

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

E-B-4

APC #557
26 May 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations of Mission
25 May 1944, Thionville, France.

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

1. Comments on Planning and Execution.

The bomb loading for this operation was received from Headquarters, 40th Combat Wing by Lt. Hamilton at 2305 hours, 24 May 1944. The order called for thirty-six (36) B-17's to be loaded with 10 X 500 lb. GP bombs each with 1/10 sec. nose fuse and 1/100 sec. tail fuse.

The Field Order was received from Headquarters, 1st Bomb Division by Capt. Smyrl at 0400 hours, 25 May 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0230 hours and take-off time 0515 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Take-off was accomplished by thirty-six (36) B-17's from the 92nd Group, beginning at 0515 hours. These aircraft assembled over the 40th Combat Wing Buncher to form the Lead, Low, and High Groups of the 40th "B" Combat Wing. The Lead Group, which assembled at 16,000 feet departed the Buncher at 0649½ hours. The Low and High Groups rendezvoused in position with the Lead Group immediately after departing the Buncher. The briefed route over England was followed by the 40th "B" Combat Wing until ten (10) minutes before crossing the English Coast, when the formation circled to the right in order to make good the time departing the Coast. A second circle to the right was made to avoid colliding with another Combat wing. The English Coast was departed over Beachy Head at 0741 hours, five (5) minutes late.

b. The Enemy Coast was entered at 0757 hours, 22,000 feet, and the 40th "B" Combat Wing arrived at the IP at 0926 hours. The Lead Group made a visual run on the primary target, and bombs were released at 0939 hours from 23,000 feet on a magnetic heading of 332 degrees. The Low Group, which was second over the target, released their bombs on a visual run made by the lead bombardier of the Low Group. The High Group, which was third over the target did not release their bombs (as instructed in 1st Division Field Order No. 364 A), the bombardier being unable to see the target because of dense smoke from previous bombing. The three (3) groups rallied after bombs away and returned along the briefed route to the Enemy Coast. The High Group made several runs on airfields in occupied territory but was unable to bomb due to haze.

c. The Enemy Coast was departed at 1046 hours, 22,000 feet, and the English Coast was crossed at 1111 hours. The base was reached at 1145 hours, and the lead ship landed at 1153 hours.

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3. Aircraft not Attacking.

Of the thirty-six (36) aircraft that took off from the 92nd Group flying as Lead, Low, and High Groups of the 40th Combat Wing "B", twenty (20) attacked the target.

a. Lead Group, 40th Combat Wing "B".

(1) Of the twelve (12) aircraft that took off, eight (8) attacked the target.

(2) Four aircraft, Nos. 42-31326, 42-31627, 42-31753, and 42-97245 aborted before the target.

b. Low Group, 40th Combat Wing "B".

(1) Of the twelve (12) aircraft that took off, all attacked the target.

c. High Group, 40th Combat Wing "B".

(1) Of the twelve (12) aircraft that took off, none attacked the target.

(2) Aircraft No. 42-3461 aborted because of engine failure.

(3) The remaining eleven (11) aircraft failed to bomb because of smoke cover caused by previous bombing.

4. Aircraft Lost

None.

5. Statistical Summary.

	<u>LEAD GP.</u>	<u>LOW GP.</u>	<u>HIGH GP.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
A. Number of A/C Taking Off	12	12	12	36
B. Unused Spares	0	0	0	0
C. A/C Taking Off Less Unused Spares	12	12	12	36
D. Number of Sorties	10	12	11	33
E. Number of A/C Attacking	8	12	0	20
F. Number of A/C Not Attacking	4	0	12	16

Number of A/C Lost.

None.

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