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

E-A-4

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APC #557,
3 November, 1944.

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operational Mission,
2 November 1944, Merseburg, Germany.

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

1. Comment on Planning and Execution.

a. The bomb loading was received from Headquarters 40th Combat Wing by Capt Hamilton at 2025 hours, 1 November 1944. The order called for twenty-two (22) B-17's and two (2) PFF a/c to be loaded with 18 X 250 lb. GP bombs each with 1/10 second nose fuse and 1/40 second tail fuse, and ten (10) B-17's plus two (2) PFF a/c to fly as a screening force for the 41st Combat Wing.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters, 1st Bomb Division by Capt Hamilton at 0005 hours, 2 November 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0530 hours and take-off time 0825 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Twenty-four (24) aircraft including two (2) PFF a/c of the 92nd Group began take-off at 0825 hours for assembly on the Podington Buncher at 8000 feet. These aircraft formed the lead and low squadrons of the 40th "A" Group. The 305th Bomb Group formed the High Squadron and joined the formation over the buncher for assembly. The 40th "A" Group led the 1st Air Division.

b. The 40th "A" Group completed assembly over the Podington Buncher and departed on time, on course. The route over England was flown as briefed and the coast crossed on time, on course.

c. The enemy coast was entered on course five (5) minutes early, and the route to the target was flown as briefed. The Air Division Commander decided on a PFF run on the secondary target after communicating with the Weather Scouting Force. During the bombing run of the 40th "A" Group, a Group from the 3rd Division, bombing in the same area, made a quick 180 degree turn off their target and flew a collision course to the 40th "A" Group. The 40th "A" Group continued the bombing run after the other Group passed, narrowly missing one element of our Low Squadron.

d. Bombs were released on the secondary target, by means of PFF, in Group formation. The Lead Squadron released at 1230 hours from a true altitude of 25,400 feet on a true heading of 115 degrees.

e. The Group lead aircraft was knocked out by flak over the target, losing two (2) engines and was forced to leave the formation. The Low Squadron leader took over the lead position and returned along the prescribed route. Base was reached at 1542 hours.

f. Twelve (12) aircraft from the 92nd Group assembled on

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the Podington Buncher at 12000 feet to form the screening force to precede the 41st "A", "B" and "C" Groups to their target. These twelve a/c flew the route to 51 26'N- 05 00'E, which was reached at 1140 hours, where they began the release of chaff as briefed until 1210 hours at a position of 52 31-06 00'E. After completing the dispersal of chaff, the Squadron flew the briefed route back to Base, which was reached at 1345 hours.

3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

a. None.

4. Aircraft Lost.

a. None.

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GROUP		STATISTICAL REPORT OF OPERATIONS DIVISION FIELD ORDER NUMBER 541				MIS
3 0.		FORMATION		FORMATION		FORMA
		Lead	BORROWED PFF A/C	Low	BORROWED PFF A/C	Screening
	Number of Aircraft Failing to Take Off	0		0		0
	Number of Aircraft Airborne	12		12		12
	Number of Aircraft Airborne Less Unused Spares	12		12		12
	Number of Aircraft Sorties	12		12		12
	Number of Aircraft Attacking	12		12		12
	Number of Aircraft Not Attacking	0		0		0
	Name of Primary Target					Screening attached S
	(A) No. of Aircraft attacking Primary Target					12
	(B) No. size and type of bombs					39, 682 U
	Name of Secondary Target		Merseburg (PFF)		Merseburg (PFF)	
	(A) No. of Aircraft Attacking Secondary Target		12		12	
	(B) No. size and type of bombs		216 X 250 GP 2 skymarkers		216 X 250 GP 1 2 skymarkers	
	Name of Last Resort Target					
	(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					
	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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 STATISTICAL REPORT
 DIVISION FIELD ORDER NUMBER **541**
MISSION DATE **2/11/44**

	FORMATION		FORMATION		FORMATION		FORMATION	
	Lead	BORROWED PFF A/C	Low	BORROWED PFF A/C	Screening	BORROWED PFF A/C	BORROWED PFF A/C	BORROWED PFF A/C
Take Off	0		0		0			
Less Unused Bombs	12		12		12			
	12		12		12			
	12		12		12			
acking	0		0		0			
ng Primary Target					Screening for 41st CBW. A/C attached Stergrade. Screened Stergrade 12 39, 662 Units J-3 and CHA-28			
Secondary Target	Merseburg (PFF)		Merseburg (PFF)					
	12		12					
	216 X 250 GP		216 X 250 GP					
	2 skymarkers		2 skymarkers					
y (I.J.)								
g T.O.								
mbs								
y (T.O.)								
g T.O.								
mbs.								

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