.

Enemy operations

During the night some 70 - 80 Mosquitoes bombed Mannheim-Ludwigshafen. 15 - 20 other aircraft dropped bombs on Coblenz.

A number of long-range night fighters and reconnaissance aircraft were in action over Lorraine and central and north-western Germany. Altogether about 120 aircraft were operational.

In the afternoon some 550 American heavy bombers escorted by fighters attacked transport and industrial targets in Osnabrück, Hamm and Rheine.

/350

350 heavy bombers with fighter escort attacked Bremen.

British heavy bombers brought about 350 gliders into the area west-south-west of Arnhem, south-south-east of Nijmegen, and in the Hertogenbosch area.

According to the BBC 600 British heavy bombers attacked Calais and Cap Gris Nez.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

In the morning some 200 aircraft were operational, mainly over the battle area in Holland.

Several fighter and fighter-bomber formations (about 500 aircraft) were operational over the Reich.

In the afternoon and towards evening some 600 - 700 aircraft carried out operations over the battle area in Holland and north-western and western Germany. Attacks were reported on Bocholt, Geldern, München-Gladbach, Düren, Euskirchen and Mayen.

Altogether some 1,300 - 1,400 fighters and fighter-bombers were in action.

Orders

1. II Jagdkorps and 5th Jagddivision are informed of the Reichsmarschall's request that fighter Staffeln which are not up to operational requirements should be taken over temporarily by an experienced Staffel leader belonging to the Geschwader concerned. Geschwader commanders will be responsible for the introduction of this measure. In the case of Gruppen separated from their Geschwader this measure may be introduced by the Geschwader commander temporarily in charge, after previous arrangement with the commander of the Geschwader concerned.
2. Luftflotte Reich is requested to employ Colonel Rentsch on construction of Me 262 airfields, in view of his previous experience and success.
3. It is proposed that air units be used to destroy enemy forces in Holland.
4. II Jagdkorps and 3rd Jagddivision (Luftflotte Reich) to carry out operations against the Eindhoven bridgehead.
5. OKL Quartermaster General order regarding the withdrawal from operations of II/J.G.3.

Daily report - 27 September 1944

German operations

42 Fw 190 of III/K.G.51 operating in two formations, set out to attack bridges and roads leading into Nijmegen from the south. 5 aircraft broke off owing to technical difficulties, and a further aircraft is missing.

19 Ju 87 of Night Ground Attack Gruppe 2 took off to attack the same objective. 2 aircraft dropped their bombs on secondary targets. A further 3 aircraft attacked Eindhoven. Bombs were observed to fall near troop movements.

4 pick-a-back aircraft and 8 Ju 88 of Einsatzgruppe 101 took off to attack bridges in Nijmegen. 1 pick-a-back aircraft and 2 Ju 88 broke off owing to technical difficulties. 1 German aircraft is missing.

/During

During the night St. Nazaire was supplied by 2 aircraft, Lorient by one, and Calais by four. Two aircraft which set out for Lorient broke off. 1 transport aircraft was shot down over Calais.

Two formations of II Jagdkorps totalling 187 aircraft took off on operations over the battle area in Holland.

In both cases German aircraft were unable to reach the target area owing to the presence of enemy fighter formations.

10 enemy aircraft were shot down and another 2 probably destroyed. 2 German aircraft were lost and 8 others are missing.

53 aircraft of 5th Jagddivision took off on operations against artillery observation aircraft, on fighter-bomber sorties, and to provide cover for civilians working on West Wall defences. No enemy aircraft were encountered. 2 Me 109 are missing and another was badly damaged on take-off.

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Gefechtsverband Hallensleben: | 64 | 2 |
| Einsatzgruppe 101: | 12 | - |
| III/K.G.3: | 4 | - |
| Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: | 9 | - |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | - | 6 |
| Close-range Recce Gruppe 13: | - | 8 |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 187 |
| 5th Jagddivision: | - | 53 |
| | <hr/> 89 | <hr/> 256 |
| | <u>Total - 345 aircraft</u> | |

Successes against enemy aircraft

II Jagdkorps: 10 aircraft destroyed, 2 others probably destroyed

Losses

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Einsatzgruppe 101: | 1 Ju 88S |
| Gefechtsverband Hallensleben: | 1 Fw 190 |
| Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: | 1 He 111 |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | 1 Me 410 |
| II Jagdkorps: | 2 Fw 190 |
| 5th Jagddivision: | 3 Me 109 |

Enemy operations

During the night about 80 Mosquitoes attacked Frankfurt. 60 - 70 Mosquitoes were operational in the Mannheim - Heidelberg - Stuttgart area; bombs were dropped on Karlsruhe.

In the morning some 1,200 American heavy bombers with fighter escort attacked industrial and transport installations in the Mainz - Mannheim - Kaiserslautern area. Attacks were reported as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Kassel: | Some damage to transport installations |
| Mannheim-Ludwigshafen and Oppau: | Damage to industrial installations |
| Bochum, Essen, Cologne-Leverkusen: | Damage to industrial and transport installations |

/Bombs

Bombs were also dropped in the Wiesbaden area causing damage to industrial installations.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

During the morning single aircraft carried out reconnaissance operations over northern, western and central Germany. Several hundred fighters escorted bomber formations, some of them carrying out low-level operations.

During the course of the day some 1,900 - 2,000 aircraft were operational over the battle area in Holland, western and south-western Germany, concentrating on Holland and the area on the left bank of the Lower Rhine up to Euskirchen - Aachen. Attacks were made on railway and transport targets in this area and on ground targets in the Nancy - Trier - Metz - Zabern - Strassburg area. Low-level attacks have been reported in the Venlo - Goch area, on Geldern (3 trains), Neuss, Aachen, Schleiden, Bochoit, Bottrop, Siegburg, Andernach, Friedberg and Frankfurt.

Orders

1. C. in C. West issues the Fuehrer's order regarding the installation of tank blocks on roads leading into and out of towns west of the Rhine, and supplements it with the necessary instructions for the execution of the order.
2. III and IV Flak Korps are issued with instructions for the construction of air defence installations in the "German West Position".

Daily report - 28 September 1944

German operations

During the night 6 transport aircraft were operational. Cap Gris Nez was supplied by two, and Calais and Dunkirk by one aircraft each. Two aircraft broke off.

59 aircraft of II Jagdkorps were operational during the day. In the morning 38 aircraft engaged a Spitfire formation, shooting down one enemy aircraft.

In the afternoon 21 aircraft engaged superior enemy formations. 7 German aircraft were lost.

41 aircraft of 5th Jagddivision carried out fighter-bomber sorties and operations against artillery observation aircraft in the Einville - Dieuze - Chateau Salins area. 9 enemy aircraft were destroyed for the loss of 2 German aircraft.

7 Fw 190 of K.G.200 attacked bridges at Nijmegen, scoring a direct hit on a road bridge south of Landstoss and another on a railway bridge. 1 German aircraft is missing.

33 aircraft of Gefechtsverband Hallensleben attacked Nijmegen. Most of the bombs were observed to fall in the southern quarter of the town.

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: | 6 | - |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | - | 8 |
| Close-range Recce Gruppe 13: | - | 6 |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 59 |
| 5th Jagddivision: | - | 45 |
| K.G.200: | - | 7 |
| Gefechtsverband Hallensleben: | - | 34 |
| | <u>6</u> | <u>159</u> |
| | <u>Total - 165 aircraft</u> | |

Successes against enemy aircraft

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| II Jagdkorps: | 1 aircraft destroyed |
| 5th Jagddivision: | 9 aircraft destroyed |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | 1 aircraft destroyed, 1 probably destroyed |
| Flak: | Luftwaffe West H.Q. reports 2013 enemy aircraft shot down since D-day |

Losses

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | 1 Me 109 |
| Close-range Recce Gruppe 13: | 2 Me 109 |
| II Jagdkorps: | 3 Fw 190, 4 Me 109 |
| 5th Jagddivision: | 2 Me 109 |
| K.G.200: | 1 Fw 190 |

Enemy operations

During the night some 80 Mosquitoes bombed Kassel and about 80 other aircraft operating in the Kaiserslautern - Darmstadt - Frankfurt a.M. area dropped bombs on Kaiserslautern.

A number of long-range night fighters and reconnaissance aircraft were operational over north-western, western and south-western Germany.

Altogether some 250 aircraft were in action during the course of the night.

1,200 American heavy bombers with fighter escort were operational over central Germany in the morning.

450 Fortresses attacked industrial targets and the city area of Magdeburg (and, according to the BBC, marshallings yards in Magdeburg). 400 Fortresses dropped bombs on Halle (Leuna), Dessau, Leipzig, Sondershausen, Delitzsch and Worbis. 350 Liberators attacked Kassel (Henschel Works, main railway station and marshallings yards) and a suburb of Harleshausen. Magdeburg-East and Halberstadt airfields were also attacked, but only slight damage was caused.

At the same time 100 - 150 British heavy bombers were operational over the battle area in Holland, presumably in direct support of ground forces.

In the evening 150 - 200 British heavy bombers carried out operations, presumably against channel fortresses.

In the morning some 200 Marauders were operational in the Aachen - Trier - Metz - Nancy area and 50 British medium bombers in the Emmerich - Nijmegen area. In both cases enemy aircraft carried out direct ground support operations.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

Excluding some 500 aircraft escorting bomber formations over the Reich, 1,400 American and 400 British fighters and fighter-bombers were operational over the battle area in Holland, western and south-western Germany. Attacks have been reported in the Geldern area, on Kleve, Goch, Bocholt, Zuphten, Venlo, Krefeld, Gladbeck, Duisburg, Düsseldorf, Düren, Cologne, Euskirchen, Bonn, Coblenz, Bacharach, Eschweiler and Trier.

Orders

1. 16th Flak Division and attached units (with the exception of units under H.Q. 18th Flak Brigade, which will be subordinated to 1st Paratroop Army H.Q.) will be placed under the command of III Flak Korps with immediate effect.

/2.

2. 5th Jagddivision, J.G.76, and Close-range Recce Gruppe 13 are instructed that Donaueschingen airfield is available as a base for 2/Close-range Recce Gruppe 13.

Daily report - 29 September 1944

German operations

During the night 42 aircraft of III/K.G.51 (2 sorties) and 14 Ju 87 of Night Ground Attack Gruppe 2 carried out nuisance raids on Nijmegen. Several fires were observed and it is thought that the attacks were effective.

11 transport aircraft took off on supply operations. 7 reached Calais and Lorient, 1 broke off and 3 were lost.

Between 1215 and 1340 hours 52 aircraft of II Jagdkorps carried out operations in the Arnhem - Nijmegen area. Enemy aircraft were engaged but none destroyed.

Between 1620 and 1755 hours 44 aircraft carried out operations in the Metz area at the request of Army Group B. One formation engaged enemy aircraft without success.

2 Fw 190 and 1 Me 109 are missing.

45 aircraft of 5th Jagddivision took off on operations against enemy fighter-bombers in the Metz area. The formation was engaged by 35 enemy fighters over the Kaiserslautern - Neustadt area, before reaching its objective. 5 Thunderbolts and 1 Mustang were shot down.

5 Me 109 are missing, 2 Me 109 crashed, and 2 Me 109 collided when landing.

Operational strength

| | Night | Day |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Gefechtsverband Hallensleben: | 56 | - |
| III/K.G.3: | 9 | - |
| Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: | 11 | - |
| Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: | - | 4 |
| Close-range Recce Gruppe 13: | - | 8 |
| II Jagdkorps: | - | 96 |
| 5th Jagddivision: | - | 45 |
| | <u>76</u> | <u>153</u> |

Total - 229 aircraft

Successes against enemy aircraft

5th Jagddivision: 6 aircraft shot down
Long-range Recce Gruppe 123: 1 aircraft forced down and set on fire

Losses

Night Ground Attack Gruppe 2: 1 Ju 87
Transport Fliegerfuehrer 1: 3 He 111
II Jagdkorps: 2 Fw 190, 1 Me 109
5th Jagddivision: 9 Me 109

Enemy operations

60 - 80 Mosquitoes dropped bombs in the Hanover - Brunswick area. A number of long-range night fighters and nuisance aircraft were operational

/over

over north-western Germany, concentrating on the Germany-Holland frontier area. 3 long-range night fighters were picked up in the area north of Berlin. About 15 nuisance aircraft were operational in the Giessen - Aschaffenburg - Karlsruhe area. In addition single aircraft and small groups of aircraft were operational over south-western and southern Germany.

In the morning two formations of medium bombers were operational over the battle area in Holland. Bombs were dropped on Venlo.

Some 400 American medium bombers flying in 11 groups and strongly escorted by fighters were operational in the Coblenz - Saarbrücken area. Attacks were reported on Biburg (railway installations and barracks) and Trier (transport installations). According to unconfirmed reports bombs were also dropped in the Wittlich, Luxemburg, Merzig, Saarlautern and Saarbrücken area. According to the BBC, marshalling yards and fortifications at Saarbrücken were attacked.

In the late afternoon 4 Mauthausen formations were operational over western Germany. Bombs were dropped on Euskirchen (station and rolling stock) and Jülich (station area). According to unconfirmed reports bombs were also dropped in the Cologne, Düren and Wiesbaden areas.

According to the BBC heavy bombers attacked Cap Gris Nez.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

In the morning single aircraft carried out reconnaissance operations over north-western, western and central Germany.

During the day some 1,400 aircraft were operational. The smaller British forces concentrated on the battle area in Holland while stronger American formations attacked railway and transport installations in western Germany, and railway and shipping targets in south-western Germany. A bridge over the Rhine was hit at Mainz, but is still usable. According to unconfirmed reports attacks were also made on Zülpfen, Tilsen, Hengelo, Coesfeld, Wesel, Menden, Erkelenz, Eschweiler, Cologne, Ahrweiler, Stadtkyll, Wiesbaden, Pirmasens and Landau.

Daily report - 30 September 1944

German operations

During the night 4 transport aircraft were operational, of which 2 flew supplies to Gironde-South and 1 to Dunkirk. 1 aircraft is missing.

20 aircraft of III/K.G.3 carried out V1 operations.

3 aircraft of I/K.G.51 attacked Nijmegen. Results were not observed.

No operations were carried out by II Jagdkorps, 3rd Jagddivision and 5th Jagddivision. 2 Me 109 of Long-range Recce Gruppe 123 were lost on reconnaissance operations.

Enemy operations

Owing to weather conditions no bomber formations were operational during the morning.

In the afternoon 1,000 American and 200 British heavy bombers, strongly escorted by fighters, were operational over north-western Germany. American formations attacked transport installations in the Münster - Bielefeld, Hamm and Rhine areas, while British formations attacked hydrogenation plants at Bottrop, Oberhausen and Essen.

/According

According to agents' reports a Marauder formation was operational in the Aachen area in the early afternoon and a Havoc formation in the Eindhoven area later in the afternoon, presumably in direct support of ground forces.

Fighters and fighter-bombers:

Enemy aircraft concentrated on the battle area in Holland and the Lower Rhine district. Apart from the 750 fighters escorting bomber formations, strong forces of fighters and fighter-bombers were operational in the afternoon, attacking targets in the area of the front in Holland, and road and rail transport in the Metz - Strassburg and Freiburg areas.

Orders

1. Luftflotte Reich is informed that by order of OKL its operational orders for fighter formations would not be put into effect and that operations will be carried out by continuous sorties in Geschwader strength.
2. Einsatzgruppe 101 is ordered to speed up preparations for further pick-a-back aircraft operations.
3. C. in C. West issues orders regarding preparations for destruction of bridges.
4. Luftflotte Reich is informed that Army Group B has ordered a concentric attack to recapture Nijmegen for the night 30 September/1 October.

Transfers

1. III/J.G.1 has transferred to Fels/Wagram for a refresher course.
2. Flak Regiment 117 and all subordinate units will come under direct command of III Flak Korps with effect from 1 October 1944.

A.H.B.6 Distribution

Same as for Translation VII/85