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8 MARCH 1944

CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY

TO: COMBOMDIV ONE AND FORTIETH COMBAT WING: ATTN: A-2

FROM: COMBOMGR 92

NARRATIVE REPORT:

SECRET.

1. A/C #42-37976 Y CARRIED FIFTY BUNDLES OF USG 29, WHICH WERE DROPPED OVER PRIMARY TARGET FROM 21,500 FEET AT 1406 HOURS. THE BUNDLES WERE OBSERVED TO OPEN SATISFACTORILY AND A GOOD PATTERN OF DESCENDING LEAFLETS WERE SEEN FROM THIS A/C.

2. STRIKE PHOTOS DO NOT REVEAL THE BOMB HITS.

. PREVIOUS GROUPS BOMB BURSTS WERE OBSERVED AT OUR M.P.I. HEAVY BLACK SMOKE ROSE TO FOUR TO FIVE THOUSAND FEET. WHITE SMOKE AND BRIGHT FLAMES WERE ALSO OBSERVED IN TARGET AREA. OBSERVATIONS FROM TWO TO FIVE MILES AT ALTITUDE OF 24,000 FEET.

3. ABOUT 18 E/A ARE REPORTED, ALL IN THE TARGET AREA. TYPES INCLUDE 14 ME 109'S, 2 ME 410'S, 1 JU 88 AND 1 ME 110. THE ME 109'S ATTACKED NUMBER 3 A/C OF THE LEAD SQUADRON OF THE HIGH GROUP. THEY WERE FIRST SEEN IN THE TARGET AREA AT 1420 AND WERE LAST SEEN A FEW MOMENTS LATER PURSUED BY LIGHTNINGS. THEY ATTACKED THIS A/C FROM TWELVE TO ONE OCLOCK HIGH IN PAIRS OF TWO. THEIR CAMOUFLAGE IS DESCRIBED BY AN OBSERVER AS BEING THE COLOUR OF AUTUMN LEAVES - A BROWNISH YELLOW WITH A DIRTY GREEN OVERTONE. ALSO SEEN IN THE TARGET AREA- THE ME 110 CLOSED TO 400 YDS IN A FIVE OCLOCK HIGH TAIL ATTACK, AND WAS LAST SEEN IN A DESPERATE DIVE ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE THE P-38'S. ONE OF THE ME 410'S SEEN AT 1410 ATTACKED SLANTWISE FROM FIVE TO SIX OCLOCK, POSITION OVER ANDER LAKE. STRIKES WERE OBSERVED ON THIS A/C BUT NO CLAIMS ARE MADE. AGAIN OUR LIGHTNINGS PROCEEDED TO ENGAGE AND THE E/A WAS LAST SEEN IN A CONTROLLED DIVE. AT 1426 AT 4804N-0946E, ALTITUDE 19,000 FEET, A JU 88, PAINTED BATTLESHIP GREY ATTACKED FIRST FROM FIVE OCLOCK AND AGAIN FROM SEVEN OCLOCK. ONE A/C OF THIS GROUP FLYING WITH THE LOW SQUADRON OF THE 303RD GROUP REPORTS TWO ME-210'S AT THE RALLY POINT AT 1413 HOURS. THESE ATTACKED FROM ELEVEN OCLOCK AND LEVEL AND THREE OCLOCK LEVEL RESPECTIVELY BUT WERE NOT OBSERVED TO OPEN FIRE, IT BEING THE OPINION OF THE PILOT THAT THESE E/A WERE FUGITIVES FROM THE FRIENDLY FIGHTER SUPPORT. THERE WERE NO CLAIMS.

4. AT THANNHAUSEN MEAGER BLACK AND WHITE INACCURATE GUNFIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED. THE TYPE OF FIRE CONTROL USED IS UNKNOWN. AT THE TARGET MODERATE FAIRLY ACCURATE BLACK CONTINUOUSLY POINTED BURSTS WERE ENCOUNTERED. A BARRAGE WAS OBSERVED FROM THE DIRECTION OF MUNICH.

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AT BIBERACH MEAGER INACCURATE BLACK CONTINUOUSLY POINTED GUNFIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED. FROM THE DIRECTION OF FRIEDRICHSHAFEN A BLACK BARRAGE WAS OBSERVED. ANOTHER BARRAGE WAS OBSERVED FROM THE DIRECTION OF STRASBOURG. AT NEUFCHATEL MODERATE INACCURATE BLACK CONTINOUSLY POINTED GU FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED AT 4952-0145E MEAGER INACCURATE BLACK CONTINUOUSLY POINTED GUNFIRE BURSTS WERE ENCOUNTERED. MEAGER INACCURATE BLACK CONTINUOUSLY POINTED GUNFIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED AT 4946-0115E.

SECRET

5. 3/10 LOW FLUFFY CUMULOUS LAY OVER THE TARGET AREA FROM THE I.P. TO THE TARGET. 2 MILES E OF THE PRIMARY A 10/10 LOW UNDERCAST BEGAN AND EXTENDED EASTWARD INDEFINITELY THE ROUTE TO THE TARGET AND RETURN WAS MARKED BY 0-4/10 LOW CUMULOUS CLOUD UNDERCAST. 3/10-4/10 CIRRUS STRATUS LAY OVERHEAD OVER MOST OF THE ROUTE NEAR THE TARGET AREA. CONTRAILS WERE EXPERIENCED ONLY OCCASIONALLY- ALMOST ENTIRELY OVER THE VOSGES MOUNTAINS ON ROUTE TO THE TARGET AND HERE THEY WERE DENSE AND PERSISTENT AT INTERVALS. THE 2/10 COVER ON THE TARGET APPROACH OCCASIONALLY PREVENTED SEEING THE TARGET AND WAS SOMEWHAT OF A DIFFICULTY FOR THE LEAD BOMBARDIER. NO OTHER WEATHER FEATURE HAD ANY IMPORTANT EFFECT ON THE MISSION.

6.(1) CAMOUFLAGED A/D WAS OBSERVED AT MENGEN AT 1434 HOURS. (2) 50 A/C WERE OBSERVED ON A/D AT LANDSBURG AT 1411 HOURS. (3) LARGE FACTORY COMPOSED OF 25 BUILDINGS WITH 3 LARGE SMOKE STACKS WERE SEEN AT 4823-0643E. (4) 100 PLANES WERE SEEN ON A/D AT PENZING. (5) SMOKE SCREEN WAS OBSERVED OVER FRIEDRICHSCHAFEN. (6) APPROXIMATELY 100 E/A WERE SEEN ON A/D AT 4805-1055E. (7) 40 E/A WERE SEEN WELL DISPERSED ON A/D AT 4802-1037E.

7. THE 92ND FLYING AS HIGH GROUP IN THE 40TH "A" CBW, PLUS 6 A/C FLYING AS HIGH SQUADRON IN THE LOW GROUP OF THE 40TH "B" COMPOSITE CBW BOMBED THEIR PRIMARY TARGET. (LECHFELD AIRFIELD), VISUALLY. GOOD TO FAIR BOMBING RESULTS WERE REPORTED. FRIENDLY FIGHTER SUPPORT WAS EXCELLENT, RESULTING IN MEAGER E/A ATTACKS ON EITHER FORMATION AND VERY FEW E/A OBSERVED. A/C 515 FROM THIS GROUP WAS SEEN TO TURN OFF COURSE AND HEAD TO SWITZERLAND AFTER TARGET AT 1440 HOURS OVER 4805-0920E AT 16,000 FEET. THIS A/C HAD TWO ENGINES OUR AND WAS BEING ESCORTED BY EIGHT P-38'S. ONE OUR A/C IS MISSING.

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

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40th CBW

Ops

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:

SECRET.

(1) Designation of Group 92nd.
(2) Total number of airplanes airborne per Group, including spares. 21.
(3) Total number of airplanes dispatched per Group 17.
(4) Total number of airplanes attacking per Group. 15 (if targets other than the primary are attacked, this information will be given on each. ___

(5) Number of airplanes dispatched which failed to attack per Group.
  (a) Due to mechanical failure. 2.
  (b) Due to weather. 0.
  (c) Due to enemy action (lost before target reached, etc.) 0
  (d) other 2

(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 7.

(7) Time of attack 1415.
(8) Altitudes of attack 24,000.
(9) Bombs on each target.
  (a) Number 150.
  (b) Size 500.
  (c) Type GP.

(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". 3.
  (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: Lt. Moriarty Time 1938 Date 18-3-44

SECRET.

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40th Comp. CBW.

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:

SECRET.

(1) Designation of Group 72nd.
(2) Total number of airplanes airborne per Group, including spares. 7.
(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. ___

(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

(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 1406.
(8) Altitudes of attack 21,200.
(9) Bombs on each target.
(a) Number 190.
(b) Size Frag.
(c) Type.
(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". 3.
(b) Major (Category "B"). 0.
(c) Salvage (Category "D". 0.
(12) Preliminary claims.
Destroyed 0 Probably Destroyed 0 Damaged 0.
(13) Leaflets Dropped: 50 Bundles US G-29

Phoned by: Lt. Moriarty Time 1940 Date 18-3-44

SECRET.

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