THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO 13526

HEADQUARTERS
NINETY SECOND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF B-A-2
Office of the Operations Officer
SECRET. APO #634
19 March 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations of Mission 18 March 1944, Lechfeld.

TO : Commanding Officer, 92nd Bombardment Group (H) AAF, APO 634.

1. Comment on Planning and Execution.

a. The bomb loading for this operation was received from Headquarters 40th Combat Wing by Capt. Prasse at 2135 hours 17 March 1944. The order called for twenty-one (21) B-17's to be loaded with 10 X 500 GP Bombs each with 1/10 second nose fuse and 1/100 second tail fuse, plus seven (7) B-17's to be loaded with maximum fragmentation clusters.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters 1st Bomb Division by Lt. Col. Keck at 2300 hours 17 March 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0545 hours and take-off time 0940 hours.

2. Take off was accomplished by twenty-one (21) B-17's beginning at 0940 hours for assembly over splasher #10 at 14,000 feet. Due to weather conditions the group assembled at 16,000 feet departing splasher #10 at 1103 hours. The group rendezvoused as High Group of the 40th Combat Wing near Splasher #9. The 40th Combat Wing was the third combat wing of the 1st Air Division.

a. The route over England was flown as briefed and the wing departed the English Coast at Beachy Head at 1137 hours. The enemy coast was crossed at a point 50° 00'N - 01° 16'E at 16,000 feet. The route over enemy territory was followed as planned and the wing reached the initial point at 1402 hours flying at 23,000 feet. At this time the High 92nd Group made a 360° turn to the right in order to space themselves properly behind the low group for the bomb run. The primary target was bombed at 1415 hours on a magnetic heading of 76 degrees from 24,000 feet. After bombs away the wing rallied and turned right to their prescribed route back. The route back was flown as briefed and the wing departed the enemy coast at 1656 hours at a point 50° 00'N - 01° 15'E. The English Coast was entered two (2) miles north of Eastbourne at 1719 hours. The group reached the base at 1755 hours and the lead ship landed at 1801 hours

b. Moderate accurate flak was encountered at the target.

c. Enemy fighter opposition was nil.

d. Friendly fighter support was excellent.

e. Communications was good.

General Narrative, (92nd - 306th Composite Group)

a. Take-off was accomplished by seven (7) aircraft of the 92nd Bomb Group (H) at 1000 hours for assembly on the 40th Combat Wing Buncher at 5,000 feet. This Squadron flew as High Squadron of the Low Composite Group, which was led by the 306th Bomb Group (H), of the Composite Combat Wing.

b. Assembly was completed by 1047 hours at which time the Composite Group departed Poddington for Combat Wing rendezvous.

c. Reference is made to the General Narrative of the 306th Bomb Group for information and details of this group.

SECRET.

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO 13526

d. Attached diagrams "A" and "B" show the main 92nd formation at assembly and over the target respectively. Diagrams "C" and "D" show the High 92nd Squadron of the Low Composite Group at assembly and over the target respectively.

3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

a. Of the twenty-eight (28) aircraft taking off, twenty-one (21) attacked the target.

b. Seven (7) aircraft did not attack

(1). Five (5) aircraft, numbers 42-3513, 42-31765, 42-30638, 42-31635, and 42-30849 returned to this station before becoming dispatched.

(2). Two (2) aircraft numbers 42-39851 and 42-37934 turned back after becoming dispatched, but did not receive sortie credit.

4. Lost Aircraft.

a. Aircraft #42-37515 was hit by flak over the target and lost one engine. A few minutes later this aircraft lost another engine, and the pilot decided to fly to neutral country. He was last seen headed toward Switzerland with an escort of four (4) P-38' aircraft.

5. Statistical Summary.

	HIGH GP	COMP GP	TOTAL
a. Number of A/C Taking off	21	7	28.
b. Unused spares	0	0	0.
c. A/C taking off less unused spares.	21	7	28.
d. Number of A/C dispatched	17	6	23.
e. Number of Sorties	15	6	21.
f. Number of A/C Attacking	15	6	21.
g. Number of A/C Not Attacking	6	1	7.
Number of A/C Lost.			
a. To Flak	1	0	1.
b. To Flak and E/A	0	0	0.
c. To Enemy Aircraft	0	0	0.
d. To accident	0	0	0.
e. Unknown	0	0	0.
TOTAL	1	0	1.

Robert B. Keck

ROBERT B. KECK,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

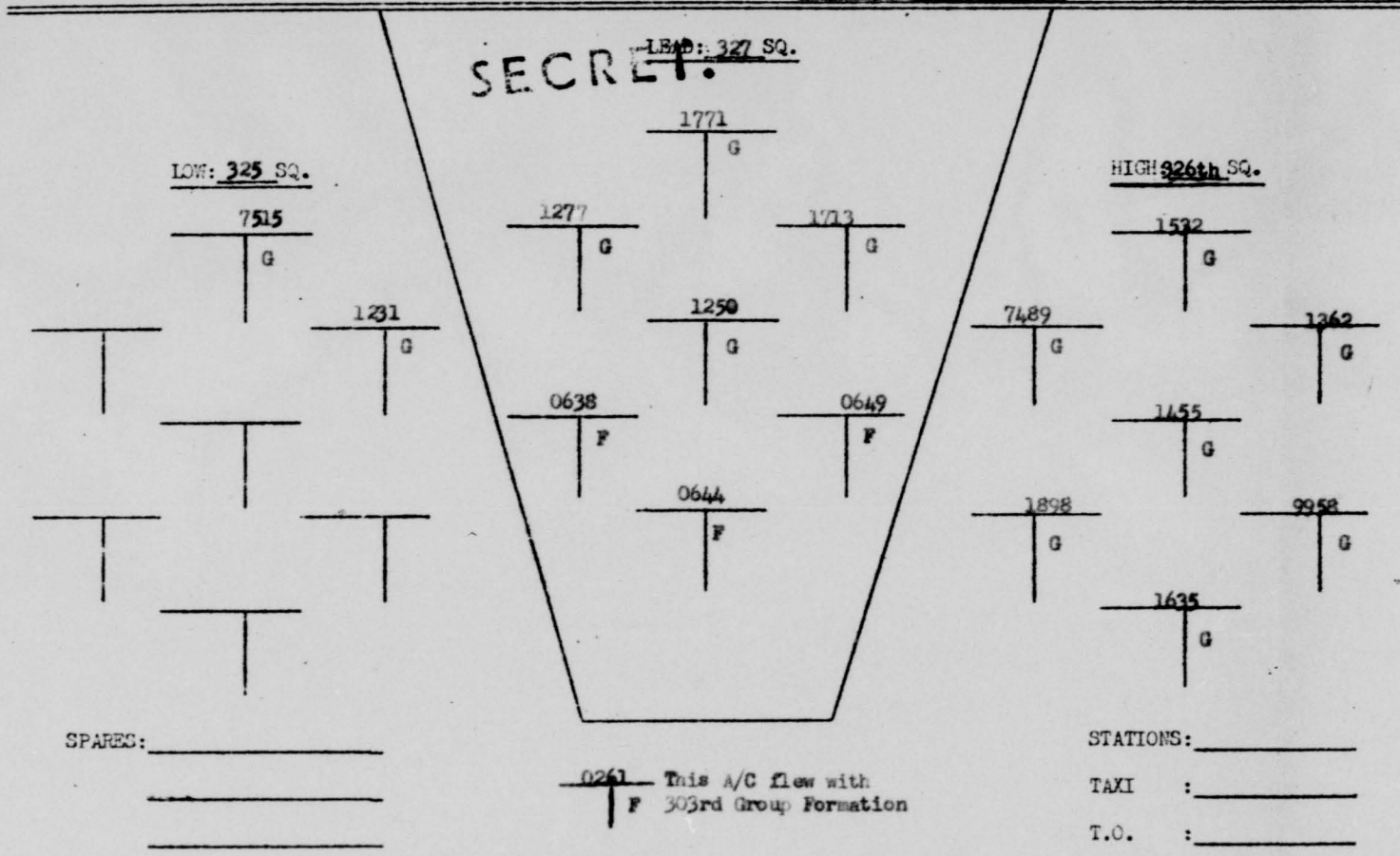
SECRET.

1069

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO 13526

High Gp, 40th "A" Combat Wing — GROUP FORMATION – DATE: 19/3/44 AT RENDEZVOUS — Diagram "A"

SECRET.



SECRET.

1050

DECLASSIFIED IAW E

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO 13526

High Group, 40th "A" Combat Wing — GROUP FORMATION - DATE: 19/3/44 — OVER TARGET — Diagram "B"

LEAD 322nd SQ.

SECRET.

1711 G

LOW: ___ SQ.

1277 G

1713 G

1250 G

HIGH: 326 SQ.

1532 G

7489 G

1362 G

1231 G

0644 F

1455 G

7515 G

1898 G

9958 G

0649 F

SPARES: _____

0261 F — This A/C flew with 303rd Group

STATIONS: _____

TAXI : _____

T.O. : _____

SECRET.

DECLASSIFIED IAW E

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO 13526

"igh Squadron, Low Comp. Group — GROUP FORMATION - DATE: 10/2/44 — RENDEZVOUS — Diagram "B"

LEAD: 306 Sq. GP

SECRET.

LOW: 306th SQ Group

306th Group

SPARES:

306th Group

HIGH: 407 SQ.

1687 G

1783 G

1921 G

1765 G

7976 G

1408 G

1529 G

STATIONS:

TAXI :

T.O. :

SECRET.

1052

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO 13526

High Squadron, Low Comp. Group — GROUP FORMATION - DATE: 19/3/44 — OVER TARGET — DIAGRAM "D"

LEAD: 306 ~~Sq.~~ Group

SECRET.

LOW: 306 ~~Sq.~~ GP.

306th Group

HIGH: 407 SQ.

1687 G

1783 G

1921 G

1529 G

7976 G

1408 G

306th Group

SPARES: _____

STATIONS: _____

TAXI : _____

T.O. : _____

SECRET.