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

E-A-2

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APO #557
29 January 1945

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operational Missions,
28 January 1945, Target: Cologne, Germany.

TO : Commanding Officer, 92nd Bombardment Group (H) AAF,
APO #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 1100 hours 28 January 1945. The order called for thirty-three (33) B-17's plus three (3) Spares and one GH-PFF plus two (2) PFF aircraft to be loaded with 10 x 500 GP Bombs, each with 1/10 second nose fuse and 11/40 second tail fuse.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters 1st Bomb Division by Capt. Worth at 2400 hours, 27 January 1945. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0530 hours and take-off time 0815 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Thirty-three (33) B-17's plus two (2) PFF and three (3) spares of the 92nd Bomb Group, plus one (1) GH-PFF A/A from the 379th Bomb Group, began take-off at 0815 hours for assembly on the Honeybourne Buncher at 16,000, 17,000, and 15,000 feet. These aircraft formed the Lead, Low and High Squadrons of the 40th "B" Group. This Group was the 2nd of the 1st Air Division.

b. Assembly was completed over the buncher and the Group departed on time, on course. The Group flew the briefed course over England: control point #1 was crossed on course, on time. The briefed IP for the Primary Target was made good and the Group proceeded to execute a Gee-H bomb run. Bomb bay doors were opened after it was determined that the bomb line was crossed. Due to a malfunction in the Group Deputy A/C two (2) smoke bombs fell out when the bomb bay doors were opened and the entire low squadron and two (2) A/C of the Lead Squadron dropped on these markers. The rest of the Group bombed on the Gee-H sighting of the Lead A/C, bombing the Primary Target at 1148 hours, from 23,700 feet true altitude, on a true heading of 105 degrees.

c. The Group withdrew as briefed, returning to base early due to a wind shift.

3. A/C failing to attack.

a. A/C #43-102495 - This A/C was hit by flak before the target making the electrical release system inoperative.

b. A/C # 44-8436 - Number three oil pressure dropped to zero. A quantity of bearing particles were found on cuno strainer indicating bearing failure.

SECRET

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- c. A/C # 43-38468 - The #2 prop governor was set too low to prevent propeller from running away at altitude.
 - d. A/C # 43-38520 - The #3 prop ran away because the reduction gear system in the nose section sheared and failed.
- NOTE: #1 & #4 above were overhauled engines with less than 16 hours flying time since overhauled.

- 4. A/C lost.
 - a. 42-97141 - landed on continent due to flak damage. Crew reported safe.
 - b. 43-37784 - landed on continent due to flak damage. Crew reported safe.
 - c. 42-32054 - A/C was observed to receive several direct hits from flak. This A/C and crew is unreported.
 - d. 42-31536 - This A/C and crew is unreported.

SECRET

0664

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF MISSIONS
DIVISION FIELD ORDER NUMBER 615

Page #1
MISSION DATE 26/1/45

GROUP	FORMATION LEAD SQ. 40TH "A"		FORMATION HIGH SQ. 40TH "A"		FORMATION LOW SQ. 40TH "A"		FORMATION	
	BORROWED PFF A/C	BORROWED PFF A/C	BORROWED PFF A/C	BORROWED PFF A/C	BORROWED PFF A/C	BORROWED PFF A/C	BORROWED PFF A/C	BORROWED PFF A/C
Number of Aircraft Failing to Take Off		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	10	1	11		13			
Number of Aircraft Attacking	10	1	10		13			
Number of Aircraft Not Attacking	1	0	2		1			
Name of Primary Target	COLOGNE	COLOGNE	COLOGNE		COLOGNE			
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking Primary Target	8	1	10		2			
(B) No. size and type of bombs	76 X 500GP	10 X 500GP	92 X 500GP		120 X 500GP			
Name of Secondary Target		2 SKYMARKER	2 SKYMARKERS					
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking Secondary Target								
(B) No. size and type of bombs								
Name of Last Resort Target (L.R.T.)								
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking L.R.T.								
(B) No. size and type of bombs								
Name of Target of Opportunity (T.O.)	51°07'N - 06°13'E	50°58'N - 06°33'E	51°07'N - 06°13'E					
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking T.O.	3	1	11					
(B) No., size and type of bombs	24 X 500GP 2 SKYMARKERS	8 X 500GP	100 X 500GP 1 SKYMARKER					
Name of Target of Opportunity (T.O.)								
(A) No. of Aircraft attacking T.O.								
(B) No., size and type of bombs								

0665