

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

APO #557  
25 May 1944

SECRET

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations of Mission  
24 May 1944, Berlin, Germany.

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

1. Comment on Planning and Execution.

a. The bomb loading for this operation was received from Headquarters 40th Combat Wing by Lt. Hamilton at 2220 hours, 23 May 1944. The order called for eighteen (18) plus three (3) spare B-17's to be loaded with 10 X 100 GP bombs each with 1/10 second nose fuse and 1/100 second tail fuse, plus 32 X M-47 IB's.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters 1st Bomb Division by Lt. Hamilton at 2340 hours, 23 May 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0345 hours and take-off time 0650 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Take off was accomplished by eighteen (18) plus three (3) spares from the 92nd Bomb Group. The lead ship took off at 0650 hours, climbing on the assigned magnetic heading of 270 degrees and returned to the 40th Combat Wing buncher for assembly at 9000 feet. The 92nd Group formation departed the assembly point at 0750 hours flying as low group in the 40th Combat Wing. The 92nd (Low) group rendezvoused in position with the 306th (Lead) group over Kings Lynn enroute to the coast. One spare aircraft from the 92nd Group (#42-97335) joined the lead group and filled in #4 position of the lead squadron, flying the entire mission in this position.

b. The 92nd Group formation departed the English Coast at 0837 hours, and followed the route across the North Sea according to flight plan. The enemy coast was reached at 1019 hours and crossed at 23,000 feet. At this point, the formation began having some difficulty due to heavy contrails. An attack was made by enemy aircraft ten (10) minutes before reaching the I.P. and A/C #42-31635 was seen spiralling down, catching fire before disappearing below the clouds.

c. The I.P. was reached at 1055 hours, and bombs were released over the primary target in Combat Wing formation at 1107 hours, from 25,400 feet on a magnetic heading of 115 degrees. Intense accurate flak was encountered in the target area.

d. The route over Germany after leaving the target deviated somewhat from the flight plan, and flak was drawn from the city of Hamburg. After departing the enemy coast at 1234 hours, the formation encountered flak at Heligoland. The route home over the North Sea was as briefed, the English Coast being entered at 1442 hours. The base was reached at 1531 hours, the lead ship landing at 1540 hours.

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### 3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

- a. Of the eighteen (18) B-17's and three (3) spares that took off from the 92nd Bomb Group, eighteen (18) attacked the primary target.
- b. A/C #42-97217 and 42-31995 returned to base as unused spares.
- c. A/C #42-31635 was shot down before the target by enemy fighters.
- d. A/C #42-97335, a spare, attacked in #4 position of lead squadron, Lead Group, (306th BG).

### 4. Lost Aircraft.

- a. A/C #42-31635 was hit by enemy fighters near Hamburg before the target and was last seen spiralling down out of control.

### 5. Statistical Summary.

92nd, Low Gp., 40th CW

- a. Number of A/C taking off.....21
- b. Unused spares..... 2
- c. A/C taking off less unused spares.....19
- d. Number of A/C dispatched.....19
- e. Number of sorties.....19
- f. Number of A/C attacking.....18
- g. Number of A/C not attacking..... 1

Number of A/C lost.

One (1) A/C lost due to enemy fighters.

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