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

E-A-2

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APC #557
22 January 1945

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operational Mission,
21 January 1945, Target: Ascheffenburg and Pforzheim,
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 0130 hours, 21 January 1945. The order called for thirty-three (33) B-17's, plus three (3) spares, two (2) PFF and one (1) GH-PFF A/C to be loaded with 10 x 100 GP Bombs, each with 1/10 second nose fuse and 1/40 second tail fuse, and 2 x M-17 type I.B. bombs.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters, 1st Bomb Division by Capt. Stroud at 0150 hours, 21 January 1945. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0430 hours and take-off time for 0720 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Thirty-nine (39) aircraft including three (3) PFF, one (1) GH-PFF A/C and three (3) spares of the 92nd Bomb Group began take-off at 0720 hours for assembly on the Honeybourne Buncher at 12,000, 13,000 and 14,000 feet. These Aircraft formed the Lead, Low and High Squadrons of the 40th "B" Group. This Group was the second of the 1st Air Division.

b. The Group accomplished assembly on the assigned buncher and departed on course, two minutes late. The Group flew west of course to avoid high clouds and rejoined the briefed route at Guilford. The Group departed the English Coast at Hastings at which point the High Squadron became separated from the Group because of weather. The Lead and Low Squadrons were forced south of course entering the French Coast at Le Treport. The Group circled the towering clouds and returned to the briefed route at 48°10'N - 06°10'E from which point they continued as briefed to the I.P. Having received information from the Weather Scout A/C that the Target was covered by 10/10 clouds the Group executed a Gee-H Bomb Run and bombed the Secondary Target using Gee-H Technique. Bombs were away at 1157 hours, from 22,100 feet true, on a heading of 003°. The Low Squadron released in formation with the Lead Squadron. Results were unobserved.

c. The Route on withdrawal was flown as briefed to 50°12'N - 03°56'E where the Group was forced North of course because of weather. The Belgium Coast was crossed at 51°32'N - 03°28'E and the Group returned to Base in accordance with LBD Sop #19.

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d. The High Squadron, having been separated from the Group at the English Coast, flew south of course and entered the French Coast at 50°29'N - 01°35'E. Continuing southeast to 50°03'N - 01°53'E at which point the Squadron turned Northeast and intercepted the briefed course at 50°10'N - 02°40'E. The Squadron was unable to reassemble with the Lead and Low Squadrons, therefore they flew in trail of another Group. In the vicinity of the Last Resort Target, the Squadron Leader received a message from the Weather Scout that the Primary Target was completely covered by clouds. The PFF equipment in the Lead A/C was inoperative so the Leader planned to drop in the sighting of the preceding Group. Upon passing the Last Resort Target it was found to be open, therefore the Squadron established as I.P. at 49°08'N - 09°15'E and bombed a Marshalling Yard at Pforzheim, Germany, visually. Bombs were away at 1153 hours, at 21,800 feet true, on a true heading of 259°. Photos show hits on the MPI. The Squadron withdrew as briefed to Clacton and returned direct to Base.

e. Two Spares A/C attacked with the 306th Bomb Group and the 303rd Bomb Group.

3. Aircraft not attacking.

a. None

4. Aircraft Lost

A. A/C #42-107071 took off late and failed to assemble with the Group. This A/C is unreported.

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
DIVISION FIELD ORDER NUMBER **611**

Page #1
MISSION DATE **21/1/45**

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		14			
Number of Aircraft Sorties	11	1	12		14			
Number of Aircraft Attacking	11	1	12		14			
Number of Aircraft Not Attacking	0	0	0		0			
Name of Primary Target								
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking Primary Target								
(B) No. size and type of bombs								
Name of Secondary Target	Ascheffenburg				Ascheffenburg			
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking Secondary Target	11	1			14			
(B) No. size and type of bombs	110x500GP 10x500GP				139x500GP			
Name of Last Resort Target (LRT)	21xM-17IB 2xM-17IB		Pforzheim		26xM-17IB			
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking LRT	2skymarkers 2skymark.		11		1 skymarker			
(B) No. size and type of bombs			110x500GP					
Name of Target of Opportunity (T.O.)			22xM-17IB - 1skymarker					
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking T.O.			unknown					
(B) No., size and type of bombs			1					
Name of Target of Opportunity (T.O.)			10x500GP					
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking T.O.			2xM-17IB					
(B) No., size and type of bombs								

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