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

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APC #557
1 December 1944.

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

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 Capt Worth at 2325 hours, 29 November 1944. The order called for thirty-three (33) B-17's and three (3) PFF a/c to be loaded with 20 X 250 lb. GP bombs each with 1/10 second nose fuse and 1/40 second tail fuse, and a screening force of eleven (11) B-17's and one (1) PFF a/c, eleven (11) to be loaded with enough chaff for a four (4) minute screening run.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters, 1st Bomb Division by Capt Worth at 0150 hours, 30 November 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0500 hours and take-off time 0805 hours. At 0725 hours an annex to the Field Order was received setting the zero hour back one hour, changing the take-off time to 0905 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Thirty-six (36) aircraft, including three (3) PFF a/c of the 92nd Group began take-off at 0905 hours for assembly on the Honeybourne Buncher at 10000, 9000 and 11000 feet to form the Lead, Low and High Squadrons of the 40th "C" Group, 6th of the 1st Division. In addition, twelve (12) aircraft, including one (1) PFF a/c began take-off at 0920 hours. These aircraft, designated as the 40th "D" Force, formed the screening force for the 1st Air Division.

b. The Group accomplished assembly on the assigned buncher, and departed on course, on time, followed the briefed route and departed the coast on course on time, in Division formation. The Screening Force departed the coast as the High-High Squadron of the 94th "AA" Group.

3. The briefed route to the IP for the secondary (PFF) target was flown. Up to this point, the Leader was unable to contact either the "Buckeye Blue" Weather Force or the "Woodcraft Able" Leader to determine the type of bombing or target to be bombed. Since the weather conditions in the area of the primary target appeared to be fairly good for a visual run, the Group continued on to the primary IP at which point Foxhole Able Leader was heard to give instructions to his formation for a PFF run. Consequently the Group turned back to the route into the secondary target. Individual PFF runs were made by the three squadrons. The Lead Squadron bombed at 1333 hours from 27,400

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feet true on a heading of 345 degrees true. The High Squadron bombed at 1335 hours from 28000 feet true on a heading of 354 degrees true. The Low Squadron released at 1334 hours from 26,800 feet true. The results were unobserved. The Screening Force, having received information that the primary was to be bombed, screened for this target according to instructions.

d. The Group followed the briefed route out, crossing the enemy and English coasts at the briefed points. After its chaff had been dropped, the Screening Force made a 360 degree turn to allow the 94th "A" Group to catch up and followed the briefed route out.

e. The aircraft returned to base at 1720 hours.

3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

a. None. (One a/c of the Screening Force failed to take-off due to mechanical trouble.)

4. Aircraft Lost.

a. A/C #43-38611 was seen to receive a direct flak hit and failed to return. No other information is available at this time.

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DIVISION FIELD ORDER NUMBER **588** MISSION DATE **30/11/44**

GROUP	FORMATION		FORMATION		FORMATION		FORMATION	
	Lead	BORROWED PFF A/C	High	BORROWED PFF A/C	Low	BORROWED PFF A/C	Screening	BORROWED PFF A/C
1. Number of Aircraft Failing to Take Off	0		0		0		1	
2. Number of Aircraft Airborne	12		12		12		11	
3. Number of Aircraft Airborne Less Unused Spares	12		12		12		11	
4. Number of Aircraft Sorties	12		12		12		11	
5. Number of Aircraft Attacking	12		12		12		11	
6. Number of Aircraft Not Attacking	0		0		0		1	
Name of Primary Target							Bohlen area	
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking Primary Target							11	
(B) No. size and type of bombs							220 boxes of chaff	
Name of Secondary Target	Merseburg		Merseburg		Merseburg			
(A) No. of Aircraft Attacking Secondary Target	12		11		11			
(B) No. size and type of bombs	228 X 250 GP 4 sky markers		220 X 250 GP 1 sky marker		219 X 250 GP 1 sky marker			
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.)	51 20'N- 11 40'E		50 17'N-08 41'E		51 10'N- 11-15'E			
(A) No. of Aircraft Attacking T.O.	1		1		1			
(B) No., size and type of bombs	10 X 250 GP		20 X 250 GP		20 X 250 GP			
Name of Target of Opportunity (T.O.)								
(A) No. of Aircraft Attacking T.O.								
(B) No., size and type of bombs								

0075