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HEADQUARTERS  
NINETY SECOND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

E-A-2

Office of the Operations Officer

APO #557, 15 August, 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations, 180th Mission, 14 August 1944, Kaiserslautern & Trier, Germany.

TO : Commanding Officer, 92nd Bombardment Group (H) AAF, 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 2130 hours 13 August 1944. The order called for twenty-six (26) B-17's to be loaded with 10 X 500 GP bombs each with 1/10 second nose fuse and 1/100 second tail fuse, and thirteen (13) B-17's to be loaded with 10 m-17 I.B.s.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters 1st Bomb Division by Capt. Smyrl at 0017 hours 14 August 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0445 hours and take-off time 0740 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Thirty-nine (39) aircraft including one (1) PFF aircraft of the 92nd Bomb Group, took off at 0740 hours and assembled on the Honeybourne Buncher at 12,000 feet. These aircraft formed the High, Lead, and Low Groups of the 40th "B" Combat Wing. Each Group had one (1) spare aircraft. The Combat Wing was seventh in the First Air Division.

b. The Wing departed the buncher one (1) minute late. The course over England was slightly north of the briefed route in order to make good the briefed time schedule. The route was flown as ordered to the primary target which was obscured by 10/10ths cloud cover. The Combat Wing was 10 minutes late at the target due to an unexpected wind shift. The weather scouting force had previously reported that the target area was rapidly closing. The Combat Wing then turned to the Secondary Target which was also obscured by complete cloud cover. An IP was then established for the Last Resort Target of Kaiserslautern at 1222 hours. The Lead Group bombed the target at 1228½ hours from 25,226 feet (true altitude) while on a true heading of 256 degrees through 9/10ths clouds. The Low Group was unable to see the target from that general heading and a second run was made on a course of 198 degrees true, bombing from 24,226 feet (true altitude) at 1242 hours. The High Group found it impossible to see the target and a decision was made to bomb a target of opportunity. The High Group bombed the city of Trier from 26,824 feet (true alt.) at 1248 hours while on a true heading of 275 degrees.

c. After the last resort target was bombed the Low Group, having made a second run, returned with another Combat Wing. The Lead and High Group returned along the briefed route, reaching base at 1507 hours.

3. A/C Not Attacking.

a. A/C #43-102424 lost #4 engine and returned early. This A/C did not receive sortie credit.

b. A/C #42-31765 had malfunction of gasoline transfer valves and returned early. This A/C received sortie credit.

4. Lost A/C - (None)

5. Statistical Summary.

a. See attached diagrams.

JAMES K. MC LAUGHLIN,  
Major, Air Corps  
OPERATIONS OFFICER

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS  
DIVISION FIELD ORDER NO. 471

DATE 11/8/44

LINE NO.	GROUP	LEAD FORMATION "B"		HIGH FORMATION "B"		LOW FORMATION "B"		FORMATION	
		REGULAR	PF	REGULAR	PF	REGULAR	PF	REGULAR	PF
1	92nd								
	No. of Aircraft Failing to Take Off	0	0	0		0			
2	No. of Aircraft Airborne	13		13		13			
3	No. of Aircraft Airborne Less Unused Spares	12		12		12			
4	No. of Aircraft Sorties	12		12		12			
5	No. of Aircraft Attacking	12		11		12			
	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.)		Kaiserlauten				Kaiserlauten		
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking T.O.		12				12		
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb		119 X 500 GP, 1 skymarker				120 X 500 GP 1skymarker		
9	Name of Target of Opportunity (T.O.)				Trier				
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking (T.O.)				10				
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb				100 X 500 IB (M-17) 1 skymarker				
10	No. of Aircraft Not Attacking								
11	No. of Aircraft Lost								

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