

HEADQUARTERS
92ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
Office of the Operations Officer

E-A-4

APC #557
28 March 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations of
Mission 29 March 1944.

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

1. Comment on Planning and Execution.

The bomb loading for this operation was received from Headquarters, 40th Combat Wing by Major McLaughlin at 1900 hours, 28 March 1944. The order called for nineteen (19) B-17's and two (2) PFF A/C to be loaded with 10 x 100 lb. bombs each filled with 1/10 sec. nose fuse and 1/40 sec. tail fuse and 32 M47A's, plus 1 sky marker in the group lead and deputy lead A/C. One (1) ship was ordered to carry nickles.

The Field Order was received from Headquarters, 1st Bomb Division by Major McLaughlin at 2002 hours, ~~xxxxxx~~ 28 March 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed and briefing was set for 0700 hours and take-off time 1000 hours.

2. Take off was accomplished by nineteen (19) A/C of the 92nd Bomb Group beginning at 1000 hours for assembly as Lead Group of the 40th Combat Wing at 12,000 feet over B Poddington Buncher. Due to poor weather conditions in the area, the two (2) lead PFF A/C took off from Chelveston and assembled with the Group as planned.

The Group completed assembly on time and departed the Poddington Buncher at 1115 hours. The Low 305th Group rendezvoused immediately, but the high 306th Group was slightly ahead and did not gain good Combat Wing Formation until the English Coast had been reached.

The Wing departed the English Coast at 1203 hours at 19,300 feet and proceeded on course entering the Enemy Coast at 1231 hours at a point 52 36'N 04 36'E at 23,600 feet. The course to the target was flown as briefed and the Combat Wing reached the T.P. at 1314 hours. Due to weather conditions in the target area, the Combat Wing Commander decided to attack the secondary target using blind bombing technique.

The 92nd Group bombed the secondary target, dropping on the Lead PFF A/C at 1321 1/2 hours from 24,500 feet while flying on a magnetic heading of 135 degrees.

After the target, the Combat Wing made a left turn descending 1,000 feet and proceeded on the return route. The Enemy Coast was departed at a point 52 32'N 04 35'E at 18,900 feet at 1544 hours. The English Coast was entered at Lowestoft at 1642 hours at 1,300± feet. At this point, weather conditions were very poor, and the three Groups separated at the English Coast and returned to their bases individually.

The first ship of the 92nd Group appeared over base at 1713 hours and landed at 1721 hours. Due to very poor weather conditions at the base, seven (?) A/C landed away.

Moderate inaccurate flak was encountered at the target. Friendly fighter support was good except for approximately 20 minutes immediately after target. During this time, about 50 to 75 IE-109's and FW-190's made heavy mass attacks concentrating on the Low and High Groups causing heavy damage and loss of A/C. Only two light attacks were made on the Lead 92nd Group. VHF Communications was good.

3. Aircraft not attacking. (Does not include two (2) PRF A/C).
Of the nineteen (19) A/C that took off ~~exam(2)~~ one A/C No. 12-37376 returned early and did not receive sortie credit. The remaining eighteen (18) A/C flew the entire mission and all attacked the secondary target.

4. A/C Lost
None.

5. Statistical Summary (Does not include two (2) PRF A/C)

A. Number of A/C taking off	19
B. Unused spares	0
C. A/C taking off less unused spares	19
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	1