

178. In addition, heavy attacks were launched on several special supply or storage sites which had been observed under construction.

179. The ski sites were normally well hidden, either in or at the edge of woods, well camouflaged and heavily defended by flak so that low flying attacks on them were costly. In photographs their presence was recognised not only by the shape and layout of the buildings, particularly the comprehensive water supply system, but also by the specially built roads and railways that led to them.

180. It was not appreciated before D-Day that in addition to these specially constructed ski sites, there were modified ski sites with all the facilities of the original sites except for the distinctive ski buildings and the water supply system. After D+7, the day on which the enemy first launched flying bombs against the

United Kingdom, photographic reconnaissance revealed the existence of 74 of these modified sites. They were camouflaged more completely than the original sites and made use of existing roads and buildings. Details of attacks on these modified ski sites or launching sites are included in my account of air operations in the post-assault phase.

181. The exact number of flying bombs which the known number of ski sites were capable of launching against the United Kingdom if they had not been attacked by aircraft can only be estimated, but it is thought that some 6,000 flying bombs per 24 hours is a reasonable estimate. The success of the air forces, therefore, in attacking and neutralising Germany's capacity to use this secret weapon may be judged in terms of the figures of actual flying bombs launched after D-Day. These figures are set out in the account of the post-assault phase.

182. *Summary of Attacks on Ski Sites prior to D-Day.*

<i>Force</i>						<i>Sorties</i>	<i>Bombs</i>
A.E.A.F.	...	...	...	...	...	22,280	13,515 tons
U.S. Eighth Air Force	...	...	...	...	...	4,589	7,968 tons
						26,869	21,483 tons

Summary of Attacks on Rocket Sites prior to D-Day

<i>Force</i>						<i>Sorties</i>	<i>Bombs</i>
A.E.A.F.	...	...	...	...	...	434	667 tons
U.S. Eighth Air Force	...	...	...	...	...	2,045	7,624 tons
						2,479	8,291 tons

Summary of Attacks on Supply Sites and Dumps prior to D-Day

<i>Force</i>						<i>Sorties</i>	<i>Bombs</i>
A.E.A.F.	...	...	...	...	...	852	1,148 tons and 126 x 60-lb. R.Ps.
U.S. Eighth Air Force	...	...	...	...	...	166	479 tons
						1,018	1,627 tons and 126 x 60-lb. R.Ps.

Statistical Summary of Preparatory Operations

183. The following statistics show the immense scale of the effort of the Allied air forces operating from the United Kingdom against both "Overlord" and "Pointblank" targets during the preparatory phase 1st April to 5th June, 1944. That the achievements referred

to in the foregoing paragraphs were not accomplished without considerable cost in skilled manpower is evident from the aircraft casualty figures included. Statistics covering personnel casualties in the preparatory period are included in the schedule at paragraph 408 in Part III (d).

Preparatory Operations
Period 1st April—5th June, 1944

<i>Force</i>				<i>Aircraft despatched</i>	<i>Tons of bombs dropped</i>	<i>Aircraft lost in combat</i>	<i>E/A destroyed in combat</i>
<i>A.E.A.F. :—</i>							
Ninth A.F.	...	...	...	53,784	30,657 6,981 87,238	197	189
2nd T.A.F.	...	...	...	28,587		133	66
A.D.G.B.	...	...	...	18,639		46	111
R.A.F. B.C.	...	...	...	24,621		557	77
<i>U.S. Eighth A.F. :—</i>							
VIIIth B.C.	...	...	...	37,804	69,857	763	724
VIIIth F.C.	...	...	...	31,820	647	291	1,488
				195,255	195,380	1,987	2,655
Total sorties as above				...	...	195,255	
R.A.F. Coastal Command				...	...	5,384	
						200,639	