

MEMORANDUM
LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN H. HAMILTON (H) AAF
Office of the Operations Officer

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APC #387
14 Sept 1944

Subject: Report on Planning and Execution of Operational Mission
#134, 12 September 1944, Herseburg, Germany.

TO : Commanding Officer, 22nd Bombardment Group(H)AAF, APC 567.

1. Comment on Planning and Execution.

a. The bomb loading for this operation was received from Headquarters 40th Combat Wing by Capt. Hamilton at 1030 hours, 12 September 1944. The order called for twenty-two (22) B-24's and two (2) PFF a/c to be loaded with 8 X 1000 GF bombs, each with 1/10 sec. nose fuse and 1/40 sec. tail fuse.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters 1st Bomb Division by Capt. Hamilton at 2030 hours, 12 September 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0745 hours and take-off time 0740 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Twenty-four (24) aircraft including two (2) PFF a/c of the 22nd Group began take-off at 0645 hours for assembly on the morning-bourne runner at 2000 and 2000 feet, as Lead and Low groups of the 40th "A" Combat Wing. The 30th Bomb Group furnished the High Group. This Combat Wing was the fifth of the 1st Air Division.

b. The lead group departed the assembly banner at 0733 hours, the low and high groups rendezvoused in position along the first assembly leg. The prescribed route over England was followed to the coast which was departed at 0830 hours. After departing the English coast the 40th "A" Combat Wing flew the briefed route to the IP.

c. At 50 NM-11 the interval between the wing, ahead had not been properly established so 40th "A" made a 90 degree turn to the right, made good the briefed IP and the lead group bombed the primary target from 2000 feet at 1135 hours on a 005 degree heading.

d. At the IP the low group assumed its bombing interval and proceeded along the bomb run. Just before reaching the target the lead aircraft altered course to the right for reasons unknown and continued in a wide sweep (180 degree turn) around Leipzig with bomb doors closed. Both the lead and the deputy lead aircraft were hit by flak and the lead plane exploded. The Deputy Lead attempted to reform the six (6) remaining aircraft as the heavy damage received on run over primary and proceeded to the visual secondary target, unaware that he was the only aircraft still carrying a bomb load. Upon approaching the secondary, the remnants of the Low Group were "bounced" by enemy fighters and the deputy lead salvaged bombs, hav-

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ing, in the meantime, learned that other aircraft were without fuel. From this point the Low Group proceeded to 51 45' N- 01 33' E and then back along the briefed route. The Deputy Lead aircraft crashlanded on the British coast.

a. The Lead Group after forming, turned sharply to the left and attempted to rally with the Low Group which was in trouble. The Lead and High Groups returned to base along the briefed route.

3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

a. #43-87808 turned around at 51 45' N- 01 30' E because of broken oil line in #1 engine. Bombs were jettisoned in the sea.

b. #42-86183 turned around at 52 00' N- 01 45' E because of detonation in #2 engine and loss of power. Bombs were jettisoned in the sea.

4. Aircraft Lost.

a. #43-86806 was seen to explode in the primary Target area.

b. #43-87843, 43-81880, 43-81886, 43-1408 are missing from causes unknown. No further information available.

GROUP 92

STATISTIC REPORT OF OPERATIONS
DIVISION FIELD ORDER NUMBER 495

MISSION DATE 13/9/44

1	2.	FORMATION		FORMATION		FORMATION		FORMATION	
		LEAD "A"	BORROWED PFF A/C	LOW "A"	BORROWED PFF A/C		BORROWED PFF A/C		BORROWED PFF A/C
	Number of Aircraft Failing to Take Off	0	0	0					
	Number of Aircraft Airborne	10	2	12					
	Number of Aircraft Airborne Less Unusable Spares	10	2	12					
	Number of Aircraft Sorties	8	2	12					
	Number of Aircraft Attacking	8	2	12					
	Number of Aircraft Not Attacking	2	0	0					
	Name of Primary Target	Merseburg		Merseburg area					
	(A) No. of Aircraft attacking Primary target	7	2	2					
	(B) No. size and type of bombs	45 X 1000 GP 2 smoke bombs		10 X 1000 GP 1 smoke bomb					
	Name of Secondary Target			Altenburg area					
	(A) No. of Aircraft attacking Secondary target			7					
	(B) No. size and type of bombs			35 X 1000 GP					
	Name of Last Target of Opportunity			Leipzig area					
	(A) No. of Aircraft attacking LTO			1					
	(B) No. size and type of bombs			5 X 1000 GP					
	Name of Target of Opportunity (I.O.)	Prozneck		Ligh area					
	(A) No. of Aircraft attacking I.O.	1		1					
	(B) No., size and type of bombs	5 X 1000 GP		5 X 1000 GP					
	Name of Target of Opportunity (I.O.)			GIessen					
	(A) No. of Aircraft attacking I.O.			1					
	(B) No., size and type of bombs			5 X 1000 GP					