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

E-A-1

APC #557

25 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of 184th Mission,
24 August 1944, Merseburg, 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. Hamilton at 0150 hours, 24 August 1944. The order called for thirty-four (34) B-17's to be loaded with 10 X 500 lb. GP bombs, each with 1/10 sec. nose fuse and 1/40 sec. tail fuse, and 2 PFF aircraft.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters, 1st Bomb Division by Capt. Hamilton at 0220 hours, 24 August 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0400 hours and take-off time 0655 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Thirty-five (35) aircraft, including two (2) PFF a/c of the 92nd Group took off beginning at 0655 hours for assembly on the Honeybourne Buncher. These aircraft formed the High, Lead and Low Groups of the 40th "B" Combat Wing and assembled at 2000, 3000 and 7000 feet respectively. The Wing departed the Buncher on time and flew the briefed route over England, entering the enemy coast one (1) minute early. The route to the IP was flown as ordered. The Wing was under constant fighter attack from the IP to the target with the main concentration on the Lead Group. The lead ship of the Lead Group was damaged by fighters and flak just prior to bombs away, causing malfunction of its bombing equipment and resulting in the jettisoning of its bombs just short of the target followed by the remainder of the Group. The Low Group attacked the primary target visually at 1211 hours from 23,500 feet on a magnetic heading of 250 degrees with good results. The High Group attacked the primary target visually at 1211 hours from 26,300 feet on a magnetic heading of 243 degrees. After the target, the Lead Group failed to rally with the High and Low Groups but returned along the briefed route and reached base at 1521 hours. Two (2) aircraft landed away from base due to heavy damage.

b. Heavy, accurate flak was encountered in the target area.

c. Strong enemy fighter opposition was encountered in the vicinity of the target.

d. Fighter support was good.

3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

a. A/C 42-97870 did not take off. Pilot reported that the fuselage was filled with smoke and fumes of burning rubber.

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4. Aircraft lost.
a. A/C 42-33771 was seen to go down from enemy aircraft attack at 1205 hours, just prior to target. No. 4 engine of this A/C was on fire. No chutes were seen.

b.
5. Statistical Summary.
See attached.

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
DIVISION FIELD ORDER NO. 476

GROUP 92nd

DATE 21/8/44

LINE NO.		LEAD FORMATION "B"		HIGH FORMATION "B"		LOW FORMATION "B"		FORMATION	
		REGULAR	PFF	REGULAR	PFF	REGULAR	PFF	REGULAR	PFF
1	No. of Aircraft Failing to Take Off	1	0	0		0			
2	No. of Aircraft Airborne	9	2	12		12			
3	No. of Aircraft Airborne Less Unused Spares	9	2	12		12			
4	No. of Aircraft Sorties	9	2	12		12			
5	No. of Aircraft Attacking	9	2	12		12			
6	Name of Primary Target	Merseburg							
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking Primary Target	9	1	11		11			
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb	90 X 500 GP	10 X 500 GP	110 X 500 GP		105 X 500 GP			
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.)		5155N-1230E	5319N-0939E		Bederkesa			
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking T.O.		1	1		1			
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb		10 X 500 GP	10 X 500 GP		10 X 500 GP			
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								
11	No. of Aircraft Lost								

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