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MISSION / 133

CONFIDENTIAL

LUDWIGSHAVEN

11 FEBRUARY 1944

CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY

TO: COMNAVJAG ONE AND COMNAVJAG PARTIAL: ATTN: A-1

FROM: COMNAVJAG 92.

NARRATIVE REPORT:

1. No nickels carried.
2. Bombing was accomplished by F.P.F. technique. The target is believed by most crews to have been Ludwigshaven. Through a break in the clouds which was 5/10 over target one crew reported seeing three high fires definitely in the built up area of the city. One crew whose bombs hung up bombed Saarbrücken as a last resort target and hits were observed on a large factory on the west side of town. This factory was observed to be on fire smoke and flame rising to hundreds of feet in the air. Strike photos of the mission show only clouds and do not show any results of the bombing.
3. About 15 E/A were seen in all. 8 ME-109's were seen at 1118 at 5033N 0637E, but did not attack. Ten minutes from I.P. going in, 4 JU-88's were sighted that dropped missiles resembling smoke bombs from 2000 feet above. These did not make other hostile effort. One of these planes is reported as camouflaged solid silver. At target, an ME-110 and JU-87 were reported but these did not attack. After the target several Fw-190's were reported. These are chiefly of interest on account of their markings. Two are reported to have had red cowlings, one was painted jet black with a yellow nose and still another was camouflaged with one half of the wing black and the other half silver. At the enemy coast a Fortress was seen to make a 180 degree turn which caused one crew to suspect its crew of being of German origin. Still another crew reported that an unidentified E/A remained with the formation until reaching enemy coast on the route out ostensibly for observation purposes.

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no claims.

4. At Bruges heavier inaccurate black gunfire was encountered. The type of fire control used is unknown. From 1215 hours to 1222 hours intense very accurate black and white bursts were encountered in the target area. The crews were unaware that continuously pointed fire was employed by the ground gunners. At Kaiserslautern, Saarbrücken, Metz, Horney, and Dieppe heavier inaccurate black gunfire was encountered. All gunfire from these positions was continuously pointed.

5. In the target area cloud conditions from 5/10 to 8/10 prevailed extending up to 10,000 feet with good visibility above the undercast. This condition prevented visual bombing and P.F.F. technique was used. See Para. number 7 for P.F.F. explanation.

6. None.

7. As this formation was in the vicinity of the I.P. the P.F.F. equipment became defective and remained in this condition until after the primary target area was passed. However, at this time the condition was cleared up and a built up area became visible. This area was identified as Ludwigshafen and bombing was accomplished by the P.F.F. aircraft. Friendly fighter support was excellent resulting in but few B/A being encountered and no direct attacks. One B-17 was seen circling at 3,000 feet near Dieppe with numbers 2 and 3 engines out. One chute was seen to come from this A/C. Another B-17 from "A" group was seen at 14,000 feet with number 3 engine smoking, over 5012N - 0043E at 1400 hours. Three chutes were seen to come from this A/C. All of our A/C are accounted for.

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