

HEADQUARTERS
NINETY SECOND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
Office of the Operations Officer

E-A-2

SECRET

APC #557
21 July 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations, 184th
Mission, 20 July 1944, Kothen, Germany.

TO : 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. Prasse at 2130 hours, 19 July 1944. The order called for thirty-nine B-17's which includes three (3) spares and two (2) PFF a/c to be loaded with 10 X 500 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. Prasse at 2250 hours, 19 July 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0330 hours and take-off time 0635 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Take-off for the thirty-four (34) B-17's two (2) PFF and three (3) spares began at 0635 hours. These aircraft assembled on Beacon #8 at 14000, 13000 and 15000 feet flying as lead, low and high groups of the 40th "A" Combat Wing.

b. Combat wing formation was completed at 0747 hours along the assembly legs and the wing followed the planned route to the coast. The English coast was departed at Felixstowe at 0828 hours. The 40th "A" Combat Wing, leading the 1st Bomb Division, entered the enemy coast at 51 44'N-03 56'E at 0900 hours. The wing reached the IP of the visual primary target at 1116 hours.

c. The lead group of the 40th "A" Combat Wing made two (2) runs on the primary target and bombed visually 1129½ hours from 25000 feet on a magnetic heading of 147 degrees. After bombs away the lead group followed the planned route home without rallying, for the high and low groups were not within visual contact. The enemy coast was departed at 1333 hours and the English coast entered at 1409 hours. The lead aircraft reached base at 1439 hours and landed at 1445 hours.

d. The low group made three (3) runs on the primary target and bombed visually at 1145 hours from 24000 feet on a magnetic heading of 340 degrees. This group followed the planned route home with a different combat wing. The enemy coast was departed at 1355 hours and the English coast was entered at 1426 hours. The lead aircraft reached the base at 1458 hours and landed at 1522 hours.

e. The high group of the 40th "A" Combat Wing bombed the primary visually on the first run at 1125 hours from 26,100 feet on a magnetic heading of 313 degrees. After the target this group did a 360 degree turn waiting for the lead and low groups. When visual contact was lost, the high group followed the planned route home.

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The enemy coast was departed at 1337 hours and the English coast entered at 1410 hours. The lead aircraft reached base at 1443 hours and landed at 1507 hours.

3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

a. Ten (10) aircraft plus two (2) PFF aircraft of the lead group attacked the target. #42-31250 returned as unused spare with an engine failure.

b. The low group attacked the primary target with ten (10) aircraft. #42-102921 aborted near the IP but attacked a target of opportunity (Littweida). Two (2) aircraft aborted, #42-102495 and 42-39110. A spare filled in for one abortive.

c. Twelve (12) aircraft in the high group attacked the primary target. The spare returned as unused.

4. Aircraft Lost.

a. One (1) aircraft, #42-31984 from the high group was last seen after the target. It is believed this a/c was damaged by flak.

5. Statistical Summary.

a. See attached diagram.

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
DIVISION FIELD ORDER NO. 442

DATE 20/7/44

GROUP		LEAD FORMATION LOW			HIGH FORMATION 40th A		FORMATION		FORMATION	
LINE NO.		REGULAR	PFF	40th A	REGULAR	PFF	REGULAR	PFF	REGULAR	PFF
1	No. of Aircraft Failing to Take Off	0	0	0	0	0				
2	No. of Aircraft Airborne	11	2	13	13					
3	No. of Aircraft Airborne Less Unused Spares	10	2	13	12					
	No. of Aircraft Sorties	10	2	11	12					
5	No. of Aircraft Attacking	10	2	11	12					
6	Name of Primary Target	KOTHEN								
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking Primary Target	10	2	10	12					
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb	120 X 500	100 X 500	120 X 500						
		2 skymarkers	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.)			Mittweida, Germany						
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking T.O.			1						
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb			10 X 500						
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	2	0					
11	No. of Aircraft Lost	0	0	0	1					