PART I - AIR OPERATIONS.

ER COMMAND.

10/11 APR - NIGHT OPERATIONS.

859 aircraft, including five U.S.Fortresses, were despatched on the following operations:-

132	on AULNOYE Railway Marshalling Yard		Lancasters
148	on LAON Railway Marshalling Yard		Lancasters
15	marking above targets		Mosquitos
157	on TERGNIER Railway Marshalling Yard		Halifaxes
122	on GHENT Railway Marshalling Yard		Halifaxes
10	marking above targets		Mosquitos
180	on TOURS Railway Marshalling Yard		Lancasters
18	on ST.CYR(Nr.VERSAILLES) - Signals Depot	17 1	Lancasters Mosquito
36	on HANNOVER		Mosquitos
2	on DUISBURG (HAMBORN)		Mosquitos
8	on Intruder Patrols		Mosquitos
8	on Sea-mining - LA PALLICE		Stirlings
22	on Propaganda Leaflets	17 5	Wellingtons U.S.Fortresses
1	on Weather Reconnaissance		Mosquito

757 attacked primary targets
1 attacked another target
17 made no attack
15 marked targets
10 were unsuccessful
6 completed Intruder Patrols
2 returned early
6 laid sea-mines
2 were unsuccessful
20 dropped propaganda leaflets
2 were unsuccessful
1 carried out weather reconnaissance
1 report outstanding
19 casualties - no reports

/RESULTS

B.C.(Contd)

1. RESULTS.

AULNOYE Railway Marshalling Yard.

122 Lancasters and eight Mosquitos attacked, dropping about 745 tons of H.E. and 20 x 250 lb marker bombs.

The attack was carried out in two phases, the first directed against the Northern and the second against the Southern area of the target. The Mosquitos were over the target between 0216 and 0254 hours, with the Main Force attacking between 0220 and 0246 hours.

The route across FRANCE was free from cloud, but in the target area there was some ground haze and patches of thin drifting cloud with tops about 6,000 feet. Bombing is reported to have been accurately concentrated on the marker bombs, which were dropped punctually and well maintained. Numerous bomb bursts were seen, but weather conditions made results difficult to assess.

There was little opposition from ground defences in the target area, but considerable light flak was encountered from coastal defences on the return route. Night fighters were active and a number of combats took place in the target area and along the homeward route.

Of the 132 Lancasters despatched on this target, seven are missing.

LAON Railway Marshalling Yard.

145 Lancasters and nine Mosquitos attacked, dropping about 756 tons of H.E. and 20 x 250 lb marker bombs.

The Mosquitos were over the target between 0333 and 0401 hours, with the Main Force attacking between 0335 and 0400 hours.

There was no cloud in the target area and visibility was good, enabling some crews to identify ground detail. The marker bombs appeared well placed and a good concentration of bombing was achieved. A large number of bomb bursts were seen straddling the markers, and a few fires were starting up as aircraft left the target.

Opposition from ground defences was negligible and fighter activity was slight, mainly on the outward route.

Of the 148 Lancasters despatched on this target, one is missing.

TERGNIER Railway Marshalling Yard.

144 Halifaxes and five Mosquitos attacked, dropping about 644 tons of H.E. and 17 x 250 lb marker bombs.

The attack was carried out in two phases, the first directed against the Northern and the second against the Southern area of the target. The Mosquitos were over the target between 2347 and 0014 hours, with the Main Force attacking between 2350 and 0010 hours.

/Weather

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D./AHB(RAF)/8/41
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Night of 25/26 March 1944.

In total 192 aircraft including 92 Halifaxes, 47 Lancasters, 37 Stirlings and 16 Mosquitoes took part in this raid. On this particular night no aircraft losses were sustained. For your interest I have enclosed an extract taken from Air Ministry War Records that summarises the attack at the Aulnoye Marshalling Yards.

Night of 10/11 April 1944.

132 Lancasters of No 1 Group and 15 Pathfinders Mosquitoes were despatched on the above date. In total 7 Lancaster aircraft were lost, which were as follows:

1. Lancaster ND.844 No 12 Sqn - 6 Killed, 1 Survived.
2. Lancaster DV.288 No 101 Sqn - 3 Killed, 4 Survived.
3. Lancaster JB.732 No 103 Sqn - 3 Killed, 4 Survived.
4. Lancaster ND.586 No 460 Sqn - 7 Killed.
5. Lancaster LL.830 No 576 Sqn - 7 Killed.
6. Lancaster ND.636 No 625 Sqn - 6 Killed, 1 Survived.
7. Lancaster LL.836 No 550 Sqn - 7 Killed.