

4-A-2

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Executive or Operations of Mission to March 1944, Lechfeld.

1. Comment on Planning and Execution.

- b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters 1st Bomb Division by Lt. Col. Keck at 2300 hours 17 March 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0545 hours and take-off time 0940 hours.

- a. The route over English was flown as briefed and the wing departed the English Coast at Beachy Head at 1137 hours. The enemy coast was crossed at a point 50 00' N - 01 16' E at 16,000 feet. The route over enemy territory was followed as planned and the wing reached the initial point at 1402 hours flying at 23,000 feet. At this time the High 92nd Group made a 360 degree turn to the right in order to space themselves properly behind the low group for the bomb run. The primary target was bombed at 1415 hours on a magnetic heading of 76 degrees from 24,000 feet. After bombs away the wing rallied and turned right to their prescribed route back. The route back was flown as briefed and the wing departed the enemy coast at 1656 hours at a point 50 00' N - 01 15' E. The English Coast was entered two (2) miles north of Eastbourne at 1719 hours. The group reached the base at 1755 hours and the lead ship landed at 1801 hours.

- General Narrative, (92nd - 306th Composite Group)

- b. Assembly was completed by 1047 hours at which time the Composite Group departed Poddington for Combat Wing rendezvous.

- c. Reference is made to the General Narrative of the 306th Bomb Group for information and details of this Group.

d. Attached diagram "A" and "B" show the main 92nd formation at assembly and over the target respectively. Diagrams "C" and "D" show the High 92nd Squadron of the Low Composite Group at assembly and over the target respectively.

3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

a. Of the twenty-eight (28) A/C taking off, twenty-one (21) attacked the target.

b. Seven (7) A/C did not attack.

(1) Five (5) A/C, numbers 42-3513, 42-31745, 42-30638, 42-31635, and 42-30849 returned to this station before becoming ~~xxxx~~ dispatched.

(2) Two (2) A/C numbers 42-39851 and 42-37934 turned back after becoming dispatched, but did not receive sortie credit.

4. Aircraft Lost.

a. A/C 42-37515 was hit by flak over the target and lost one engine. A few minutes later this A/C lost another engine, and the pilot decided to fly to neutral country. He was last headed toward Switzerland with an escort of four (4) P-50's.

5. Statistical Summary.

	<u>High Op</u>	<u>Comp Gr</u>	<u>Total</u>
a. Number of A/C Taking Off.....	21	7	28
b. Unused Spares.....	0	0	0
c. A/C taking off less unused spares....	21	7	28
d. Number of A/C dispatched.....	17	6	23
e. Number of sorties.....	15	6	21
f. Number of A/C Attacking.....	15	6	21
g. Number of A/C Not Attacking.....	6	1	7
Number of A/C Lost.			
a. To Flak.....	1	0	1
b. To Flak and E/A.....	0	0	0
c. To E/A.....	0	0	0
d. To Accident.....	0	0	0
e. Unknown.....	0	0	0
Total.....	1	0	1