

MISSION # 136

LEIPZIG

20 FEBRUARY 1944

CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY

TO: COMBOMDIV ONE AND COMBOMWIG FORTY: ATTN A-2

FROM: COMBOMGR 92

NARRATIVE REPORT:

1. 92nd lead group 40th "A" CBW - no nickels carried.

92nd low group "A" 40th CBW - only 29 bundles were dropped over target area at 1347 hours from 19,300 feet. The bomb-bay doors opened over the target but one of the boxes hung up in the doors so that the doors could not be completely closed or the box knocked out. However, this box finally dislodged from 1 lane over Kingmere, England about 1/40, thought to have jarred loose from vibration of engines.

2. Lead group - bombing was accomplished visually by dropping on an A/C of the 402nd Group which led the 92nd Group formation. Strike photos indicate that several bombs struck the railway workshops pin pointed at 063015/3. The concentration of bursts struck in the area just South of the railway workshop. Scattered bursts are seen in areas at 069099/3, 073000/3 and in area bounded by 040000/3, 040020/3, 050020/3.

Low group - bombing was accomplished visually. No strike photos are available. Crews report target area well covered by bomb hits. Several crews reported heavy black and grey smoke rising over target area to several hundred feet, observed at distance of 1/2 mile. One crew reported black smoke rising above target area to 7,000 feet, observed from 3 to 5 miles.

3. Lead and low groups - about 30 E/A were seen in all, 25 of which were S/E and about equally divided between ME-109's and FW-190's. The others include 2 JU-88's, 3 .3-110's and a single ME-410. No attacks other than a rather faint hearted pass at six o'clock level by an ME-110 was reported, and even that may have been due to

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accident since he was reported being chased by a Thunderbolt. Areas in which E/A were seen, were from Minden on the route going in, to Brussels on the route coming home. Our pilots report that only stragglers and badly crippled A/C were attacked and at all times our own fighter support were reported to be in furious dogfights but mostly at distances so great that it was impossible to distinguish outcome. A fuller report on these dogfights will be rendered on the tactical report. One A/C reported air to air bombing from an FW-190. Still another A/C reported what might be a new type of German plane, and E/A that resembled a P-51 but did not seem to have an air scoop beneath the pilots cockpit. There were orange stripes painted on the wings about one foot wide, close to the fuselage. Two E/A of this sort are reported about 40 miles prior to the I.P. and were headed in the direction of another Combat Wing. It is reported that they were fired on by other formations.

4. Lead and low - ~~xxxxxx~~ meager inaccurate black gunfire was encountered at ~~Ijmuiden~~ Ijmuiden. A predicted concentration was used. At this position one large green burst was observed. At Zwolle meager inaccurate black continuously pointed bursts were encountered. Inaccurate black gunfire was encountered at Lingen. This gunfire was meager and continuously pointed. East of Lingen a few white bursts were observed high above the formation. At Hameln, Halberstadt, Wernigerode, Quedlinburg, Bernburg, Dessau, Wittenburg and Torgau meager, inaccurate,, black gunfire was encountered which was continuously pointed. At the target intense inaccurate black gunfire was encountered. Continuously pointed fire was the type of fire control used. At both Merburg and Dirmude continuously pointed inaccurate meager black gunfire was encountered. From the directions of Bonn and Koin a barrage was observed.

5. Lead and low - weather in the target area was 3/10ths cloud but visibility was 10 miles. Visual bombing was effected. The ~~x~~ weather from the enemy coast to 10 degrees east was from 4 to 6/10ths cloud and from 10 degrees east to target 2 to 4/10ths cloud was encountered. On the ~~xxxx~~ way out from 11 degrees east to enemy coast 0 to 10/10ths cloud from 5 to 8,000 feet in ~~xx~~ altitude was observed.

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6. Lead ~~xxxxxx~~ Group

One A/C reported a large oil slick at 1110 hours at 5223N-0241E. A number of circles were noticed on the water in the area of the slick.

Smoke screens were reported at all major cities in target area and on route.

One A/C reported 15 to 20 barrage balloons 10 miles W.S.W. of Wernigerode (5152N-1045E) at about 5 to 10,000 feet.

The smoke screen generators were started at Leipzig just as this group was approaching the city. Several more generators were started as the planes were leaving the target area.

Four or five large towers were reported by one A/C on top of mountains in the vicinity of ~~523~~ 5203N-1030E. One of these towers resembled the Eiffel tower.

LOW Group

Large fires were seen burning at Magdeburg.

A large army camp was reported by one crew at Torgau, Germany (5133N-1300E)

Two A/C reported a large A/D near Bernberg. Approximately 5220N-1130E.

Black balloons were moored at 1,000 feet above installations in mountains off Wernigerode (5150N-1045E)

7. Lead and LOW - The 92nd Group of the 40th "A" CBW bombed visually on 402nd Bomb Group lead A/C. Strike photos indicate hits in the railroad marshalling yard just 4500 yards SE of the primary target. The 92nd Low group of the 40th CBW "A" ~~xxxxxx~~ successfully bombed their primary target according to crew reports. No strike ~~x~~ photos are available.

Friendly fighter support was excellent resulting in no direct attacks by E/A upon either formation of this group. A B-17 from group following was seen to spin down from 20,000 Feet out of control over target at 1347 hours. Three chutes were seen to come from this A/C. Another B-17 from group behind was seen to dive straight down out of control ~~xxxxtargetxxxx~~ just after leaving target at 1352 hours. This A/C was followed down by an E/A. Nine chutes were seen to come from another

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B-17 which went down over target with #3 engine on fire. A/C 770 from this group was seen hit by flak and knocked out of formation at 1400 hours over 5110N-1120E. This A/C was still under control but was being attacked by E/A. Eight chutes were seen to come from another B-17 which was spinning down out of control over 5110N-1640E at 1406 hours. Another B-17 was seen to dive into clouds with E/A trailing at 1450 hours over 5025N-0720E. Four chutes were seen to come from another B-17 which was in tight spin from 7,000 feet over 5025N-0513E at 1515 hours. Three chutes were seen. B-17 from "G" group was seen to crash land in field 4 miles west of base at 1723 hours. One of our A/C is missing.

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