

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

E-A-2

**SECRET**

APC #557  
25 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations, 166th  
Mission, St. Lo., France, 24 July 1944.

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. Prasse at 1145 hours, 23 July 1944. The order called for fifty-four (54) B-17's to be loaded with maximum 100 lb. GP bombs each with no nose fuse and inst. tail fuse.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters 1st Bomb Division by Capt. Prasse at 0059 hours, 24 July 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0330 hours and take-off time 1020 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Take-off was accomplished by fifty-four (54) B-17's from the 92nd Group between 1020 and 1059 hours for assembly in four (4) groups of twelve (12) aircraft each on Splasher #10 and were known as 40th A-1, 2, 3 and 4; the remaining aircraft assembled on the Podington Buncher as Low and High Squadrons of the Composite Group led by the 306th Bomb Group. The route and times for the six (6) aircraft can be obtained from the 306th Group narrative.

b. The 40th A-1 Group departed Splasher #10 at 1159 hours, 17000 feet and crossed the English coast at 1214 hours. The continent was entered at 1240 hours and the route to the primary target was flown as briefed. Bombs were released at 1249½ hours from 17000 feet on a magnetic heading of 193 degrees. This group returned to base as briefed without further incident.

c. The 40th A-2 group departed Splasher #10 at 1157 hours 16000 feet and departed the English coast at 1213 hours. The continent was entered at 1240 hours and the route to the target flown as briefed. This group did not release bombs due to cloud cover in the target area. A second run was not attempted due to congested traffic in the area and the group returned to base.

d. The 40th A-3 group departed Splasher #10 at 1158½ hours 15000 feet and crossed the English coast at 1212 hours, 16000 feet. The continent was entered at 1244 hours and the briefed route flown to the target which was attacked from 16250 feet at 1248½ hours on a magnetic heading of 220 degrees. This formation departed the continent as briefed and returned to base.

e. The 40th A-4 group departed Splasher #10 at 1157 hours, 14000 feet and crossed the English coast at 1212 hours. The Continent was entered at 1238 hours, 15000 feet and the briefed course flown to the primary target. Bombs were released at 1246 hours from 15000 feet on a 215 degree mag. heading. The return route was flown back to base

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and the last ship landed at 1513 hours.

3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

a. The 40th A-2 group of twelve (12) aircraft did not attack due to cloud cover in the target area.

b. A/C #42-31250 took off late and could not rendezvous with assigned group. This aircraft flew entire mission with another group which did not attack.

4. Aircraft Lost.  
None.

5. Statistical Summary.  
See attached diagram.

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DIVISION FIELD ORDER NO. 446

DATE 24 July 1944

GROUP		DIVISION FIELD ORDER NO. 446				DATE 24 July 1944			
LINE NO.		A-1 FORMATION REGULAR	A-2 REF	A-3 FORMATION REGULAR	A-4 REF	306-92 FORMATION REGULAR	PFF	FORMATION REGULAR	PFF
1	No. of Aircraft Failing to Take Off	0	0	0	0	0			
2	No. of Aircraft Airborne	12	12	12	12	6			
3	No. of Aircraft Airborne Less Unused Spares	12	12	12	12	6			
	No. of Aircraft Sorties	12	12	12	12	6			
5	No. of Aircraft Attacking	11	0	12	12	6			
6	Name of Primary Target	St. Lo area							
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking Primary Target	11	0	12	12	6			
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb	417 X 100		455 X 100 455 X 100		209 X 100			
		1 skymarker		1 skymarker 1 skymarker					
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.)								
	(a) No. Aircraft Attacking T.O.								
	(b) No. Size and Type of Bomb								
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	1	12	0	0	0			
11	No. of Aircraft Lost	0	0	0	0	0			