

CONFIDENTIAL

MISSION 129

CHATEAUBRIEN

5 FEBRUARY 1944

CONFIDENTIAL - PROPAGANDATO: COMNAVFORCEN AND COMB-7 (INFO) FROM: 71: 2-2
SUBJ: COMB-7 OR 72

1. No nickels carried - none available
2. Strike photos indicate bombs of this Group struck area North of the intersection of the runways, and also the two Eastern hangars of the group of four, which contained our A-1. Two large twin engine A/C identified as H-177's were observed parked immediately adjacent to the hangars, in the path of our bomb bursts. An explosion was observed at the target the smoke from which was seen for a distance of 15 miles. Heavy black smoke billowed up to 8000 feet.
3. Aerial opposition was nil.
4. Five miles Southeast of Vandres meager inaccurate black gunfire was encountered which was continuously pointed. At Chateaubrien moderate black and white inaccurate bursts were encountered which was also continuously pointed. In the Chartres area meager inaccurate black bursts were continuously pointed were encountered. At Breux meager black inaccurate gunfire was encountered. Again continuously pointed fire was used. At Rouen meager accurate black continuously pointed gunfire was encountered. Among the black bursts two green bursts were observed which slowly faded to a mustard yellow color. These bursts differed from the other bursts solely in color. One lone black burst was encountered 10 miles North of Rouen. This burst was within 300 yards of formation and low. Enroute a moderate black barrage was observed in the distance from the Paris area.
5. Near the enemy coast on the way to the target clouds prevailed to the extent of preventing much observation. However nearing target area clouds were dispersed 3/10 and visibility was almost unlimited. Smoke from the bombing was seen from 7 minutes after leaving target and to distance of 50-60 miles. Smoke also

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came up to an estimated 7000 feet. Winds or clouds did not affect bombing results. According to statements by combat crews.

6. One A/C reported an enemy installation at 4836N-0136E shaped like a triangle and constructed in open fields. At one point of triangle a 20 foot square hole 20 feet deep and orange in color was seen. Other two points of triangle, approximately the same size, were filled up. Two A/C reported fires at 4734N-0048E with smoke rising to 200 feet. One A/C reported approximately 20 large barges in Seine River at 4916N-0115E. One A/C reported construction like pill boxes at 4920N-0120E. One A/C reported A/D at 4853N-0113E with one "T" shaped runway having a built up area at the end of the long runway. At 4902N-0112E an A/D was seen with a dummy A/D to the North. Several A/C reported A/D at Averaux with dummy A/D a few miles NE of it. Bomb craters were seen over A/D and numerous huts were grouped around hard stands. One A/C reported a smoke screen at Montrichard. One A/C reported that the dummy A/D near secondary target was very clearly seen and smoke generators were in operation at this dummy field. One A/C reported large fires in the Blois area. One A/C reported 7 Or 8 very large barges drawn up along an Island in the Seine River at Rouen. With these barges were seen eight craft which appeared to be submarines drawn up in two groups of four abreast. One gunner reported two large smoke formations slightly above the reported aircraft, one over the target area and one over Rouen. These formations were radiating outward like ripples on water.

7. This mission was successful from every angles, visibility perfect, MPI hit, excellent fighter support, no enemy aircraft encounters, and meager to moderate A/A fire.

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