

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

E-A-1

APC #557  
25 April 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations, Mission 24 April 1944, Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany.

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

1. Comment on Planning and Execution.

a. The bomb load for this operation was received from Headquarters, 40th Combat Wing by Cpt. Smyrl at 2142 hours, 23 April 1944. The order called for eighteen (18) B-17's to be loaded with 10 x 5002 GP bombs with 1/10 sec. nose fuse and 1/100 sec. tail fuse and twelve (12) B-17's to be loaded with maximum M-47 IB's.

b. The field order was received from Headquarters, 1st Bomb Division by Capt. Smyrl at 2333 hours, 23 April 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0600 hours and take-off time 0905 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Main Group Formation (Low Group of 40th Combat Wing.)

(1) Take-off was accomplished by eighteen (18) B-17's from the 92nd Bomb Group beginning at 0905 hours. These a/c assembled at 7,000 feet on the 40th Combat Wing Buncher (Diagram "A"), and departed that point as low group of 40th Combat Wing. Rendezvous with the Low and High Groups was made along the Combat Wing assembly line. The English Coast was departed at 1103 hours, altitude 15,600 feet, and course maintained to the enemy coast which was ~~departed~~ entered at 1121 hours, 49 58'N - 01 13'E altitude 18,300 feet. The route was flown as briefed and the I.P. was reached at 1355 hours. Due to effectiveness of camouflage and smoke from previous bombings, the lead bombardier chose an aiming point approximately 600 feet North West of his briefed aiming point on which to drop his bombs. Bombs were released at 1406 hours from 18,900 feet on a heading of 330 degrees (Diagram "B"). Two (2) A/C in this group jettisoned their bombs before the target and are considered as attacking a target of opportunity. The low group rallied with the lead group and flew in combat wing formation to the enemy which was crossed at 1653 hours at a point 51 05'N - 02 35'E. The English coast was entered at 1727 hours and the formation landed at 1809 hours.

b. 92nd High Composite Group (Lead and Low Squadron) 40th Combat Wing.

(1) Take off was accomplished by twelve (12) B-17's beginning at 0905 hours. These a/c assembled at 9,000 feet to form the lead and low squadrons of the 40th Combat Wing High Composite Group with six (6) a/c from the 306th Group forming the High Squadron. Rendezvous was made satisfactorily and Combat Wing Formation maintained up to within 20 minutes of the I.P. where the High Composite Group was subject to heavy fighter attacks. Three (3) ships of the Low Squadrons were lost during these attack. Bombs were released by the lead bombardier at 1407 1/2 hours from 21,000 feet on a heading of 336 degrees (Diagram "D"). Rally with Combat Wing was successful and the formation maintained to the enemy coast.

### 3. A/C Not Attacking.

a. Of the thirty (30) a/c from the 92nd Bomb Group that took off three (3) a/c (42-31921, 42-31529, 42-97203) failed to attack. Twenty-five (25) a/c attacked the primary target and two (2) a/c jettisoned their bombs, attacking a target of opportunity.

### 4. Aircraft Lost.

a. A/C 42-97218 - This a/c was observed to leave the formation after the target, five (5) miles East of Kaiserlautern at 1507 hours. Number three (3) and four (4) propeller were feathered and the engines were on fire. Two (2) chutes were observed to leave a/c before it was lost from sight. It is believed the engines were damaged as a result of enemy a/c attacks.

b. A/C 42-31914 - After the target and immediately following an enemy fighter attack this a/c was last seen slowly dropping behind the formation.

c. A/C 42-31529 - This a/c at 1345 hours, before the target, was seen to blow up during a heavy enemy fighter attack. No chutes were observed.

d. A/C 42-31921 - This a/c after being attacked by enemy fighters at 1330 hours, ten (10) to fifteen (15) miles North East of Munich, was observed to have circled slowly with No. 3 and 4 engines feathered and then crash into the ground. No chutes were observed.

e. A/C 42-97203 - Before the target and during heavy enemy fighter attacks this a/c was last seen slowly leaving the formation.

### 5. Statistical Summary.

	<u>Main Gp</u>	<u>Comp Gp</u>	<u>Total</u>
a. Number of A/C taking off	18	12	30
b. Unused spares	0	0	0
c. A/C taking off less unused spares	18	12	30
d. Number of A/C dispatched	18	12	30
e. Number of sorties	18	12	30
f. Number of A/C attacking	18	9	27
g. Number of A/C not attacking	0	3	3
Number of <del>enemy</del> A/C Lost.			
To enemy A/C	0	5	5