

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

D-1-2

AFO #557

23 March 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations of Mission 23 March 1944, Herbern (eight (8) miles N.W. of Hamm.)

TO : Commanding Officer, 92nd Bombardment Group (H) AAF, AFO #557.

1. Comment on Planning and Execution.

a. The bomb loading for this operation was received from Headquarters 40th Combat Wing by Capt. Frasse at 2125 hours 22 March 1944. The order called for seven (7) B-17's to be loaded with 12 x 500 GP bombs each with 1/10 second nose and 1/100 second tail fuse, and twenty-one (21) B-17's to be loaded with maximum M47-M1 IB's.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters 1st Bomb Wing by Captain Frasse at 0112 hours 23 March 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0400 hours and take-off time 0650 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. 92nd Bomb Group (High Group 40th Combat Wing)

(1) Take-off was accomplished by twenty-one (21) B-17's from the 92nd Bomb Group beginning at 0650 hours. The assembly for this group was over Fordington on the 40th Combat Wing buncher at 14,000 feet. See Diagram "A". The 92nd Bomb Group departed Fordington at 0812 hours and rendezvoused as high group with the 40th Combat Wing.

(2) The 92nd Bomb Group followed the route over England in Combat Wing formation according to the flight plan. The English Coast was departed at 0845 hours, 17,000 feet and the enemy coast was entered at 0902 hours, 21,000 feet.

(3) The Primary Target I.P. was reached twenty-nine (29) minutes early due to wind changes. The Primary Target was found to be obscured by 10/10 cloud cover and the group continued on toward the Secondary Target. Shortly after the I.P. severe enemy fighters attacks were encountered and four aircraft from the low squadron were shot down before or after the target. The 92nd Bomb Group bombed on the smoke trails of previous groups. Bombs were dropped at 1117 hours, 21,000 feet on a magnetic heading of 305 degrees (Diagram "B").

(4) The enemy coast was crossed at 1211 hours and a descent was made. The English coast was crossed at 1242 hours and the lead aircraft reached the base at 1317 hours.

b. 92nd Bomb Group Low Squadron. (Low Sqdn. Low Comp. Grp. 40th CW)

(1) Seven (7) aircraft from the 92nd Bomb Group took-off beginning at 0609 hours to assemble on the 40th Combat Wing buncher at 10,000 feet as Low Squadron of the 40th Combat Wing Low Composite Group. Any further information concerning this squadron can be found in the 301st Bomb Group General Narrative of the 40th Combat Wing Low Composite Group (See Diagram "C" & "D").

### 3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

a. Of the twenty-eight (28) B-17's from the 92nd Bomb Group that took off, twenty-six (26) aircraft attacked the target.

b. The two (2) aircraft that failed to attack were shot down by enemy fighters before the target.

### 4. Lost Aircraft.

a. Four (4) aircraft 42-31888, 42-31455, 42-31552 and 42-31231 were shot down before or after the target by enemy fighters. It is not known which of the four aircraft were shot down before or after bombs away.

b. Aircraft 42-38104. This A/C was last seen to be heading for France after leaving the formation at the enemy coast on the return route. It was reported that the tail of this aircraft was badly shot up by enemy fighters over the target.

### 5. Statistical Summary.

	High Gr.	Low Sqdn.	Total
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	21	7	28
e. Number of Sorties	21	7	28
f. Number of A/C attacking	19	7	26
g. Number of A/C Not Attacking	2	0	2
Number of A/C Lost.			
a. To Flak	0	0	0
b. To Flak and E/A	0	0	0
c. To E/A	4	0	4
d. To accident	0	0	0
e. To Unknown	1	0	1
Total	5	9	5

NOTE: High Group Flew in 40th Combat Wing.

Low Squadron flew in Low Composite Group of 40th Combat Wing.