

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

E-A-2

APC #557
26 April 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations of Mission
25 April 1944, Nancy/Essey, France.

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. Smyrl at 0030 hours 25 April 1944. The order called for eighteen (18) plus three (3) spare B-17's to be loaded with 12 x 500 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 Lt. Hamilton at 0145 hours 25 April 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0320 hours and take-off time 0620 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Take off was accomplished by eighteen (18) B-17's plus three (3) spares from the 92nd Bomb Group beginning at 0620 hours. The group assembled over the 40th Combat Wing Buncher at 12,000 feet, as shown in diagram "A". The formation departed the assembly point on time at 0731 hours flying as Lead Group of the 40th Combat Wing. The Low and High groups made rendezvous along the first assembly leg. The 92nd Group followed the route over England, as set forth in the flight plan, to the English Coast which was departed one (1) minute early at 0811 hours.

b. The Air Division assembly was completed along the division assembly line with the 40th Combat Wing guiding left on the 41st Combat Wing. The enemy coast was crossed at 20,000 feet, 0825 hours. Enroute to the target the 40th Combat Wing guiding on the 41st Combat Wing flew just over the outskirts of the city of Paris.

c. The 92nd Group followed the proposed route to within a few minutes of the planned I.P., and seeing the target area open through a break in the clouds, turned short and established the I.P. at 0932 hours. A visual run on the primary target was made by the Lead Bombardier, and bombs were released on a heading of 03 degrees from 20,000 feet at 0936½ hours. (See Diagram "B"). At 0942 hours after leaving the target the 92nd Group started a 360 degree circle to the right to enable a second bomb run to be made by the other groups.

d. The formation flew the briefed route back to the enemy coast which was departed at 1128 hours. The English Coast was crossed at 1155 hours and the base was reached at 1243 hours.

e. Meager flak was encountered along the route over enemy territory. No flak was seen over the target.

f. Fighter opposition was nil/

g. Fighter escort was good.

h. VHF Communication was satisfactory.

3. A/C not attacking.
 - a. Of eighteen (18) B-17's and three (3) spares which took off, eighteen (18) a/c attacked the target.
 - b. A/C No. 42-31326 turned back before becoming dispatched due to an oil leak.
 - c. A/C No. 42-3496 returned before becoming dispatched because of broken oxygen filler line.
 - d. A/C No. 42-30261 returned as an unused spare.

4. Lost A/C
None.

5. Statistical Summary.

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|--------------------------------------|----|
| a. Number of A/C taking off | 21 |
| b. Unused spares | 1 |
| c. A/C taking off less unused spares | 20 |
| d. Number of A/C dispatched | 18 |
| e. Number of sorties | 18 |
| f. Number of A/C attacking | 18 |
| g. Number of A/C not attacking | 2 |

Number of A/C Lost
None