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SECRET. 1c March 1944

PRIORITY CONFIDENTIAL

TO: COMBOMDIV ONE AFT 40TH COMBAT WING; ATTENTION: A-2.

FROM: COMBOMGR 92.

NARRATIVE REPORT.

1. A/C 42-37976 Y RETURNED WITH 50 BUNDLES U.S. G. 31 LEAFLETS TURNING BACK OVER SPLASHER 9 AT 0928. TURNBACK DUE TO PERSONNEL FAILURE.

2. STRIKE PHOTOS REVEAL 10/10TH CLOUD UNDERCAST. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT IN THE PFF A/C LEADING THE 40TH & 41ST C.B.W. WAS INOPERATIVE. BOMBS AND MARKERS WERE RELEASED OVER THE HEAVIEST FLAK CONCENTRATIONS. POSITION BY D/R FIX WAS OVER AUGSBURG. TWENTY ONE OF OUR A/C BOMBED S.O.P. BY PFF TECHNIQUE, HAVING NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE PFF EQUIPMENT FAILURE. CREWS REPORT OBSERVING COLUMNS OF BLACK SMOKE RISING TO 10,000 TO 20,000 FEET. THIS OBSERVATION WAS MADE AT A DISTANCE OF 15 MILES FROM 20,000 FEET.

SIX A/C FLYING [illegible] GROUP, WITH S/[illegible]RON IN THE 40TH C.B.W. BOMBED BY PFF TECHNIQUE, AT A POINT 6½ MILES WEST S.W. OF AUGSBURG (D.R. FIX). A COLUMN OF WHITE-GREY SMOKE WAS REPORTED RISING THRU UNDERCAST TO 10,000 FEET.

3. OUR A/C FLYING IN THE 40th-41ST COMPOSITE COMBAT WING FORMATION ATTACKING AUGSBURG AT 1229 HOURS REPORTED OBSERVING FROM 15-100 E/A ALONG THE ROUTE FROM THE VICINITY OF 30 MILES NE BY E OF PARIS AT 1035 HOURS TO THE TARGET AND BACK TO THE SAME VICINITY, AT 1430 HOURS. THE GREAT BULK OF THE E/A WERE SEEN FROM THE NANCY AREA TO 0900' E LONGITUDE. THE E/A WERE PARTICULARLY NUMEROUS AND AGGRESSIVE IN THE RHINE RIVER AREA AT ABOUT 07°45' E. MOST ATTACKS WERE BY SINGLE E/A AND VIRTUALLY ALL E/A SEEN WERE S/E TYPES. VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE S/E E/A WERE ME109'S A VERY FEW FW 190 A/C WERE OBSERVED. THE ME 109'S WERE VIRTUALLY ALL BLACK AND GREY CHECKED OR MOTTLED CAMOUFLAGE. ONE BLUE NOSE AND ONE RED NOSE ME 109 ARE REPORTED. ATTACKS WERE VERY LIGHT IN THE MOUNTAINOUS COUNTRY FROM 08°00' EAST TO THE TARGET AND RETURN TO THE RHINE RIVER. ON THE RETURN ROUTE E/A WERE AGAIN SEEN IN SMALL NUMBERS FROM THE RHINE RIVER TO THE PARIS AREA. MOST E/A DID NOT SEEM AGGRESSIVE ON THE WHOLE AND CREWS REPORT GREATER ATTENTION PAID TO THE COMBAT WING FORMATION AHEAD. SEVERAL DEFINITE KILLS BY FRIENDLY FIGHTERS ARE REPORTED AND OUR CLAIMS ARE 1-0-0. ABOUT 1100 HOURS AT 4825N, 0554E AT 20,000 FEET, ONE ME 109 PASSED THROUGH THE FORMATION BEARING A DISTINCT R.A.F. ROUNDEL ON THE SIDE OF THE FUSELAGE. THIS ME 109 HAD PATCH BLACK AND GREY CAMOUFLAGE COLOR. ONLY ONE PASS OR ATTACK WAS OBSERVED AND THIS A/C WAS SEEN NO MORE.

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SECRET.

3. (CONTINUED) SEVERAL OF OUR A/C ATTACKED AUGSBURG WITH THE 1ST DIVISION EFFORT AT 1215 HOURS, 14 MINUTES BEFORE THE COMPOSITE COMBAT WING ATTACKED. THESE CREWS REPORT ONLY 3-6 E/E E/A BEING OBSERVED AND THESE WERE ME 109'S AND ONE JU 88. THEY WERE SEEN AT 4820N, 0900E AT 1139 HOURS. NO ATTACKS WERE EXPERIENCED. SEVERAL OF OUR A/C FLYING WITH THE 40TH "A" COMBAT WING FORMATION ATTACKED THE SMALL TOWN AND MARSHALLING YARD OF GESSERTSHAUSEN, 6½ MILES SW BY W. OF AUGSBURG AT 1207 HOURS. THESE A/C ALSO BOMBING AHEAD OF THE COMPOSITE COMBAT WING, REPORT ABOUT THESE E/A. ALL OF THESE WERE ME 109'S. THEY WERE ALL REPORTED FROM THE IP TO THE TARGET AREA, AND NO DETERMINED ATTACK IS REPORTED.

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SECRET.

4. AT CHALONS SUR MARNE MEAGER INACCURATE BLACK AND WHITE GUNFIRE WHICH WAS CONTINUOUSLY POINTED WAS ENCOUNTERED. FROM THE DIRECTION OF STRASBOURG A BLACK BARRAGE WAS OBSERVED. SOUTH OF ULM MEAGER INACCURATE BLACK CONTINUOUSLY POINTED BURSTS WERE ENCOUNTERED. AT GESSERTSHAUSEN MEAGER INACCURATE BLACK CONTINUOUSLY POINTED GUNFIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED. AT AUGSBURG A MODERATE TO INTENSE BLACK AND WHITE INACCURATE BARRAGE WAS ENCOUNTERED. FROM STRASBOURG A BARRAGE AGAIN WAS OBSERVED ON WAY OUT. AT CHALONS SUR MARNE AND IN VICINITY OF FOIX A/D INTENSE BLACK GUNFIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED. THIS GUNFIRE WAS ACCURATE. THE MAJORITY OF THIS GUNFIRE HAD A SMALLER BURST THAN CUSTOMARY. NO TRACERS WERE SEEN. CONTINUOUSLY POINTED FIRE WAS USED. FROM THE DIRECTION OF DIJON A BARRAGE WAS OBSERVED.

5. 10/10TH CLOUD CONDITION OBSCURED THE PRIMARY TARGETS FORCING THIS GROUP TO ATTACK THE SECONDARY TARGET ON SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AIRCRAFT WARNERS. A 10/10 TH CLOUD RISING TO 10,000 FEET EXISTED OVER THE SECONDARY TARGET: HOWEVER THE TARGET AREA WAS JUST COVERED BY APPROXIMATELY 7/10TH CLOUD - VISIBILITY IN THE BREAKS WAS 10 MILES, WHILE THE VISABILITY ABOVE CLOUD WAS UNLIMITED. 6-8/10 TH CLOUD PREDOMINATED ON ROUTE IN, BUT ONLY 4/10TH REMAINED ON ROUTE OUT.

6. A LARGE CONCENTRATION OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION WAS REPORTED IN THE MARSHALLING YARDS AT TOURES AND VILLENEUVE. MANY PASSENGER AND FREIGHT TRAINS WERE OBSERVED, ALL HEADING IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION. LARGE NEW WAREHOUSES AND A POWER STATION WERE REPORTED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE CITY OF NANCY. AT THE A/DS NEAR COURBOIN AND MOIRACK FIRES WERE REPORTED BY CREWS OF 2 A/C TO BE BURNING IN THE HANGAR AND DISPERSAL AREAS. THE BLAVOIR A/D WAS REPORTED TO HAVE A CONCENTRATION OF 60 E/A, BOTH S/A & T/E IN THE DISPERSAL AREA. A LARGE A/C FACTORY AND A/D WAS REPORTED IN THE FRIEDRICHSHAFEN AREA.

7. THE 92ND GROUP FLYING AS LEAD GROUP OF THE 40TH-41ST COMPOSITE C.B.W. BOMBED THEIR SECONDARY TARGET AT AUGSBURG USING PFF TECHNIQUE. SIX A/C FROM THIS GROUP WHICH WERE DETAILED TO FLY AS HIGH SQUADRON IN THE LOW GROUP OF SAME C.B.W., ACTUALLY FLEW WITH 1ST C.B.W., BUT BOMBED SAME SECONDARY TARGET. SIX MORE A/C FROM THIS GROUP FLEW AS HIGH SQUADRON LOW GROUP OF THE 40TH 'A' C.B.W. AND BOMBED A TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY BELIEVED TO BE GESSERTSHAUSEN, 6 MILE SOUTHWEST OF AUGSBURG USING PFF TECHNIQUE.

FRIENDLY FIGHTER SUPPORT WAS VERY GOOD RESULTING IN VERY FEW E/A BEING ABLE TO PRESS THEIR ATTACKS INTO OUR FORMATIONS. HOWEVER, ONE OF OUR A/C #022 FROM OUR LEAD GROUP WAS SEEN TO GO DOWN UNDER FIRE FROM E/A AT 1040 HOURS OVER 4858-0440E.

1022

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SECRET

7. (CONTINUED) TEN CHUTES WERE SEEN TO COME FROM THIS A/C BEFORE IT EXPLODED. ANOTHER B-17 FROM ANOTHER FORMATION WAS SEEN TO SPIN DOWN AND EXPLODE AT 15,000 FEET AT 1115 HOURS OVER 4830-0650E. ONE CHUTE WAS SEEN TO COME FROM ANOTHER B-17 WITH LETTER U FROM 1 GROUP NEAR NANCY AT 1338 HOURS. ONE OF OUR AIRCRAFT IS MISSING.

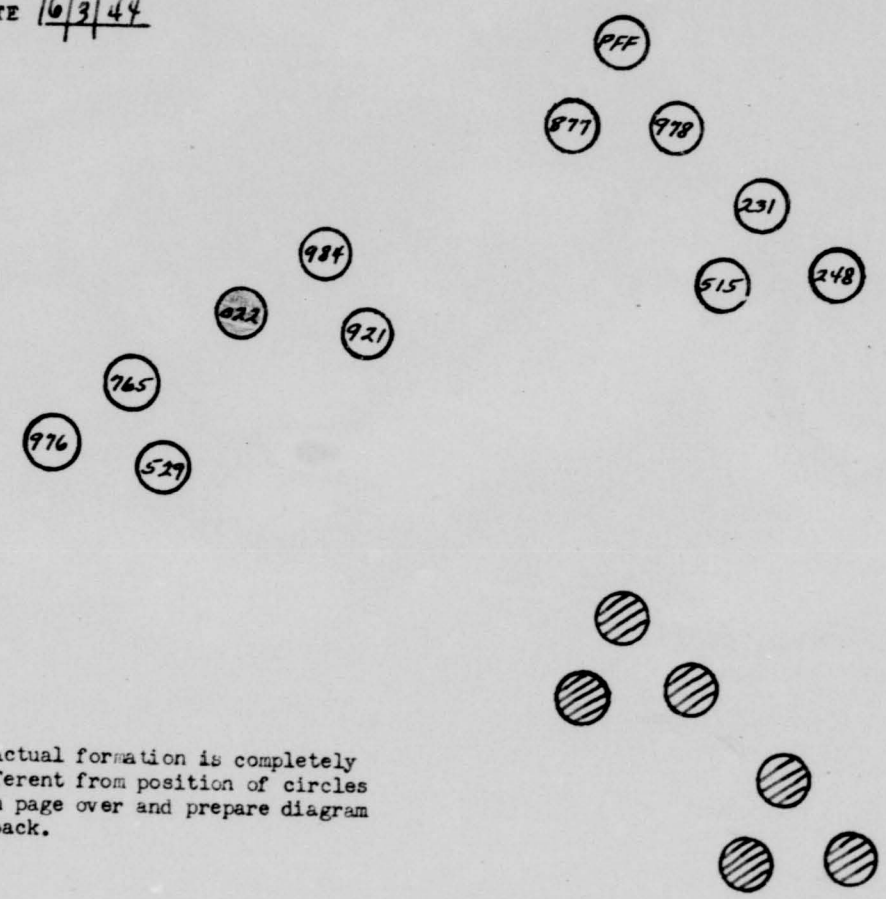
ROBERT E. TAUSCHER,
Captain, Air Corps,
S-2 Officer.

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GROUP 92nd
DATE 16/3/44

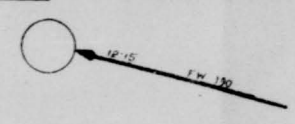
COMBAT DUPLICATION CHECK FORM

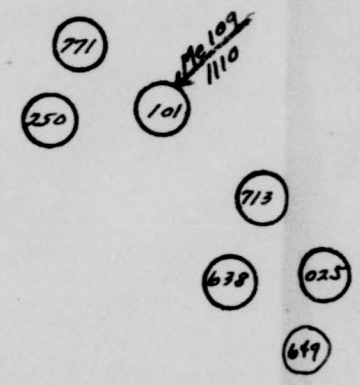
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If actual formation is completely different from position of circles turn page over and prepare diagram on back.

Show direction, approx. time and type E/A of each attack with arrow. Above with red arrow - Below with green - Level with black.

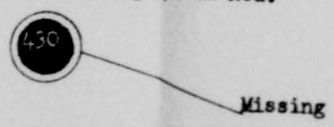




Write numbers of our A/C in circles.

Draw lines through circles not applying.

Block out our missing A/C in Red.



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40th B. CBW 40 & 41st Comp. ng.

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STATISTICAL REPORT

a. Statistical:- The information contained in this section will be telephoned to Division Headquarters, A-2 Duty Officer, within five and one half (5½) hours after the airplanes have landed. It will be submitted, for each primary target, in the following form:

(1) Designation of Group 92nd.
(2) Total number of airplanes airborne per Group, including spares. 24.
(3) Total number of airplanes dispatched per Group 21.
(4) Total number of airplanes attacking per Group. 20 (if targets other than the primary are attacked, this information will be given on each. Secondary on Special Equipment A/C
1 A/C bombed target of opp. 4827N 1045E
(5) Number of airplanes dispatched which failed to attack per Group.
(a) Due to mechanical failure. 0.
(b) Due to weather. 0.
(c) Due to enemy action (lost before target reached, etc.) 1
(d) other 0
(6) Number of airplanes lost.
(a) To anti-aircraft fire 0
(b) To enemy fighters 1.
(c) To anti-aircraft fire & enemy fighters 0.
(d) To accident 0.
(e) By reasons unknown 0.
(7) Time of attack 1229.
(8) Altitudes of attack 19,000.
(9) Bombs on each target.
(a) Number 65 - 5 - 228.
(b) Size 1000 - 1000 - Frag.
(c) Type GP - GP - Clusters.
(10) Personnel casualties.
(a) Number killed 0.
(b) Number wounded 0.
(c) Number missing 10. (If any personnel are known to have been rescued from the water, the number will be stated here. If rescues are made subsequent to the time the report is rendered, the information will be forwarded by teletype as soon as possible).
(11) Airplanes suffering battle damage. (This is to be an estimate only. Detailed report covered under Group Statistics).
(a) Minor (Category "A" and "AC". 2.
(b) Major (Category "B"). 0.
(c) Salvage (Category "D". 0.
(12) Preliminary claims.
Destroyed 1 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0.
(13) Leaflets Dropped: None - A/C aborted.

Phoned by: R.E.T. Time 1820 Date 16 March 1944

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40th A CBW

40th CBW

SECRET.

STATISTICAL REPORT

a. Statistical:- The information contained in this section will be telephoned to Division Headquarters, A-2 Duty Officer, within five and one half (5½) hours after the airplanes have landed. It will be submitted, for each primary target, in the following form:

(1) Designation of Group 92nd.
(2) Total number of airplanes airborne per Group, including spares. 6.
(3) Total number of airplanes dispatched per Group 6.
(4) Total number of airplanes attacking per Group. 6 (if targets other than the primary are attacked, this information will be given on each. ___
Secondary on special equipment A/C

(5) Number of airplanes dispatched which failed to attack per Group.
(a) Due to mechanical failure. 0.
(b) Due to weather. 0.
(c) Due to enemy action (lost before target reached, etc.) 0
(d) other 0

(6) Number of airplanes lost.
(a) To anti-aircraft fire 0
(b) To enemy fighters 0.
(c) To anti-aircraft fire & enemy fighters 0.
(d) To accident 0.
(e) By reasons unknown 0.

(7) Time of attack 1207½.
(8) Altitudes of attack 20,000.
(9) Bombs on each target.
(a) Number 228.
(b) Size Frag.
(c) Type Clusters.

(10) Personnel casualties.
(a) Number killed 0.
(b) Number wounded 0.
(c) Number missing 0. (If any personnel are known to have been rescued from the water, the number will be stated here. If rescues are made subsequent to the time the report is rendered, the information will be forwarded by teletype as soon as possible).

(11) Airplanes suffering battle damage. (This is to be an estimate only. Detailed report covered under Group Statistics).
(a) Minor (Category "A" and "AC". 6.
(b) Major (Category "B"). 0.
(c) Salvage (Category "E". 0.

(12) Preliminary claims.
Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0.

(13) Leaflets Dropped: None carried

Phoned by: R.E.T. Time 1820 Date 16 March 1944

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