

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

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

E-A-2

APC #557
11 January 1945

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operational Mission, 10 January 1945, Target: Gumnich, 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. Hertz at 2300 hours, 9 January 1945. The order called for thirty-two (32) B-17's plus three (3) spares and three (3) PFF plus one (1) Gee-H aircraft to be loaded with 38 X 100 GP bombs, each with no nose and 1/40 second tail fuse.

b. The Field order was received from Headquarters, 1st Air Division by Capt. Hertz at 2357 hours, 9 January 1945. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0545 hours and take-off time 0845 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Thirty-nine (39) aircraft including three (3) PFF, three (3) spares of the 92nd Bomb Group and one (1) Gee-H A/C of the 384th Bomb Group began take-off at 0845 hours for assembly on the Honeybourne Buncher at 14,000, 15,000 and 16,000 feet. These aircraft formed the Lead, Low and High Squadrons of the 40th "C" Group. This Group was the 6th of the 1st Air Division.

b. The group accomplished assembly on the Honeybourne Buncher, leaving their point on course, on time. The group followed the briefed course over England except for the last leg which was flown slightly North of course to make up some time. Control Point #1 was crossed on course on time. From this point the Group proceeded to the IP. At the IP the cloud cover was 10/10 and the decision was made to bomb using the GH Technique. The GH A/C flying in #3 position took over the lead and started his GH run. On the bombing run the target was declared visual in the area of Bonn. The High Squadron made a 360 degree turn to take interval and the Lead and Low Squadrons proceeded to the target. Shortly after this the leader of the Lead Squadron was knocked out of formation by flak and before the Deputy Leader could take over it was too late to bomb. The Lead then made a 360 degree turn and established an IP at 50° 32'N and 06° 50'E. Due to the heavy snow cover, the target was identified too late and another 360 degree turn had to be made. On this run they were able to bomb. The bombs were dropped from a true altitude of 22,900 feet on a mag heading of 60 degrees at 1342 hours.

c. The Low Squadron stayed with the lead Squadron through the first 360 degree turn. On the second bomb run, the Command Pilot in the lead ship was wounded and they left the formation. The Deputy Leader took over and they attacked a target of opportunity near Duren visually at 1340 hours on a mag heading of 270 degrees, altitude 21,300 feet true. On returning to the briefed course it was overshot and later rejoined near Brussels. The Belgium Coast was crossed South of course due to interference from proceeding groups. The English

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

Coast at the briefed point and proceeded directly to base.

3. A/C not attacking: A/C #44- 8329 - The #4 engine failed and the supercharger on #3 went out. Returned to base after Jettisoning bombs. Not Sortie.

4. A/C Lost: A/C #44- 8450 - Lost two engines on the first run over the target. Has not been heard from at this time.

A/C #42- 102396 - This A/C was last seen in a gradual dive in the target area.

- 2 -

0651

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

GROUP		FORMATION		FORMATION		FORMATION		FORMATION	
		Lead Sq.	BORROWED PFF A/C	High Sq.	BORROWED PFF A/C	Low Sq.	BORROWED PFF A/C		BORROWED PFF A/C
Number of Aircraft Failing to Take Off		0	0	0		0			
Number of Aircraft Airborne		11	1	12		15			
Number of Aircraft Airborne Less Unused Spares		11	1	12		13			
Number of Aircraft Sorties		11	1	11		13			
Number of Aircraft Attacking		11	1	11		13			
Number of Aircraft Not Attacking		0	0	1		0			
Name of Primary Target		Gymnich		Gymnich					
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking Primary Target		10	1						
(B) No. size and type of bombs		343x100GP 2 skymarkers	38x100GP						
Name of Secondary Target									
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking Secondary Target									
(B) No. size and type of bombs									
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.)		Unknown				Duren			
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking T.O.		1				13			
(B) No., size and type of bombs		36x100GP 2 skymarker				468x100GP 1 skymarker			
Name of Target of Opportunity (T.O.)									
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking T.O.									
(B) No., size and type of bombs									

0652