

# SECRET

HEADQUARTERS  
NINETY SECOND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF  
Office of the Operations Officer

E-A-2

APO #557  
10 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations, 177th  
Mission, Karlsruhe M/Y & Speicher, Germany, 9 August 1944.

TO : Commanding Officer, 92nd Bombardment Group(H), APO 557.

## 1. Comment on Planning and Execution.

a. The bomb loading for this operation was received from Headquarters 40th Combat Wing by Capt. Smyrl at 0015 hours, 9 August 1944. The order called for thirty-five (35) B-17's plus one (1) PFF A/C to be loaded as follows: Twelve (12) A/C in the High Group with 10 X M-17 IB, fusing 8000'; twenty-four (24) A/C in the Lead Group and Low Group with 10 X 500 GP's, 1/10 second nose fuse and 1/100 second tail fuse.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters 1st Bomb Division by Capt. Smyrl at 0114 hours 9 August 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0315 hours and take-off time 0600 hours.

## 2. General Narrative.

a. Take-off was accomplished by thirty-six (36) aircraft of the 92nd Bomb Group beginning at 0625 hours for assembly on the Honeybourne Buncher at 14000 feet as the High, Lead and Low Groups of the 40th "C" Combat Wing. After assembly the Combat Wing flew the briefed course over England, departing the coast at Felixstowe at 0833½ hours. The enemy coast was entered at Westhoofd at 0905 hours. By 0955 hours the Combat Wing encountered very poor weather conditions including high cloud and persistent contrails. At 1015 hours an abandon operations message was heard, but not confirmed. A few minutes later at 1026 hours the Combat Wing Leader led his formation in a wide 360 degree turn in an attempt to get around the weather. After this failed the formation turned back. During these maneuvers in poor visibility, the High Group was lost from the Lead Group. On the return route, the Lead Group bombed the Last Resort Target, the marshalling yards at Karlsruhe with thirteen (13) ships. Bombing was visual at 1057 hours from 25,130 feet on a magnetic heading of 314 degrees with very good results.

b. The Low Group bombed the town of Speicher visually at 1040 hours from 20,400 feet, on a magnetic heading of 335 degrees.

c. The High Group failed to attack a target.

d. The formation returned along the briefed route, departing the enemy coast at 1221 hours and entering the English coast at 1241 hours. The first ship landed at 1248 hours.

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a. Heavy accurate flak was encountered over the last resort target of Karlsruhe.  
b. Enemy fighter opposition was nil.  
c. Friendly fighter support was excellent.  
d. Very bad weather was experienced along the route in and out.

### 3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

a. A/C 42-97660 lost an engine during assembly and returned to base at 0805 hours.  
b. A/C 42-107071 lost an engine before departing the English coast and returned at 0952 hours.  
c. A/C 42-97227 lost its oxygen supply and returned to base at 0951 hours.  
d. A/C 42-31935 lost #3 engine and returned to base at 1200 hours. This aircraft was damaged due to enemy action and received sortie credit. This aircraft bombed a target of opportunity.

4. Aircraft Lost.  
A/C 42-107090 was lost after target, cause unknown.

5. Statistical Summary.  
See attached.

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## STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

DIVISION FIELD ORDER NO. 466

GROUP 92nd

DATE 9/8/44

LINE NO.		LEAD FORMATION "C"		LOW FORMATION "C"		HIGH FORMATION "C"		FORMATION	
		REGULAR	PFF	REGULAR	PFF	REGULAR	PFF	REGULAR	PFF
1	No. of Aircraft Failing to Take Off	0	0	0		0			
2	No. of Aircraft Airborne	11	1	12		12			
3	No. of Aircraft Airborne Less Unused Spares	11	1	12		12			
4	No. of Aircraft Sorties	10	0	12		11			
5	No. of Aircraft Attacking	10	0	12		0			
	Name of Primary Target								
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking Primary Target								
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb								
7	Name of Secondary Target								
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking Secondary Target								
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb								
8	Name of Target of Opportunity (T.O.)	Karlsruhe RR yards		4928N-0710E					
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking T.O.	13	0	1					
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb	130 X 500 GP 1 skymarker		10 X 500 Gp					
9	Name of Target of Opportunity (T.O.)	(3 a/c from low group bombed with lead group)		Speicher					
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking (T.O.)			8					
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb			80 X 500 GP 1 skymarker					
10	No. of Aircraft Not Attacking								
11	No. of Aircraft Lost								