

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
Office of the Operations Officer

B-C-4

SECRET

100,000
9 September 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations of Mission #190 of
the 92nd Bombardment Group, 8 September 1944, Ludwigshafen, Germany.

TO : Commanding Officer, 92nd Bombardment Group (H) AAF, APO 1507.

1. Comment on Planning and Execution.

The bomb loading for this operation was received from Headquarters, 40th Combat Wing by Major McLaughlin at 1920 hours, 7 August 1944. The order called for thirty-three (33) B-17's plus three (3) PFF aircraft to be loaded with 6 x 1000 lb. GP bombs each with 1/10 sec. nose fuse and 1/40 sec. tail fuse.

The filed Order was received from Headquarters, 1st Bomb Division by Major McLaughlin at 2045 hours, 7 August 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0500 hours and take-off time 0750 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Take-off was accomplished by thirty-three (33) B-17's and one (1) PFF aircraft from the 92nd Bomb Group, plus two (2) PFF aircraft borrowed from the 305th Group. Take-off for these aircraft began at 0750 hours, and they assembled over the Podington Buncher at 14,000 feet to form the Lead, Low, and High Groups of the 40th "B" Combat Wing.

b. The Lead Group departed the Podington Buncher at 0912 hours. The Low and High groups departed at 0913 and 0914 respectively and rendezvous was completed along the Combat Wing Assembly Line. The route over England was flown as briefed, and the Lead Group departed the Coast over Beachy Head at 0955 hours. The continental Coast was entered at 1017 hours, and the formation followed the prescribed route to the I.F., which was reached at 1141 hours. Due to high clouds in the target area, all three groups were forced to climb 3,000 feet above the briefed bombing altitude. Dense persistent contrails were encountered at this altitude.

c. The Lead Group released their bombs on the PFF target using PFF technique, at 1150 hours from a true altitude of 28,400 feet on a magnetic heading of 76 degrees.

d. The PFF equipment in the lead aircraft of the Low Group was inoperative. Bombs of the Low Group were, therefore, released on the High Group's bombs at 1150½ hours from a true altitude of 28,900 feet on a magnetic heading of 71 degrees.

e. The High Group released visually on the PFF target at 1151½ hours from 27,650 feet true altitude on a magnetic heading of 58 degrees.

f. After bombs away, the Lead, Low and High Groups were unable to rally in wing formation due to the high clouds. The groups returned individually and swung north of Paris upon return due to cloud formations along the route. The Lead Group reached the base at 1520 hours.

3. Aircraft not attacking.

a. A/C 43-38290. This aircraft returned after 1 1/2 hours due to #2 engine smoking and running roughly.

b. A/C 44-6461. This aircraft turned back at 0930 hours due to #3 engine smoking and running roughly.

c. A/C 43-37535. This aircraft returned after two hours of flight. #1 engine would pull only 24" hg.

d. A/C 43-37627. This aircraft returned after three hours of flight. Pilot reported excessive vibration on #1, #3 & #4 engines. Pilot could not maintain altitude.

e. A/C 42-32054. The pilot lost the formation in the clouds and after emerging, was unable to catch formation.

f. A/C 42-39958. This aircraft turned back at 4921N-0805E. Pilot stated that manifold pressure dropped to 20" on #1 engine, at 26,000 feet altitude.

g. A/C 42-107181. This aircraft was unable to maintain formation and bombs were jettisoned over Neustadt.

4. Lost A/C.

a. A/C 42-102495. This aircraft crash landed in allied occupied France and all crew members are reported to be safe.

b. A/C 42-107071. This a/c had No. 2 engine catch fire and seven (7) crew members bailed out at 4900N-0630E. The pilot and co-pilot managed to land aircraft on an American base in France and have returned to this base.

SECRET JAMES K. McLAUGHLIN,
Major, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

GROUP 92

 STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
 DIVISION FIELD ORDER NUMBER

MISSION DATE 8/9/44

	FORMATION		FORMATION		FORMATION		FORMATION	
	Lead	BORROWED PFF A/C	Low	BORROWED PFF A/C	High	BORROWED PFF A/C	BORROWED PFF A/C	BORROWED PFF A/C
Number of Aircraft Failing to Take Off	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Number of Aircraft Airborne	11	1	11	1	11	1		
Number of Aircraft Airborne Less Unused Bombs	11	1	11	1	11	1		
Number of Aircraft Sorties	11	1	11	1	11	1		
Number of Aircraft Attacking	11	1	8	1	8	1		
Number of Aircraft Not Attacking	0	0	3	0	4	0		
Name of Primary Target	Ludwigshaven							
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking Primary Target	11	1	8	1	7	1		
(B) No. size and type of bombs	72 X 1000 GP 2 skymarkers		54 X 1000 GP 2 skymarkers		48 X 1000 GP 1 skymarkers			
Name of Secondary Target			2 a/c in this group emergency jettisoned		1 a/c in this group emergency jettisoned bombs 6 X 1000 GP			
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking Secondary Target			the bombs 12 X 1000 GP		3 a/c in this group returned with 18 X 1000 GP			
(B) No. size and type of bombs			1 a/c returned with 6 X 1000 GP					
Name of Last Resort Target (LRT)								
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking LRT								
(B) No. size and type of bombs								
Name of Target of Opportunity (T.O.)								
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking T.O.								
(B) No. size and type of bombs								
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(A) No. of Aircraft attacking T.O.								
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