

HEADQUARTERS
NINETY SECOND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF E-A-2
Office of the Operations Officer

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APC #557
18 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations, 161st
Mission, 17 July 1944, Ainzy LaChateau & Jussy R.R.
Bridges, France.

TC : Commanding Officer, 92nd Bombardment Group(H)AAF, APC 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, 16 July 1944. The order called for thirty-nine (39) B-17's to be loaded with 6 X 1000 lb. GP bombs each with 1/10 sec. nose fuse and 1/100 sec. tail fuse.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters 1st Bomb Division by Capt. Smyrl at 2221 hours, 16 July 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0330 hours and takeoff time 0610 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Lead, Low and High Groups (40th "C" CBW)

(1) Take-off was accomplished by thirty-three (33) aircraft (no spares or PFF) from the 92nd Group beginning at 0707 hours. These aircraft assembled over the Mt. Farm Buncher at 18000 feet to form the Lead, Low and High Groups of the 40th "C" Combat Wing. The Lead Group departed the Buncher at 0851 hours and the rendezvous of Low and High Groups was completed at Splasher #7. The English coast was departed by the Lead group at 0924 hours and the enemy coast was entered at 0955 hours. The IP was reached at 1032 hours and the three groups assumed an interval for individual bombing.

(2) The Lead Group made a visual run and bombs were released on the primary target at 1039½ hours from 24,900 feet on a magnetic heading of 279 degrees.

(3) A visual run was made by the low group, releasing the bombs at 1040 hours on the primary target from 23,750 feet on a magnetic heading of 284 degrees. One (1) aircraft of the low group, #42-37546 attacked a target of opportunity, marshalling yards at Montdidier, because the bombs failed to release on the primary.

(4) The bombs of the high group were released in a visual run over the primary at 1041 hours from 25,800 feet on a magnetic heading of 290 degrees.

(5) After bombs away the Lead, Low and High groups rallied and returned to the enemy coast, departing it at 1112 hours. The English coast was entered at 1132 hours and the formation arrived over the base at 1214 hours, the lead ship landing at 1223 hours.

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b. Low Group (40th "D" CBW)

(1) Take-off was accomplished by six (6) aircraft of the 92nd Bomb Group beginning at 0734 hours. These aircraft assembled over Podington at 15000 feet to form the Lead and High squadrons of the Composite Low Group of 40th-41st "D" Combat Wing. Six (6) aircraft of the 305th Group joined the low group over the buncher to form the low squadron.

(2) The low group departed Podington at 0847 hours and rendezvoused with the lead group along the first assembly leg.

(3) The low group followed the route over England taken by the lead group of the 40th-41st "D" Combat Wing, and departed the coast at 0922 hours. The enemy coast was entered at 0952 hours and the IP reached at 1032 hours.

(4) Bombs were released by the low group on a visual run over the primary target at 1039 hours from 24000 feet on a magnetic heading of 267 degrees. After bombs away the low group rallied with the lead and high groups and returned to the enemy coast which was departed at 1112 hours. The English coast was entered at 1131 hours and the base was reached at 1212 hours. The lead ship landed at 1218 hours.

3. Aircraft Not Attacking.
All a/c attacked.
4. Aircraft Lost.
None.
5. Statistical Summary.
See attached diagram.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
DIVISION FIELD ORDER NO. 439

DATE 17/7/44

GROUP		Lead FORMATION Low				High FORMATION Low 40th D FORMATION				FORMATION	
LINE NO.		REGULAR	40th C	RRR		REGULAR	40th C	RRR		REGULAR	PFF
1	No. of Aircraft Failing to Take Off	0	0	0		0	0	0			
2	No. of Aircraft Airborne	11	11	11		6	6	6			
3	No. of Aircraft Airborne Less Unused Spares	11	11	11		6	6	6			
	No. of Aircraft Sorties	11	11	11		6	6	6			
5	No. of Aircraft Attacking	11	11	11		6	6	6			
6	Name of Primary Target	Railroad Bridge, Ainzy Le Chateau				RR Bridge Jussy					
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking Primary Target	11	10	11		6	6	6			
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb	66 X 1000	56 X 1000	63 X 1000		34 X 1000	34 X 1000	34 X 1000			
		1 skymarker	1 skymarker	1 skymarker		1 skymarker	1 skymarker	1 skymarker			
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.)	RR Bridge, Mendidier									
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking T.O.		1	0							
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb		6 X 1000								
9	Name of Target of Opportunity (T.O.)										
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking (T.O.)										
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb										
10	No. of Aircraft Not Attacking	0	0	0		0	0	0			
11	No. of Aircraft Lost	0	0	0		0	0	0			