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MISSION # 143

FRANKFURT

2 MARCH 1944

CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY

To: COMBOMDIV ONE AND COMBOMWING FORTY: ATTN: A-2

FROM: COMBOMGR 92

NARRATIVE REPORT:

1. Fifty bundles of the USG 28 leaflets were dropped over Frankfurt at 1205 hours by A/C # 42-31564. Observing x crews reported the nickles as well scattered.

2. Bombing was accomplished S.O.P. by use of PFF technique. Strike photos reveal a solid 10/10ths undercast condition. Heavy black and grey smoke was reported billowing through the undercast. The undercast was reported rising to 10 miles from the target.

3. Enemy air opposition directed at this group was nil, no direct attacks reported and no claims made. Enemy A/C were seen in small numbers either attacking other formations or flying at a safe distance. At 1130 hours the first E/A, ME-109's were seen at 4954N-0500E. A formation of 16 ME-109's, flying in a formation resembling that of our P-51's, were seen at a distance of 3 miles and high above. When in the sun this group of E/A peeled off and dove through a formation of B-17's to the rear. The E/A came one after the other firing 20 MM shells. Only the one pass was made and no apparent success was achieved. Only two twin engine fighters were seen which were thought to be ME-210's. Most of the fighters were too x distant to distinguish the type or markings. There seemed to be no definite pattern of attack as some attacked level in pairs from 3 to 6 o'clock while others attacked individually head on and high at 1 to 2 o'clock and also at 6 o'clock. These attacks started just before the I.P. and continued until just after the target. The enemy A/C disappeared when our fighter support moved in close. No direct attacks were

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made on this group

4. At Ault meager inaccurate black and white bursts were encountered. Continuously pointed fire was used. At Abbeville black, brown, gray, and white bursts were observed. This gunfire was meager to moderate and was not being fired at this formation. From the direction of Koblenz black bursts were observed. North of Wiesbeden meager inaccurate black gunfire was encountered. Continuously pointed fire again was used. AtFrankfurt moderate black and white gunfire was encountered. The majority of these bursts were low and to the right and some crews reported observing bursts at the cloud level. The remainder of the bursts were inaccurate. Both barrage and continuously pointed fire were employed. At Friedberg meager black inaccurate bursts were encountered. At this position the type of fire control is unkown. From the direction of Koln a barrage was observed far to the starboard. South of Liege meager black inaccurate gunfire was encountered. This gunfire was continuously pointed. At this position 2 red bursts were observed. Meager continuously pointed inaccurate black bursts were encountered at Louvain. Just north of Brussels meager to moderate black & very accurate gunfire was encountered. This gunfire was continuously pointed. At Walcheren island black gunfire of an undetermined type of fire control was encountered. This gunfire was inaccurate.

5. Cloud conditions of from 5/10 to 10/10th was encountered on route to and from the target. Over the target area 10/10 clouds prevailed which necessitated bombing on RFF technique. Visibility above clouds was good.

6. A large concentration of big trucks was seen [redacted] on Brussels A/D. No A/C were seen on the Drome, however.

A large tunnel under construction was seen at 5026N-0725E. This tunnel is connected with a larger dam on Rhine River.

Three Subs were seen in slips at Antwerp.

Four large boats were observed anchored in Antwerp Harbor. In addition, three similiar boats under construction at same place were reported.

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7. The 92nd Group flying as low group in the 40th "A" CBW and as lead and low Squadrons in the composite group of the 40th "A" CBW bombed their secondary target using rFF technique. The friendly fighter support was excellent resulting in no E/A being encountered and only a very few seen in distance. A B-17 was seen to explode at 20,000 feet just before target at position 5210N-0730E at 1155 hours. Another B-17 was seen to explode at 22,000 feet over 5016N-0626E at 1205 hours. Another B-17 was seen hit by flak and explode at 10,000 feet about 5 miles SW of Antwerp at 1443 hours. It appeared as though this A/C may have been ~~xxxxxxx~~ unoccupied and flying on automatic pilot. Two of our A/C are missing.

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