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HEADQUARTERS
NINETY SECOND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF E-A-5
Office of the Operations Officer

APO 634,
7 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations of Mission 6 March 1944, Berlin.

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 2150 hours 5 March 1944. The order called for twenty-one (21) B-17's from the 92nd Bombardment Group incl. one (1) B-17 from the 482nd Group to be loaded with 10 X 500 GP bombs each with 1/10 second nose fuse and 1/100 second tail fuse; and fourteen (14) B-17's from the 92nd Bombardment Group to be loaded with 10 X M-17 I.B.'s.

b. The Field Order was received from Headquarters 1st Bomb Division by Capt. Prasse at 2315 hours 5 March 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0500 hours and take-off time 0750 hours.

2. General Narrative.

a. Main Formation (Lead Group 40th "A" Combat Wing)

(1) Take-off was accomplished by twenty (20) B-17's from the 92nd Bomb Group plus one (1) B-17 from the 482nd Group, beginning at 0802 hours. The assembly for these aircraft was made over Splasher # 10 at 8000 feet as shown in Diagram "A". The formation departed Splasher # 10 at 0858 hours flying as Lead Group of the 40th Combat Wing. The high group was in wing formation upon departing Splasher # 10, but rendezvous with the low group was not completed until the English Coast was reached.

(2) The route over England was followed according to flight plan and the English Coast was departed at 1008 hours. The Enemy Coast was entered at 1056 hours, at an altitude of 21,000 feet. The I.P. was reached at 1306 hours, and it was decided at this point that the secondary would be attacked, because of the cloud cover over the primary. The aircraft from the 482nd Group lead the attack on the secondary using blind bombing technique, as the secondary was also partially obscured by cloud cover. The bombs were released at 1322 hours over the target on a Magnetic Heading of 350 degrees at 20,700 feet as shown in Diagram "B" & "D". After leaving the target the formation descended to 18,000 feet, and proceeded to the Enemy Coast which was departed at 1513 hours. The English Coast was crossed at 1550 hours and the base was reached at 1623 hours.

b. 92nd and 306th Composite Group (High Group 40th "A" Combat Wing)

(1) Take-off was accomplished by fourteen (14) B-17's from the 92nd Group, beginning at 0750 hours. These aircraft assembled, as shown in Diagram "C", over Splasher # 10 where they were joined by seven (7) aircraft from the 306th Group which formed the high squadron. The formation departed Splasher # 10 at 0858 hours, as high group of the 40th "A" Combat Wing for immediate rendezvous with the lead group.

(2) For further details of the Composite Group, reference is made to the General Narrative of the main 92nd Group Formation.

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3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

a. Thirty-five (35) aircraft including one (1) aircraft of the 482nd Group took-off on the mission. One (1) aircraft, Number 42-30849 made a late take-off and returned early after failing to join the formation. Five (5) aircraft, Number's 42-97489, 42-30261, 42-31687, 42-37877, and 42-31783 turned back before becoming dispatched due to mechanical failure. Three (3) aircraft, Numbers 42-3536, 42-39958, and 42-31231 turned back after becoming dispatched, due to mechanical failure and battle damage. One (1) aircraft Number 42-40052 was lost due to unknown causes before reaching the target. The remaining twenty-five (25) aircraft were dispatched and attacked the target.

4. Aircraft Lost.

a. A/C 42-40052 - Reason Unknown.
b. A/C 42-31503 - Reason Unknown.
c. A/C 42-97527 - This aircraft is believed to have been hit by flak and exploded after leaving the target. No chutes were seen.
d. A/C 42-31680 - Reason Unknown.

5. Statistical Summary. (Includes one (1) A/C from 482nd BG)

	MAIN GP.	COMP.GP.	TOTAL.
a. Number of A/C Taking off	21	14	35
b. Unused Spares	0	0	0
c. A/C taking off less unused spares.	21	14	35
d. Number of A/C dispatched	18	11	29
e. Number of Sorties	17	11	28
f. Number of A/C Attacking	16	9	25
g. Number of A/C Not Attacking	5	5	10
Number of A/C Lost.			
a. To Flak	1	1	2
b. To Flak and E/A	0	0	0
c. To E/A	1	0	1
d. Accident	0	0	0
e. Unknown	0	1	1

Robert B. Keck

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

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LEAD GROUP 40TH CBW - ASSEMBLY (DIAGRAM "A")

92ND GROUP FORMATION - DATE: 6/3/44

LEAD: SQ.

FFF

F 514

G 1277 G 1771

G 7479

G 1362 G 8101

F 0648

LOW: SQ.

G 7527

F 0649 G 8025

G 9851

G 1250 G 1984

HIGH: SQ.

G 7934

G 1231 G 7877

G 1248

G 3536 F 0261

G 1503

SPARES:

STATIONS:

TAXI :

T.O. :

SECRET.

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LEAD GROUP 40TH CBW - OVER TARGET (DIAGRAM "B")

92ND GROUP FORMATION - DATE: 6/3/44

SECRET

LEAD: SQ.

PFF

F 514

LOW: SQ.

G 7527

F 0649 G 8025

G 9851

G 1250 G 1984

G 1271 G 1771

G 7479

G 1362 G 8101

F 0644

HIGH: SQ.

G 7934

G 1248 G 1503

SPARES:

STATIONS:

TAXI :

T.O. :

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HIGH GROUP COMPOSITE - AT ASSEMBLY (DIAGRAM C)

92ND GROUP FORMATION - DATE: 6/3/44

LEAD: SQ.

G 1529

LOW: SQ.

G 7976

G 1783 G 1921

G 1687

G 1600 G 1408

G 1765

G 0052 G 1898

G 1907 G 7489

G 9958

HIGH: SQ. - 306TH BG

SPARES:

STATIONS:

TAXI :

T.O. :

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HIGH GROUP COMPOSITE - OVER TARGET (DIAGRAM "D"

92ND GROUP FORMATION - DATE: 6/3/44

LEAD: SQ.

SECRET

G 1529

G 1907 G 1898

G 1888

LOW: SQ.

G 7976

G 1680 G 1921

G 1765

G 1408

HIGH: SQ. 306th BG

SPARES:

STATIONS:

TAXI :

T.O. :

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