

HEADQUARTERS  
NINETY SECOND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF (E-C-8)  
Office of the Operations Officer

APO #557  
14 May 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations of Mission  
13 May 1944, Stettin, Germany.

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

1. Comment on Planning and Execution.

The bomb loading for this operation was received from Headquarters, 40th Combat Wing by Capt. Prasse at 2120 hours, May 12, 1944. The order called for sixteen (16) B-17's plus three (3) spares to be loaded with 10 X 500 lb. GP bombs each with 1/10 sec. nose fuse and 1/100 sec. tail fuse, and twelve (12) B-17's plus three (3) spares to be loaded with max. load of M47al IB bombs.

The Field Order was received from Headquarters, 1st Bomb Division by Capt. Prasse at 2342 hours, 12 May 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0600 hours and take-off time 0920 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Lead Group 40th Combat Wing "B".

(1). Take-off was accomplished by sixteen (16) B-17's, two (2) PFF aircraft and three (3) spares, beginning at 0930 hours. The assembly for these aircraft was made over the Podington buncher at 3000 feet. The 92nd Bombardment Group departed base at 1011 hours for immediate rendezvous with the Low and High Group of the 40th Combat Wing "B". The 384th Group was low and the 381st Group was high.

(2). The route followed over England was as planned except for altitude. Due to persistent clouds at the briefed altitude, the 92nd Group was forced to climb above them. During the climb one (1) aircraft #42-10790 became separated from the Group and a spare aircraft, #42-31995, filled in. The English Coast was departed at 1110 hours at 8,400 feet instead of the briefed altitude of 6,000 feet.

(3). The 92nd Bomb Group followed the briefed route and entered the enemy coast at 1309 hours at 15,000 feet. On route to the Primary IP, the cloud cover was observed to be 8/10, and therefore it was impossible to bomb the primary target visually. Following the combat wing ahead, the 92nd Group led the 40th Combat Wing "B" to the PFF target of Stettin. A PFF bomb run of 217 degrees was made on Stettin, but the last 25 seconds of the bomb run was visual. Bombs were dropped visually in Combat Wing formation at 1519 hours from 23000 feet through 8/10 cloud layer.

(4). A descent was begun at 1547.2 hours, and the enemy coast was departed at 1645 hours at 12,000 feet. The English Coast was crossed over Cromer at 2,500 feet. Base was reached by the lead aircraft at 1923 hours.

a. High Composite Group, 40th Combat Wing "A".

(1). Take-off was accomplished by twelve (12) B-17's and three (3) spares beginning at 0918 hours. The assembly for these aircraft was over Mount Farms Buncher at 4000 feet, and the Group departed the buncher at 1003 hours for immediate rendezvous as High Composite Group of the 40th Combat Wing "A". The High Squadron of the Group was composed of six (6) aircraft from the 306th Group. The 92nd Group followed the Lead Group along the proposed route over England. When low clouds were encountered at the flight level, the Group climbed above the cloud top. During the climb two (2) aircraft and the three (3) spares lost the formation. However, one (1) aircraft, #42-107090, from the 92nd Group flying with the 40th Combat Wing "B" joined the formation on top of the clouds.

(2). The English Coast was crossed at 1101½ hours at 7700 feet. Following the lead group, the 92nd Group crossed the enemy coast at 1307½ hours at 13,200 feet. The 40th Combat Wing "A" was prevented from attacking the target because of 8/10 cloud cover, but the PFF target, Stettin, was attacked in combat wing formation. The lead aircraft of the 92nd Group dropped its bombs at 1517 hours on the Combat Wing "A" leader at 24,500 feet on a magnetic heading of 285 degrees.

(3). A descent was begun, and the enemy coast was departed at 1645 hours at 13,900 feet. The English Coast was reached at 1858½ hours at 2500 feet. Base was reached by the lead aircraft at 1933 hours.

3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

a. Lead Group, 40th Combat Wing "B".

(1). Of the sixteen (16) B-17's, two (2) PFF aircraft, and the three (3) spares that took off from the 92nd Bomb Group to fly as Lead Group of the 40th Combat Wing "B", seventeen (17) B-17's and two (2) PFF aircraft attacked the PFF target, Stettin.

(2). Of the seventeen (17) B-17's that did ~~not~~ attack, one (1) aircraft, #42-107090 attacked with the 92nd Bomb Group, High Composite Group in the 40th Combat Wing "A", and one (1) spare aircraft, #42-31995, filled in the formation.

(3). Of the three (3) spares that took off, two (2) aircraft, #42-37887 and #42-97245 returned early as unused spares.

b. High Composite Group, 40th Combat Wing "A".

(1). Of the twelve (12) B-17's and three spares that took off from the 92nd Bomb Group to fly as High Composite Group of the 40th Combat Wing "A", nine (9) aircraft attacked the PFF target, Stettin.

(2). One (1) aircraft, #42-107090 from the 92nd Bomb Group Lead Group 40th Combat Wing "B", attacked with this Group.

(3). Aircraft #42-31326 and #42-31765 returned early before becoming dispatched.

(4). Aircraft #42-107071 aborted after becoming dispatched.

(5). The three (3) spare aircraft, #42-31408, 42-37976 and 42-31687 returned early as unused spares.

4. Aircraft Lost

None.

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5. Statistical Summary (includes two PFF aircraft).

	<u>Lead Group</u>	<u>High Gp.</u>	<u>Total</u>
a. Number of A/C taking off.....	21 .....	15 .....	36
b. Unused spares.....	2 .....	3 .....	5
c. A/C taking off less unused spares....	19 .....	12 .....	31
d. Number of A/C dispatched.....	19 .....	10 .....	29
e. Number of sorties.....	19 .....	9 .....	28
f. Number of A/C attacking.....	19 .....	9 .....	28
g. Number of A/C not attacking.....	0 .....	3 .....	3

Number of A/C Lost.  
None.