

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

E-A-2

APC #557  
1 June 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations of the  
126th Mission of the 92nd Bomb Group, 31 May 1944,  
Strasbourg (Division recall).

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 Lt. Hamilton at 2130 hours, 30 May 1944. The order called for twenty-four (24) plus four (4) spare B-17's to be loaded with 12 X 500 GP bombs each with 1/10 second nose fuse and 1/100 second tail fuse.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters 1st Bomb Division by Lt. Hamilton at 0030 hours, 31 May 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0445 hours and take-off time 0745 hours.

2. General Narrative.

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

(1). Take-off was accomplished by twelve (12) plus two (2) spare B-17's from the 92nd Bomb Group beginning at 0745 hours. The group assembled over the Podington Buncher at 10,000 feet as lead group of the 40th "B" Combat Wing and departed the buncher at 0847 hours. The High Group was unable to form on the Combat Wing Leader until they were on course over England. The route over England was flown as briefed and the English Coast departed at 0937 hours.

(2). The enemy coast was entered at 0955 hours and briefed course was maintained until the proposed route was obstructed by heavy impenetrable clouds. At 1023 hours the Combat Wing Leader lost visual contact with his high and low groups and tried to reassemble them below the cloud level without success. At 1040 hours the Combat Wing Leader received a message from the Division Leader to abandon the primary and secondary targets, and at 50 degrees 47' N; 05 degrees 43' E turned his group around. A run was made on the last resort target but heavy haze prevented accurate bombing. The lead group then proceeded north of Antwerp and left the enemy coast at 51 degrees 42' N; 03 degrees 41' E at 1115 hours. They entered the English Coast at 1144 hours and landed at 1232 hours.

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

(1). At 0755 hours twelve (12) B-17's plus two (2) spares took off from the 92nd Bomb Group. They assembled at 9000 feet over the Podington Buncher, departed the buncher at 0849 hours and accomplished combat wing formation along the first leg of the route. The route over England was flown as briefed and the low group departed the English Coast at 0937 hours.

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(2). The low group entered the enemy coast at 0955 hours and maintained combat wing formation until 1023 hours when they were forced to leave the lead group because of thick cloud conditions. The low group proceeded west of Namur and turned around at 50 degrees 07'N; 05 degrees 45' E to make two (2) runs on the last resort target. On both runs the lead bombardier was unable to successfully synchronize due to haze and the low group then proceeded to the airdrome at Brussels. Here a bombing run was made but weather conditions again prevented accurate bombing. The low group proceeded to the enemy coast and departed six (6) miles north of Ostende at 1149 hours. At 1213 the English Coast was entered at Walton-on-the-Naze and the group landed at base at 1246 hours.

3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

- a. Take-off was accomplished by twenty-four (24) aircraft and four (4) spares from the 92nd Bomb Group.
- b. Four (4) aircraft returned as unused spares.
- c. The remaining twenty-four (24) aircraft abandoned the primary and secondary targets on orders from the Division Leader and were unable to bomb the last resort target due to haze conditions. All aircraft returned to base with bomb load.

4. Aircraft Lost.  
None.

5. Statistical Summary.

	High Gp.	Low Gp.	Total
a. Number of A/C taking off.....	14	14	28
b. Unused spares.....	2	2	4
c. A/C taking off less unused spares.....	12	12	24
d. Number of A/C dispatched.....	14	14	28
e. Number of sorties.....	12	12	24
f. Number of A/C attacking.....	0	0	0
g. Number of A/C not attacking.....	12	12	24

Lost Aircraft.  
None.