

RAID REPORT GENERAL COMMENTS

Scans were available for only night raids from February 1942 to May 1945. Anyone aware of the availability of Day Raid should contact the Bomber Command Museum.

All reports were classified 'MOST SECRET' initially and later changed to "SECRET". This was not copied in most instances to slightly increase the size of the text on each page.

Aircraft charts, Raid tracks and plot of photos started to be added to later reports in September 1942 so none were available for most of the early raids.

Some reports had no comments to add.

For minor operations, aircraft charts were not provided in the reports.

Where an operation started late the last day of a month and the bombers did not return until the first day of the next month, the operation was included in both months.

Time to prepare report took about one month initially and later in 1943 about three months. This varied with the amount of data.

The reports were made in multiple copies using a stencil-method duplicator such as a Gestetner Machine rather than individually typing each copy of the reports. The legibility of copies decreased as the number of copies made from the original stencil increased. As a result, some reports are more difficult to read than others.

1942

FEBRUARY

No comments

MARCH

27/28 – Report was missing the page number for page 2. It was replaced.

APRIL

28/29 – Page 2 was missing the page number for page 2 so it was replaced.

MAY

- 30/31 – The first 1000 bomber raid conducted by 1047 aircraft against Cologne.
- Bomb plots were not available so note made.

JUNE

- 1 /2 - Second “1000” bomber raid with 956 aircraft. Target was Essen.
- Raid track not available so note made to that effect.
- 8/9 - Aircraft chart not available so note made to that effect
- 25/26 – Third “1000” bomber raid but only 960 aircraft available. Target was Bremen.
- Raid track and bomb plot not available so note made to that effect.

JULY

No comments

AUGUST

No comments

SEPTEMBER

These are the first reports to have both maps of raid tracks and plots of night photographs.

- 6/7 - The 4th page of the report does not have the completion date of the report which is usually in the lower left corner of the last narrative page. Report seems to be complete.

OCTOBER

- 2/3 – Scans 0006 to 0009 were missing from folder but all pages for report were there.
- 6/7 - Aircraft chart and bomb plot were not available so note made.
- 12/13 - Raid track not available so note made.
- 24/25 - Bomb plot not available so note made.

NOVEMBER

- 9/10 - Raid track and bomb plot not available so note made.
- 15/16 – Scans 0125 to 0130 in Folder 3409 were missing but report is complete.

DECEMBER

2/3 – Bomb plot was in 2 sections so they were combined into 1

6/7 - Bomb plot not available so note made.

11/12 - Bomb plot not available so note made.

17/18 - Bomb plot not available so note made.

20/21 - First use of Oboe over an enemy area. Target was a power station at Lutterade, Holland.

1943

JANUARY

16/17 and 17/18 - The data files had maps for raid tracks and Final Plots that were in two sections so they were combined hem each into one. Alignment turned out quite close.

FEBRUARY

14/15 - Raid on Milan and Cologne. Expected a raid track and a plot of photos for each site but there was only a raid track for Cologne and a photo plot for Milan. Notes added to that effect.

18/19 - The quality of some of the scans was quite poor which are very difficult to read.

25/26 - The 2 scans for the Final Plots were combined into one.

MARCH

11/12 - Raid track not available so an appropriate note was made where it would be expected to be.

22/23 – Raid track not available so an appropriate note was made where it would be expected to be.

26/27 - Final bomb plot of photos for March was not available so an appropriate note was made where it would be expected to be.

27/28 - Raid Track and the Photo Plots were in 2 sections so they were combined into 1.

29/30 - Raid Track was in 2 sections so they were combined into 1.

APRIL

- 2/3 - Raid Track missing so note added to that effect.
- 3/4 - pages 3 and 4 missing so note added to that effect. Raid Track missing so note added to that effect. The Photo Plot was in 2 sections so they were combined into 1.
- 4/5 – Photo Plot missing so note added to that effect.
- 8/9 - Raid Track and Photo Plot missing so note added to that effect.
- 9/10 - Raid Track and Photo Plot missing so note added to that effect.
- 10/11 - Raid Track and Photo Plot missing so note added to that effect.
- 13/14 - Raid Track missing so note added to that effect.
- 14/15 - Raid Track missing so note added to that effect.
- 16/17 - The Raid Track was in 2 sections so they were combined into 1.
- 18/19 - Raid Track missing so note added to that effect.
- 20/21 - The Raid Track was in 2 sections so they were combined into 1.
- 28/29 - Bomber Command laid the largest number of mines to date of 593 at Danish Islands and Baltic ports. This involved 226 sorties but 23 failed to return.

MAY

- 4/5 - Raid Track missing so note added to that effect.
- 12/13 - Raid Track missing so note added to that effect.
- 16/17 - Report on Operation Chastise, the Dambusters raid
- 25/26 - Bomb Plots not available so note added to that effect.
- 27/28 - Bomb Plots not available so note added to that effect.

JUNE

- 12/13 – Bomber Command did not prepare a bomb plot so note added to that effect.
- 14/15 – Bomb plots not available so note added to that effect.
- 16/17 June – Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so note added to that effect.
- 19/20 – Raid tracks not available so note added to that effect.
- 20/21 – Raid on Friedrichshafen Germany was first raid where bombers continued to North Africa rather than returning to England.
- 21/22 – Raid tracks not available so note added to that effect.
- 22/23 – Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so note added to that effect.

JUNE (continued)

23/24 – Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so note added to that effect.

24/25 – Raid tracks not available so note added to that effect.

25/26 – Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so note added to that effect.

28/29– Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so note added to that effect.

JULY

3/ 4 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

8/9 - Raid track and bomb plot not available so note made to that effect.

9/10 - Raid track and bomb plot not available so note made to that effect.

12/13 - Raid track and bomb plot not available so note made to that effect.

15/16 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

24/25 – First operational use of 'Window'.

24/25 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

24/25 – Bomb plot for Hamburg was in 2 sections so they were combined into 1.

25/26 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

27/28 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

29/30 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

30/31 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

AUGUST.

2/ 3 – Raid track and bomb plot not available so note made to that effect.

7/8 - Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

9/10 - Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

10/11 - Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

12/13 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

14/15 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

15/16 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

16/17 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

17/18 – Raid on Peenemunde which included 52 aircraft from 6 Group

17/18 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect. Bomb plot was in 2 sections so they were combined into 1.

22/23 - Raid track and bomb plot not available so note made to that effect.

27/28 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

30/31 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect

31/ 1 Sept – Raid track and bomb plot not available so note made to that effect.

SEPTEMBER

3/4 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

5/6 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

8/9 – First Bomber Command raid with 5 Fortresses from USAAF. Several others on later dates.

- Bomb plot was in 2 sections so they were combined into 1.
- Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

15/16 – First raid with 12,000 lb bomb on eight specially modified Lancasters of 617 Sqn.

16/17 – Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

OCTOBER

1/2 - Bomb plot not available so made a note to that effect.

2/3 - Bomb plot was in 2 scans so I combined them into 1.

7/8 - Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

18/19 - Bomb plot not available so note made to that effect.

20/21 - Bomb plot not available so note made to that effect.

NOVEMBER

11/12 - A second raid on a viaduct with 12,000 lb bombs by 617 Sqn.

17/18 - Raid track not available so note made to that effect.

19/20 – Bomb plot not available so note made to that effect.

22/23 – Bomb plot not available so note made to that effect.

23/24 – Bomb plot not available so note made to that effect.

26/27 – Appendix to the 26/27 raid report placed at the front of this report as it describes a change on how bomb plots are being done in raid reports.

DECEMBER

3/4 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.

4/5 - Page 2 and aircraft chart were not available and they and page 1 are not on the Lancaster web site. Note made in the report

29/30 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.

1944

JANUARY

- 1/ 2 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.
- 2/3 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.
- 4/5 - Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so note made in the report.
- 14/15 – Bomb Plot not available so I made a note made in the report.
- 20/21 – Another major raid on Berlin by 759 Lancasters and Halifaxes and 10 Mosquitos.
- 20/21 - Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so note made in the report.
- 25/26 – Raids on launch tracks (ski) for V-1 rockets.
- 27/28 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.

FEBRUARY

- A lot of short reports on raids by 8 Group, Path Finders.
- 8/9 - Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so note made in the report.
 - 8/9 – 617 Sqn drops five 12,000 lb bombs on the aero-engine factory at Limoges, France
 - 12/13 – 617 Sqn drops eight 12,000 lb bombs on the Antheor viaduct with no effect on viaduct
 - 15/16 – 891 aircraft raid on Berlin, largest to date on Berlin.
 - 15/16 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.
 - 19/20 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.
 - 20/21 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.

MARCH

- 1/2 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.
- 2/3 – 617 Sqn drops eleven 12,000 lb bombs on the aero-engine factory at Meulan les Mureaux, France
- 6/7 - Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so note made in the report.
- 7/8 - Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so note made in the report.
- 13/14 - Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so note made in the report.
- 15/16 – 1116 sorties flown this night which was a new record with 863 on Stuttgart and other targets and operations.
- 16/17 - Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so note made in the report.
- 18/19 – Another major effort with 1046 sorties flown this night with 846 on Frankfurt and other targets and operations.

MARCH (continued)

22/23 – Another major effort with 1056 sorties flown this night with 816 again on Frankfurt and other targets and operations including 321 mines laid in Keil Bay and off Denmark

22/23 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.

23/24 - Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so note made in the report.

24/25 – Bomb plot was in 2 sections so they were combined into one

30/31 - Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.

APRIL

April 1944 was a very busy month with numerous 1000 bomber raids.

Master Bomber started to be referenced in reports.

Number of sorties may vary with “The Bomber Command War Diaries” as some sorties such as special operations were not in totals.

9/10 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.

10/11 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.

11/12 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.

18/19 – Largest 1000 bomber raid to date with 1,125 aircraft to attack various targets in France. 497 mines were laid in various locations in Western Baltic.

18/19 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.

20/21 – Another even larger 1000 bomber raid to date with 1,155 aircraft to attack various targets in France and Germany.

20/21 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.

22/23 – Another large 1000 bomber raid with 1,116 aircraft. 596 to attack Dusseldorf and other targets in France and Germany.

24/25 – Another even larger 1000 bomber raid with 1,160 aircraft. 673 to attack Karlsruhe and perform other missions.

26/27 – Another large 1000 bomber raid with 1,060 aircraft. 493 to attack Essen and others perform other missions. Sgt Jackson of 106 Sqn was awarded the Victoria Cross after the war for his efforts during the raid on Schweinfurt this night This item not in report.

27/28 – Another almost 1000 bomber raid with 961 sorties attacking various targets in France and Germany.

27/28 – Bomb Plot not available so note made in the report.

MAY

- 1/2 – Bomb Plot not available so a note made in the report.
- 3/4 – Bomb Plot not available so a note made in the report.
- 10/11 - Raid tracks and bomb plots not available for this 608 sortie raid against numerous targets so a note made in the report.
- 10/12 - Raid tracks and bomb plots not available for this 711 sortie raid against numerous targets so a note made in the report.
- 19/20 - Raid tracks and bomb plots not available for this 891 sortie raid against numerous targets so a note made in the report.
- 21/22 - Bomb Plot not available so a note made in the report.
- 22/23 – 1023 sorties flown this night with 375 on Dortmund and other targets and operations.
- 22/23 - Bomb Plot not available so a note made in the report.
- 27/28 – 1111 sorties flown this night with 331 on Bourg-Leopold and 16 other targets and operations.
- 27/28 - Bomb Plot not available so a note made in the report.
- 30/31 - Bomb Plot not available so a note made in the report
- 31/1 June – This raid report from Scans 0747 to 0754 in Folder 3411.

JUNE

- 5/6 – No page number on page 2
- 5/6 - Bomb plots not available so a note made in the report for this 1330 sortie raid with most against coastal batteries in France in preparation for D-Day. NOTE – The Bomber Command War Diaries by Middlebrook and Everitt has total sorties of 1211.
- 6/7 - Raid tracks and bomb plots not available so a note made in the report for this 1134 sortie raid behind the Normandy battle area to support land operations started on D-Day.
- 7/8 – **FOLLOWING NOTE MADE** - Due to multiple targets on raids, Raid Tracks and Bomb Plots are not available and their absence will no longer be noted.
- 8/9 – 617 Sqn drops 19 - 12,000 lb Tallboy bombs on railway tunnel near Saumur. First time the 12,000 lb Tallboys are used according to The Bomber Command War Diaries which claims 25 were dropped. Early versions of 12,000 lb bombs were first dropped on 15/16 September 1943. Dairy figures on number of 12,000 lb bombs dropped are different than in the actual reports and charts.

JUNE (continued)

11/12 – The second aircraft chart was not available in the photo files so a note made in the report.

14/15 – Page 4 of report - Rows missing in top portion of chart so a note made in the report.

27/28 – A major raid with 1019 sorties with the majority attacking flying bomb sites.

JULY

4/5 – The second aircraft chart was not available in the scanned files so a note made in the report.

12/13 – A major raid with 911 sorties with the majority attacking railways, flying bomb sites and other targets.

23/24 – A major raid with 1165 sorties of which 629 bombers attacked Kiel.

24/25 – A major raid with 1116 sorties of which 614 bombers attacked Stuttgart.

25/26 – Another major raid with 910 sorties of which 550 bombers attacked Stuttgart again.

29/30 – Another major raid with 1142 sorties of which 496 bombers attacked Stuttgart for the third time in five days.

AUGUST

Numerous reports are of poor quality making them difficult to read.

1 to 6 – large day raids between 296 to 1194 aircraft carried out this period so night raids were none or small. Note made in the report.

7/8 - 1112 sortie raid against various targets in the Normandy area to support Allied ground forces.

12/13 - 1164 sortie raid against various targets with 379 sent to Brunswick and 297 sent to Russelsheim. The raid on Brunswick was an experimental raid without Pathfinder aircraft and crews bombing on their own H2S sets.

- First chart listing aircraft for Brunswick and Russelsheim missing. These two targets are not listed in the charts for the raid. Note made in the report.

13/14 - Scan 0219 in Folder 3412 was an aircraft chart which did not relate to the raid on 13/14 and was identical to Scan 0203 in Folder 3412 which was the first aircraft chart for the raid report for 9/10 August. Scans 203 and 0219 both have the identical Public Record identifiers.

AUGUST (continued)

16/17 - 1188 sortie raid against various targets with 461 sent to Stettin and 348 sent to Kiel.

- page 2 of aircraft charts is missing. Note made in the report. It is not the chart on Folder 3412 Scan 0219 which has different locations.

18/19 - 1037 sortie raid against various targets with 289 sent to Bremen and 234 sent to Sterkrade.

25/26 - Largest sortie to date consisting of 1311 aircraft sent against various targets with 416 sent to Russelsheim.

- page 2 of aircraft charts is missing which was likely Scan 0244 which is missing from Folder 3412. Note made in the report. It is not the chart on Scan 0219 which has different locations.

- Bomb plot for Darmstadt was in two sections which were combined into one.

SEPTEMBER

Numerous large (often hundreds of aircraft) raids during the day in September with up to 992 aircraft on 10 September.

7/8 – Scan 0279 Folder 3412 was the same as Scan 0198 for raid report on 7/8 August. Scan 0280 Folder 3412 had two aircraft charts; one was for 7/8 September and the other was the same as Scan 0199 for the raid report on 7/8 August.

16/17 - Upper portion on second chart below missing rows. Chart 1 has page total of 311 aircraft while chart 2 has raid total of 359 aircraft. Note made in the report. Scans 308 and 309 were the same.

18/19 – Page 2 was missing its number so it was added.

19/20 – Page 2 was missing its number so it was added. Re Paragraph 7 of the raid report – The Controller who did not return from this raid was Wing Commander Guy Gibson, VC, DSO, DFC. Note made in the report.

OCTOBER

Numerous day raids (often hundreds of aircraft) this month including a day raid on Duisburg by 1013 aircraft on October 14.

4/5 – Aircraft chart is not available. Scan 345 after page 1 of raid was missing from Folder 3412. Note made in the report.

9/10 – Page 2 of report missing its page number so one was added.

OCTOBER (continued)

14/15 – Note added that the raid on Duisburg on the night of 14/15 was preceded by a daylight raid of 1013 aircraft. With the raid the night of 14/15 with 1572 sorties, Bomber Command had launched 2585 sorties in a 24-hour period. 525 aircraft were from RCAF squadrons.

15/16 – Page 2 of report missing its page number so one was added.

23/24 - 1196 sortie raid against various targets with 1055 sent to Essen.

26/27 – This raid report at the bottom states “Raid Report No. 752 is not obtainable”. The following note was added - Report #752 for 27/28 October not available. It was a raid by 60 Mosquitoes on Berlin and by 21 Mosquitoes on six other targets.

NOVEMBER

2/3 - 1132 sortie raid against various targets with 992 sent to Dusseldorf.

3/4 – Aircraft chart is not available. Scan 418 after page 1 of raid was missing from Folder 3412. Note made in the report

4/5 – 1081 sortie raid against various targets with 749 sent to Bochum.

21/22 - 1336 sortie raid against various targets with 283 sent to Aschaffenburg, 273 to Castrop-Rauxel and 270 to Sterkrade. Aircraft numbers are taken from the charts in the Raid report. There are some differences from the numbers in “The Bomber Command War Diaries”.

DECEMBER

There were numerous of raids, usually less than 100, by Mosquitos from 8 Group (Pathfinders)

6/7 – A large sortie of 1335 aircraft sent against various targets with 457 sent to the oil refinery at Merseburg/Leuna and 453 to Osnabruck. The Bomber Command War Diaries has 475 sent to the oil refinery at Merseburg/Leuna and 1343 for total sorties that night.

21/22 – Page 2 of report missing its page number so one was added.

27/28 – Page 2 of report missing its page number so one was added.

1945

JANUARY

There were numerous raids by Mosquitos of 8 Group.

5/6 – The top rows of second aircraft chart are missing, Note made in report.

14/15 – A large sortie of 1215 aircraft sent against various targets with 587 sent to the synthetic oil plant at Leuna/Merseburg in two phases.

16/17 – A large force of 1238 aircraft sent against various targets with 371 sent to the synthetic oil plants at Magdeburg and 328 to Zeitz.

FEBRUARY

A number of raids were in support of allied ground forces. Many of the raids involved over 1000 aircraft. Also, numerous small raids by Mosquitoes of 8 Group, many against Berlin. Day raids were also frequent, usually small sorties but also ten large ones of between 100 to 607 sorties.

1/2 – A large sortie of 1274 aircraft sent against various targets with 396 sent to Ludwigshafen, 340 to Mainz and 271 to Siegen.

2/3 – A large sortie of 1242 aircraft sent against various targets with 497 sent to Wiesbaden, 325 to Wanne-Eickel and 261 to Karlsruhe.

5/6 – A large sortie of 1196 aircraft sent against various targets with 464 sent to Goch and 305 to Kleve.

8/9 – A large sortie of 1013 aircraft sent against various targets with 482 sent to Politz and 228 to Wanne-Eickel

13/14 - A very large sortie of 1407 aircraft sent against various targets with 805 sent to Dresden and 368 to the synthetic oil plant at Bohlen. Following note added to report - 311 American B-17s bombed Dresden next day. Damage to Dresden was extensive.

14/15 – Another very large sortie of 1316 aircraft sent against various targets with 717 sent to Chemitz and 232 to Rositz.

20/21 – Another very large sortie of 1277 aircraft sent against various targets with 528 sent to Dortmund.

21/22 – Another large sortie of 1083 aircraft sent against various targets with 373 sent to Duisburg and 349 to Worms.

MARCH

A number of raids were continued to support of allied ground forces in their liberation efforts. Many of the raids involved over 1000 aircraft. Day raids were also frequent, with 25 large ones of between 100 and 1108. Also, numerous raids by Mosquitoes of 8 Group, almost nightly against Berlin .

1/ 2 – Note made of day raid March 2 by 858 aircraft on Cologne

5/6 – A large sortie of 1170 aircraft sent against various targets with 720 sent to Chemnitz and 258 to the synthetic oil plant at Bohlen.

7/8 – A large sortie of 1269 aircraft sent against various targets with 526 sent to Dessau.

10/11 – Note made of day raid March 11 by 1079 aircraft on Essen

11/12 – Note made of day raid March 12 by 1108 aircraft on Dortmund.

20/21 – This raid report dated 11 May 1945 is the first report after VE day 8 May, 1945. Last shots were fired 11 May.

23/24 – Field Marshal Montgomery complemented Bomber Command for facilitating his army's entrance into Wesel.

APRIL

A number of raids were continued to support of allied ground forces in their liberation efforts. Numerous Raids by Mosquitoes especially on Berlin. Day raids were also frequent, with seven between 100 and 265 sorties and four were between 767 and 1172 sorties.

4/5 – A large sortie of 1185 aircraft sent against various targets including oil plants at these three locations 341 to Leuna, 327 to Harburg and 272 to Lutzkendorf . Pages 3 and 4 were missing their page numbers so they were added.

8/9 – A large sortie of 927 aircraft sent against various targets with 440 sent to the shipyards in Hamburg and 242 to Lutzkendorf oil refinery where 17 – 12,000 lb bombs were dropped. Amendment to report about number of aircraft missing placed at end of narrative.

9/10 – A large sortie of 917 aircraft sent against various targets with 599 sent to the shipyards in Keil.

13/14 – A large sortie of 859 aircraft sent against various targets with 482 sent to the shipyards in Keil again.

14 – Day raid by 969 aircraft on Heligoland. Note made in report.

APRIL (continued)

19 – Day raid by 36 Lancasters on coastal battery positions in Heligoland using Tallboy, 12,000 lb bombs. Note made in report.

20/21 – 76 Mosquitoes made six separate attacks on Berlin this night. It was the last raid on Berlin by Bomber Command. Note made in report.

22 – Day raid by 767 aircraft on Bremen. Note made in report.

24/25 – Raid included dropping medical supplies and leaflets at Prisoner of War camps.

25 – Day raid by 857 aircraft on Wangerooge and Berchtesgaden (Hitler's Eagle Nest Chalet). Note made in report.

26 – Bomber Command starts Operation Exodus to collect prisoners of war liberated from their camps. Note made in report.

28/29 – Page 1 missing from scans and obtained from other source.

29 – Bomber Command starts Operation Manna to deliver food to starving civilians in Holland. Note made in report.

MAY

2/3 - A sortie of 303 aircraft was sent out mainly to the ports in Keil. This was the last raid of the war by Bomber Command against Germany. Three aircraft were lost.

3/4 – Left side of page 1 of report missing data from Scan 0850 in Folder 3412. Scan 0850 had three items while Scan 0851 had two of the same items.

- The scan of Page 2 of an unrelated Day Raid report is assumed to be for 4 May and was added at the end of the report.