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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,
9 November 1944.

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operational Mission,
8 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 Stroud at 1100 hours 7 November 1944. The order called for thirty-four (34) B-17's plus three (3) spares and two (2) PFF a/c to be loaded with 10 X 500 lb. GP bombs, each with 1/10 second nose fuse and 1/40 second tail fuse.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters, 1st Bomb Division by Capt Stroud at 0350 hours, 8 November 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0400 hours and take-off time 0655 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Thirty-nine (39) aircraft, including two (2) PFF a/c and three (3) spares of the 92nd Group began take-off at 0655 hours for assembly on the Podington Buncher at 12,000, 13,000 and 14,000 feet as Lead, Low and High Squadrons of the 40th "A" Group, 7th in the 1st Air Division.

b. The Group accomplished assembly on the assigned Buncher and departed ~~xxxxxx~~ on course, 5 minutes early, following the briefed route over England, making "S" turns to lose time, and departed the coast on time. The Group departed the Coast 12 miles south of course because of congestion and cloud conditions at control point #1.

c. The 40th "A" Group passed control point #2 on time, on course and continued on the briefed route. Receiving information from the weather scout, the Group attacked the secondary target on PFF in group formation 8 minutes late, with bombs away at 1108 hours on a heading of 089 degrees true from 24,100 feet true. A right turn was made off the target, and the briefed route was flown on withdrawal to mid-channel.

d. At mid-channel, the Group separated into smaller units because of cloud conditions. The Leader turned north and entered the English Coast at Lowestoft at 3000 feet, where there were breaks in the heavy clouds. Base was reached at 1530 hours.

e. The Group experienced great difficulty due to the existing weather conditions but managed to maintain an intact formation to the target and back to mid-channel.

3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

a. #44-6471 failed to locate the formation, joined the

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40th "Baker" Force and returned with that force without attacking.

4. Aircraft Lost.
 - a. None

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GROUP		DIVISION FIELD ORDER NUMBER 550				MISSION DATE 8/11/44			
		FORMATION		FORMATION		FORMATION		FORMATION	
		Lead	BORROWED PFF A/C	Low	BORROWED PFF A/C	High	BORROWED PFF A/C	BORROWED PFF A/C	
1	Number of Aircraft Failing to Take Off	0		0		0			
2	Number of Aircraft Airborne	13		13		13			
3	Number of Aircraft Airborne Less Unused Spares	13		12		12			
4	Number of Aircraft Sorties	12		12		12			
5	Number of Aircraft Attacking	12		12		12			
6	Number of Aircraft Not Attacking	1		0		0			
7	Name of Primary Target								
8	(A) No. of Aircraft attacking Primary Target								
9	(B) No. size and type of bombs								
10	Name of Secondary Target	Merseburg		11		11			
11	(A) No. of Aircraft Attacking Secondary Target	12		110 X 500 GP		110 X 500 GP			
12	(B) No. size and type of bombs	4 skymarkers		1 skymarker		1 skymarker			
13	Name of Last Resort Target (LRT)								
14	(A) No. of Aircraft attacking LRT			1		1			
15	(B) No. size and type of bombs			Dekooy A/C 10 X 500 GP		Lablecke 10 X 500 GP			
16	Name of Target of Opportunity (T.O.)								
17	(A) No. of Aircraft attacking T.O.								
18	(B) No., size and type of bombs								
19	Name of Target of Opportunity (T.O.)								
20	(A) No. of Aircraft attacking T.O.								
21	(B) No., size and type of bombs.								

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