

IRIS Public Record

Key Information

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Title Extensions:

Abstract

Descriptive Notes: TITLE SUPPLIED.

Title Added MISSION REPORTS: TARGET WIESBADEN, GERMANY

Entries

Author:

Subject:

Major Command:

Administrative Markings

No Administrative Markings Listed

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GENERAL INDEX

(M-344636)

TARGET WIESBADEN DATE 19 FEB No. A/C 36 MISS. # 207 F.O. # 753

STATUS ATTACKED BRIEFING OFFICER CAPT. LURIA

1. IX BC Synopsis of Mission -
2. Opflash Report -
3. Telephone Report -
4. Photos -
5. Field Orders, Annexes, Addmts -
6. Briefing Notes -
7. Loading List of Airplane Crews -
8. Chart of Route Flown - Flak -
9. Operations Oprep Report -
10. E/A Encountered -
11. Bombing Information -
12. Weather Report -
13. Communications YS Report -
14. Navigator's Log and Flight Plan -
15. Battle Casualties -
16. Analysis of Gunnery -
17. Ammunition Expenditures -
18. Recapitulation Forms -

P.R.C.

00092025

OIITA OIJES OIJKI OIJJF V OIJE A OIJE A 19/18 OP OP

FROM: 97TH COMBAT BOMB WING 18/2330A
TO : COMBOMDIV NINE
COBOMGPS 409, 416
1ST PROV. PATHFINDER SQDN.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY BT
SECRET SENT IN THE CLEAR AUTH: LT COL MC AFEE
INTELLIGENCE SUPPLEMENT 2 FIELD ORDER 171-753

PLAN "A"

1. TARGET: LAGE RAILWAY BRIDGE (B-717782). FOR DESCRIPTION OF TARGET SEE XXIX T A C T/196, AND LETTER, REGISTRY NO. 64 AND APPENDIX "A".
2. THIS BRIDGE IS ON A SECONDARY RAILROAD LINE RUNNING S W FROM HANNOVER TO THE RUHR. THIS ATTACK IS PART OF A COORDINATED PLAN OF RAIL INTERDICTION WITH THE PURPOSE OF ISOLATING THE NORTHERN PART OF THE WESTERN FRONT.
3. PHOTO COVERAGE:
----- 1066/578 PRINT NO. 4074 AND 4075.
7/2136 PRINT NO. 8031 ✓
XXIX T A C T/196 ✓

MAP COVERAGE:

----- GSGS 4414 SHEET 4018 ✓
GSGS 4416 SHEET P-3 ✓

4. FLAK: SEE PLOTTED POSITIONS. STAY MIDWAY BETWEEN MUNSTER AND HAMM.

PLAN "A-1" - PRIMARY

1. TARGET: NDR. SCHELD RAILWAY BRIDGE (G-39853598)
SEE LETTER, REGISTRY NO. 64 AND APPENDIX "A".

2. LAST SENTENCE OF PAR. 2, PLAN "A".

3. PHOTO COVERAGE:
----- US 7 GR/3725 PRINT NO. 3031 AND 3032 ✓
US 7 GR/1435 PRINT NO. 7026 ✓

MAP COVERAGE:

----- GSGS 4414 SHEET NO. 5215 None

4. FLAK: SEE PLOTTED POSITIONS:

PLAN "A-1" - SECONDARY

1. TARGET: FREILINGEN ROAD JUNCTION (G-07001785)
THIS TOWN IS ON THE MAIN LATERAL HIGHWAY JUST EAST OF THE RHINE RIVER.

2. PHOTO COVERAGE:
----- MOSAIC NUMBER 38 SHEET NO. 27 ✓

MAP COGERSGE:

----- GSGS 4414 SHEET 5412 AND 5413

FX 297
S-2 Beck
S-3 19/03:25

PLAN "B"

1. TARGET: WIESBADEN ORDNANCE DEPOT (M-345636) SEE INFORMATION SHEET ON TARGET G N 5822 AND 5008E/5915/F/3.
2. THIS TARGET IS A SECONDARY TYPE DEPOT OR BRANCH DEPOT, AND IS IMPORTANT SINCE IT IS NEAR THE FRONT. THIS DEPOT PROBABLY HAS FACILITIES FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF M/T.

3. PHOTO COVERAGE:

----- 3 (K) 47/3 AND 4.

G (D) (VI) 193/1

5008E/5915/1

US 13/2611 PRINT NO. 3025, 3027, 4037, 4034.

MAP COVERAGE:

----- GSGS 4414 SHEET 5915.

4. FLAK: SEE PLOTTED POSITIONS.

COMCBTWIG 97

BT 18/2330A

AR

SS

OIJJF R. 19/0155A SST ARV

OIITA R. 19/0157A MD AR

OIJES R. 19/0157A WS AR

OIJKI R. 19/0157A WFG AR

FX266

OIITA OIJES OIJKI OIJPO V OIJE A OIJE A 15/18 (INFO)

FROM: 97TH COMBAT BOMB WING 18/2230A
 TO : IX BOMBER DIV.
 409TH BOMB GROUP.
 410TH BOMB GROUP.
 416TH BOMB GROUP.

ATTN: SIGNAL OFFICER:

ADVANCED INFORMATION COPY OF PARA. 5 (COMMUNICATIONS) OF F.O. TO FOLLOW:

5. COMMUNICATIONS.

PLAN "A"

A. 409TH BOMB GROUP. (717782)
 (2) COTTON
 (3) BYPASS

B. 410TH BOMB GROUP. (223210)
 (2) BLIZZARD
 (4) SWEEPSTAKES

(11) LEADER WILL CALL WELLFED 15 MIN. BEFORE TROOP LINE STATING
 TIME AHEAD OF OR BEHIND SCHEDULE AND AGAIN CALL UPON
 LEAVING TARGET ADVISING COMPLETION OF OPERATIONS.

C. 416TH BOMB GROUP. (717782)
 (2) VISION
 (3) CABMAN

PLAN "A-1"

A. 409TH AND 416TH BOMB GROUPS. (398359)
 (2) GENTRY
 (3) SKIPPER
 (4) RIPSAN

(11) C/S AND FIRST BOX COLOR WILL BE USED BY 409TH. C/S AND
 SECOND BOX COLOR WILL BE USED BY 416TH.

PLAN "B"

A. 409TH BOMB GROUP. (345636)
 (2) FISHLOCK
 (3) PRODUCT
 (4) RIPSAN

B. 410TH BOMB GROUP. (223210)
 (2) BLIZZARD
 (4) SWEEPSTAKES

C. 416TH BOMB GROUP. (345636)
 (2) CIRCLE
 (3) REDBROWN
 (4) RIPSAN

X. GENERAL INFORMATION.

(11) 410TH BOMB GROUP ON NON-OPERATIONAL FLIGHTS WILL USE
 ONLY LAST 3 OF ALLOTTED CALL SIGNS.

---COMCBTWIG 97---

BT 18/2230A

FK-AR

OIITA R.....QI/2;TRM RB AR
 OIJES R.....18/2250A HO (BB)
 OIJKI R.....18/2250A EW AR
 OIJPO R.....18/2250A HP AR

By telephone from 274 Wing A2.

For Plan A-

Refer to Supplement No. 2 to FO 171-753 for details on target.

For Plan B-

D- 686214

US-30/5043, print No. 1027

MPI

04820279

05060240

05230187

(Pathfinder on sheet 5418

68002105

For Plan A1-

~~INDEX~~ T- 019253

On Sheet 4403

01652562

01842565

OIITA OIJES OIJKI OI PO OIJJF V OIJE A OIJE A 18 8 OP - OP
T (OIITA T OIJJF)

FROM: 97TH COMBAT BOMB WING 18/2308A
TO : COMBOMDIV NINE
BOMB GROUPS 409, 410, 416
1ST PROV. PATHFINDER SQDN.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY BT
SECRET SENT IN THE CLEAR AUTH: LT. COL. MC AFEE

97TH COMBAT BOMB WING
A P O 140
18 FEBRUARY 1945

F-154-E

FIELD ORDER NO. 171-753

MAPS: NORMAL

1. B. (1) REF. CURRENT BOMBLINE
(2) THE IX T A C WILL FURNISH CLOSE ESCORT AND AREA COVER FOR TARGET "B-717782" ON PLAN "A".
19 T A C WILL FURNISH CLOSE ESCORT ON TARGETS M-345636 AND G-398359.

2. THIS WING WILL ATTACK TARGETS IN GERMANY.

ZERO HOUR: PLAN "A" 18/1200A
ZERO HOUR: PLAN "B" 18/1200A

PLAN "A"

3. A. 409TH BOMB GROUP:
(3) WITH FIGHTERS AT E-4318 AT ZERO HOUR PLUS 90 MIN.
AT 12,000 FEET.
3. B. 410TH BOMB GROUP:
(1) MECHERNICH MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR DEPOT F-223210.
(2) MAXIMUM EFFORT BOMBING BY FLIGHTS OF 6.
(4) BASE TO K-7905 TO I P TO TARGET.
(5) TARGET TURN RIGHT TO R P AND RETRACE ROUTE TO BASE.
(6) BOMB 9,000 FEET OR BELOW CLOUDS BUT NOT BELOW 6,000 FEET.
(7) K-9519
(8) GEN. W TO E.
(9) MPI: GSGS 4414 SHEET NO. 5405. GRID. COORD.: 223210.
(10) 6 X 500 LB. G P FUSED 1/10 SEC. NOSE, 1/100 SEC. TAIL.
(11) K-7905
(12) TOT: ZERO HOUR.
(13) IN THE EVENT PRIMARY TARGET CANNOT BE ATTACKED BY VISUAL MEANS, GROUP WILL SELECT AN ALTERNATE TARGET IN ACCORDANCE WITH IX BOMB DIV. CIPHER F-576-E (9-2-45)
(14) FRIENDLY ARTILLERY WILL ATTEMPT TO NEUTRALIZE ENEMY FLAK POSITIONS WITHIN RANGE.
3. C. 416TH BOMB GROUP:
(3) WITH FIGHTERS AT E-4318 AT ZERO HOUR PLUS 70 MIN.
AT 12,000 FEET.

X. (1) - (3) NO CHANGE:

409TH AND 416TH BOMB GROUPS ONLY.

- (4) A-78, A-92, B-78, B-80, AND B-89 WILL BE USED IN EXTREME EMERGENCY FOR REFUELING AND LANDING.
- (5) TARGET: LAGE R.R. BRIDGE B-717782.
- (6) A/C REQUIRED: 2 BOXES OF 12 A/C BOMBING BY FLIGHTS OF 6.
- (7) ROUTE OUT: BASE TO F/R (E-4318) TO E-7153 TO E-9055 TO A-1372 TO A-4073 TO A-6860 TO B-2057 TO I P TO TARGET.
- (8) ROUTE BACK: TARGET TURN LEFT TO R P TO B-2982 TO B-2057 - AND RETRACE ROUTE TO BASE.
- (9) ALTITUDES: BOMB 9,000 FEET OR BELOW CLOUDS BUT NOT BELOW 6,000 FEET. CLIMB 1,000 FEET AFTER RELEASING BOMBS.
- (10) I P: B-5752.
- (11) AXIS OF ATTACK: GEN. S W TO N E.
- (12) MPI: GSGS 4414 SHEET NO. 4018. GRID. COORD.: 71727825
(CENTER OF BRIDGE)
INTERVALOMETER SETTING MINIMUM.
- (13) BOMB LOAD AND FUSING: 4 X 1,000 LB. G P FUSED 1/10 SEC. NOSE, NON-DELAY TAIL.
- (14) R P: B-5899.
- (15) IN THE EVENT PRIMARY TARGET CANNOT BE ATTACKED BY VISUAL MEANS, THE GROUPS WILL ATTACK THE PRIMARY TARGET IN THE FOLLOWING PRIORITY:

B. TARGET E.T.A.

- (16) GROUP WILL SELECT AN ALTERNATE TARGET IN ACCORDANCE WITH IX BOMB DIV. CIPHER F-576-E (9-2-45).
- (17) FRIENDLY ARTILLERY WILL ATTEMPT TO NEUTRALIZE ENEMY FLAK POSITIONS WITHIN RANGE ON THE ROUTE.

PLAN "A-1"

3. A. 409TH GROUP.

- (2) 1 BOX 12 A/C BOMBING BY FLIGHTS OF 6.
- (3) WITH 1 BOX OF 416TH GROUP AT 0-0919. (TIME AND ALTITUDE TO BE COORDINATED BY 97TH COMBAT BOMB WING) 409TH GROUP WILL LEAD FORMATION. WITH FIGHTERS AT P-8413 AT ZERO PLUS 20 MIN. AT 12,000 FT

C. 416TH GROUP.

- (2) 1 BOX 12 A/C BOMBING BY FLIGHTS OF 6.
- (3) WITH 1 BOX OF 409TH GROUP AT 0-0919. (TIME AND ALTITUDE TO BE COORDINATED BY 97TH COMBAT BOMB WING) 409TH GROUP WILL LEAD FORMATION. WITH FIGHTERS AT P-8413 AT ZERO PLUS 20 MIN AT 12,000 FT.

X. (1) - (4) NO CHANGE

FOR THE 409TH AND 416TH GROUPS.

- (5) TARGET: NDR. SCHELD R.R. BRIDGE (G398359)
- (6) ROUTE OUT: BASE TO BOMB RNDV. TO P-8413 TO L-3821 TO L-3358 TO L-6264 TO M-2881 TO G-0718 TO I.P. TO TARGET.
- (7) ROUTE BACK: TARGET LEFT TO R.P. AND RETRACE ROUTE TO BASE
- (8) ALTITUDES: BOMB 12,000 FEET OR BELOW CLOUDS BUT NOT BELOW 6,000 FEET.
- (9) I.P.: G-2324
- (10) AXIS OF ATTACK: GENERALLY SW TO NE
- (11) M.P.I. GSGS 4414 SHEET NO. 5215. GRID COORD: 39853598 (CENTER OF BRIDGE) INTERVALOMETER SETTING MINIMUM.
- (12) BOMB LOAD AND FUSING: 4 X 1,000 LB. G.P. FUSED 1/10 SEC NOSE, NON-DELAY TAIL.
- (13) R.P.: G-2324
- (14) IN THE EVENT THE PRIMARY TARGET CANNOT BE ATTACKED BY VISUAL MEANS, THE GROUPS WILL BOMB THE PRIMARY TARGET IN THE FOLLOWING PRIORITY:
 - A. GEE
 - B. TARGET E.T.A.
- (15) ALTERNATE TARGET: FREILINGEN (G-070178) M.P.I. 07001785

PLAN "B"

3. A. 409TH BOMB GROUP

- (3) WITH FIGHTERS AT P-8413 AT 12,000 FEET AT ZERO PLUS 26 MIN. WITH PPF A/C OVER THE BASE
- (12) T.O.T. ZERO HOUR PLUS 80 MIN.

B. 410TH BOMB GROUP

- (1) MECHERNICH MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR DEPOT (F-223210)
- (2) 2 BOXES IF 18 A/C BOMBING ON 1 PPF A/C
- (3) WITH PPF A/C OVER THE BASE
- (4) BASE TO K-7135 TO TARGET
- (5) TARGET TURN RIGHT TO K-7905 TO BASE
- (6) BOMB: 12,500 FEET. MINIMUM ALTITUDE IF BOMBING IS VISUAL 8,000 FEET.
- (9) M.P.I. GSGS 4414 SHEET NO. 5405. GRID COORD 223210 TO BE USED ONLY IF BOMBING IS VISUAL. PPF M.P.I. GRID COORD: 223210
- (10) 6 X 500 LB. G.P. FUSED 1/10 SEC NOSE 1/100 SEC TAIL.
- (12) T.O.T. ZERO HOUR PLUS 20 MINUTES
- (13) IF VISUAL CONDITIONS EXIST AT TARGET, BOMBING WILL BE BY VISUAL MEANS. THE DECISION TO BOMB VISUALLY WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE A-20 BOX LEADERS AND THEY WILL DO SO WHETHER THEY CAN CONTACT THE PPF A/C OR NOT. IF BOMBING IS VISUAL, GROUP WILL BOMB BY FLIGHTS AND WILL USE K-9519 AS A VISUAL I.P. IF CLOUD COVER OBSCURES THE TARGET, AND PPF EQUIPMENT FAILS, GROUP WILL ATTACK AN ALTERNATE TARGET IN ACCORDANCE WITH IX BOMB DIV CYPHER F-576-E (9-2-45)

(14) FRIENDLY ARTILLERY WILL ATTEMPT TO NEUTRALIZE ENEMY FLAK POSITIONS WITHIN RANGE

C. 416TH BOMB GROUP

- (3) WITH FIGHTERS AT P-8413 AT 12,000 FEET AT ZERO PLUS 16 MIN. WITH PPF A/C OVER THE BASE
(12) T.O.T. ZERO HOUR PLUS 70 MIN.

X. (1) - (4) NO CHANGE.

FOR 409TH AND 416TH GROUPS ONLY.

- (5) TARGET: WEISBADEN ORDNANCE DEPOT (M-345636)
(6) A/C REQUIRED: 2 BOXES OF 18 BOMBING ON ONE PPF A/C
(7) ROUTE OUT: BASE TO P-8413 TO L-3821 TO L-3358 TO L-6264 TO M-0881 TO G-0718 TO G-4516 TO G-6805 TO TARGET
(8) ROUTE BACK: TARGET TURN RIGHT TO M-0711 AND RETRACE ROUTE TO BASE.
(9) ALTITUDES: BOMB 13,500 FEET. MINIMUM ALTITUDE IF BOMBING IS VISUAL 8,000 FEET. LOSE 1,000 FEET AFTER RELEASING BOMBS
(10) M.P.I.: ILL. 3 (K)47/4 TWO FLIGHTS EACH GROUP ON REF. 02200535 AND 4 FLIGHTS EACH GROUP ON REF. 03530385. TO BE USED ONLY IF BOMBING IS VISUAL.
PPF M.P.I. GRID COORD 34456360
INTERVALOMETER SETTING 50 FEET
(11) BOMBS: 4 X 1,000 G.P. FUSED: 1/10 SEC NOSE, 1/100 SEC TAIL
(12) IF VISUAL CONDITIONS EXIST, BOMBING WILL BE BY VISUAL MEANS. THE DECISION TO BOMB VISUALLY WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE A-26 BOX LEADERS AND THEY WILL DO SO WHETHER THEY CAN CONTACT THE PPF A/C OR NOT. IF BOMBING IS VISUAL GROUPS WILL BOMB BY FLIGHTS AND USE M-4576 AS A VISUAL I.P. IF CLOUD COVER OBSCURES THE TARGET, GROUP WILL BOMB IN THE FOLLOWING PRIORITY:
A. PPF
B. GROUP GEE
C. TARGET E.T.A.
(13) GROUP WILL SELECT AN ALTERNATE TARGET IN ACCORDANCE WITH IX BOMB DIV CYPHER F-5 6-E (9-2-45)

4. NO CHANGE

5. COMMUNICATIONS.

PLAN "A"

- A. 409TH BOMB GROUP. (717782)
(2) COTTON
(3) BYPASS

B. 410TH BOMB GROUP. (223210)

- (2) BLIZZARD
(4) SWEEPSTAKES
(11) LEADER WILL CALL WELLFED 15 MIN. BEFORE TROOP LINE STATING TIME AHEAD OF OR BEHIND SCHEDULE AND AGAIN CALL UPON LEAVING TARGET ADVISING COMPLETION OF OPERATIONS.

C. 416TH BOMB GROUP. (717782)

- (2) VISION
(3) CABMAN

PLAN "A-1"

A. 409TH AND 416TH BOMB GROUPS. (398359)

- (2) GENTRY
(3) SKIPPER
(4) RIPSAP
(11) C/S AND FIRST BOX COLOR WILL BE USED BY 409TH. C/S AND SECOND BOX COLOR WILL BE USED BY 416TH.

PLAN "B"

A. 409TH BOMB GROUP. (345636)

- (2) FISHLOCK
(3) PRODUCT
(4) RIPSAP

B. 410TH BOMB GROUP. (223210)

- (2) BLIZZARD
(4) SWEEPSTAKES

C. 416TH BOMB GROUP. (345636)

- (2) CIRCLE
(3) REDBROWN
(4) RIPSAP

X. GENERAL INFORMATION.

- (11) 410TH BOMB GROUP ON NON-OPERATIONAL FLIGHTS WILL USE ONLY LAST 3 OF ALLOTTED CALL SIGNS.

COMCBTWIG 97

BT 18/2308A
SS/CW AR BBBB

JKI R. 19/0238A WFG KKKK

OIJEA OIJIM OIJJF OIITT V OIITA B/19 OP OP

OIJEA T OIJEW
OIITT T KSM

FROM 9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION 190430A
TO 97, 98, 99 WINGS, 1ST PATHFINDER SQDN.
9TH WEATHER RECON. SQDN.
3 AF (ADV),
3 AF MAIN. ATTEN: DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
9, 19, 29 TACS
2ND TAF MAIN

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY
SECRET QGX BT

9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
A P O 140
19 FEBRUARY 1945

ANNEX NO. 1 TO FIELD ORDER 793. 9BB OF-1232-E

CANCEL PLAN "A". PLAN "B" IN EFFECT.

COMBOMDIV NINE
BT 190430A

SB/AR K

OIJKI R... (PASS TO JEW.....19/0550A VFC AR

FX 274

OIITA OIJJF OIJES OIJPO OIJKI V OIJE A OIJE A 1/19 OP OP

FROM 97TH COMBAT BOMB WING 19/2715A
TO COMBOMDIV IX
COBOMGP 429
COBOMGP 418
COBOMGP 416
1ST PROV. PATHFINDER SQDN.

FX 15

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY BT
SECRET SENT IN THE CLEAR AUTH: LT. COL. MC AFEE

97CBW F-135-E

97TH COMBAT BOMB WING
A P O 143
19 FEBRUARY 1945

ANNEX NO. 1. TO FIELD ORDER NO. 171-753:

PLAN "B" IS IN EFFECT. PLAN "A" AND "A-1" CANCELLED RPT: CANCELLED.

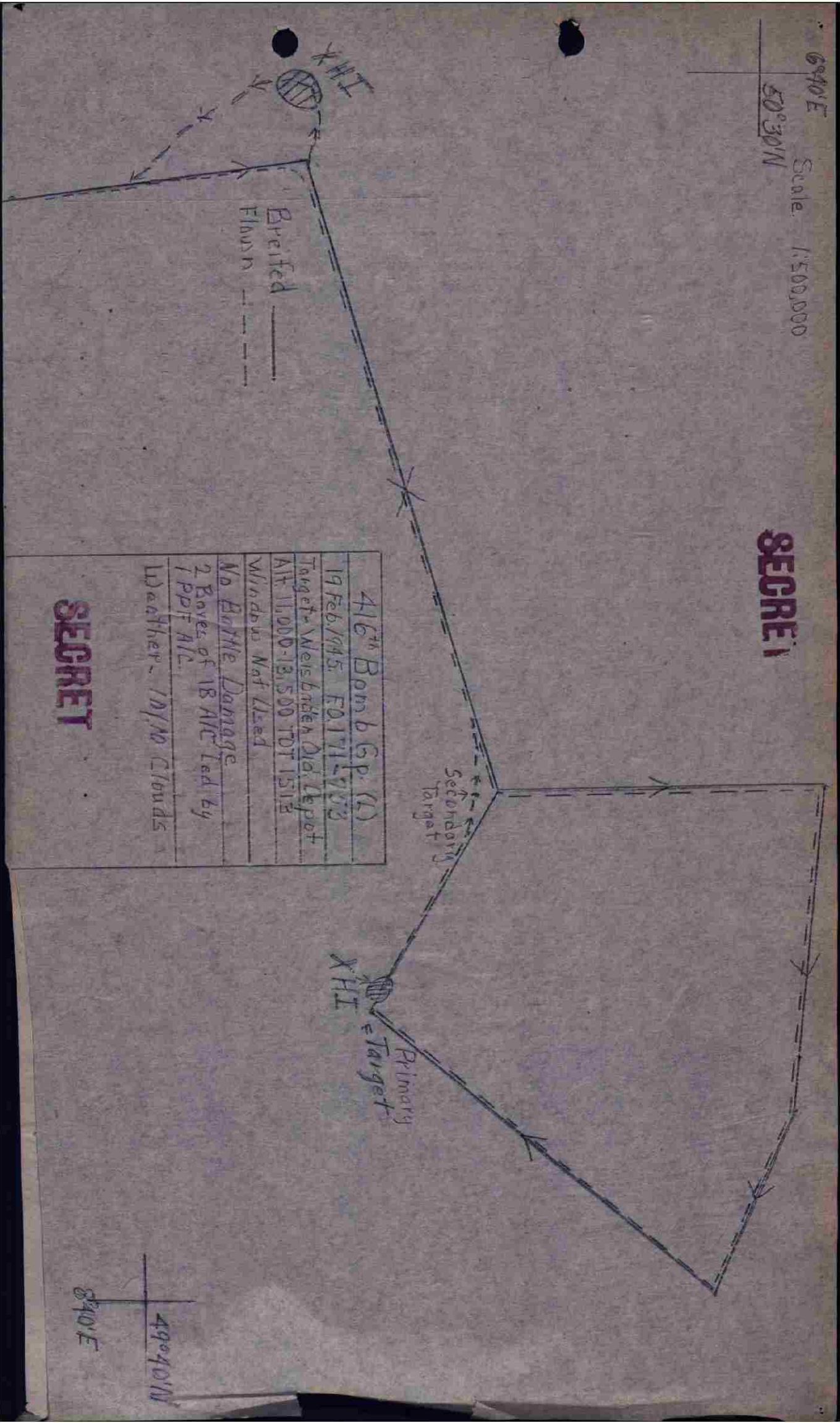
ZERO HOUR: PLAN "B" 19/1400A..

COMCBTWIG 97

BT 2715A
RL AR K

OIJES R.....19/2730A	FR	AAR
OIJPO R.....19/2730A	LB	AR
OIJKI R.....19/2730A	RSS	AR
OIITA R.....19/2730A	JDH	AR

OC: INSERT RELAYING INSTRUCTIONS: T (OIITA PASS TO OIJJF)



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F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERCOM FORM

PILOT DRUM W/C# 314 BOX II

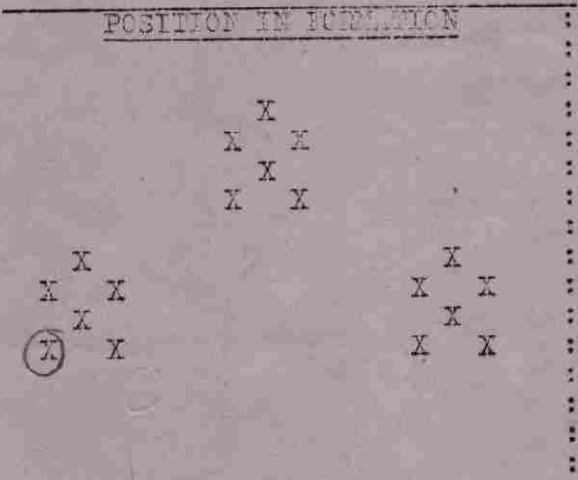
CASUALTIES _____

BOMBS : <u>4</u> X <u>1000</u> ON <u>PT</u>		BATTLE DAMAGE		
			"A-C"	"E"
X	RETURNED	:	:	:
X	JETTISONED	:	:	:

FLAK: 13 bursts low at target
XHI at Trin

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:
PT F
10/10 at target



Park
INTERCOMTOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERROG. FORM

PILOT DUNN A/C# 501 BOX I

CASUALTIES

BOMBS :	4	X 100	ON SECONDARY BATTLE DAMAGE	"A-C"	"E"
	X	RETURNED	:	:	:
	X	JETTISONED	:	:	:

FLAK: XH1 2 miles east of BADEM

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

Bombs hung up when PPF dropped. This A/C salvaged on Gee Ruler Chain 6.02 32.82 Secondary (NASTATTEN M. 0976) at 1517 1/2 - axis 340° mag.

PPF had GEE malfunction. This A/C led formation to PPF I P then turned it over to PPF.

alt 12,700

POSITION IN FORMATION

		(X)		
	X		X	
		X		
	X		X	
X	X			X
X			X	X
X	X		X	
X			X	X

Livia

INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

INTER. FORM

PILOT TURNER A/C# 224 BOX I

CASUALTIES

BOMBS : 4 X 1000 CN Pr : BATTLE DAMAGE

X RETURNED

X JETTISONED

: BATTLE DAMAGE

97 K-G 97

48 49

FILE:

FLY: 20 Bursts 6 o'clock low after turn
off tgt
on Return in Tree area

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTER 3:

OBSERVATIONS:

Bombed on P PF
good formation as bones away

POSITION IN FORMATION

X
X X
X
X X

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & X & \\ X & & X \\ & X & \\ X & & X \end{array}$$

$\begin{array}{ccc} & \bar{X} & \\ \textcircled{X} & & X \\ & X & \\ X & & X \end{array}$

INTERROGATOR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

F/O _____

CONFIDENTIAL

INTER. FORM

PILOT KENNY A/C# 274 BOX II

CASUALTIES None

BOMBS :	<u>4</u>	<u>X 1000</u>	ON <u>PV</u>	BATTLE DAMAGE			
	<u>X</u>		RETURNED		<u>None</u>		
	<u>X</u>		JETTISONED				

FLAK: No Bursts - same altitude but behind at
tgt.
2 Bursts at 2nd Flight of Box I at
1530 on way out.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

Bombed on Flight leader -
Solid 10/00 at tgt
Bombed in good formation -

POSITION IN FORMATION

		X	
	X		X
		X	
	X		X
X	X		
		X	
X			X
X			X

W-4
 INTERROGATOR

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CASUALTIES

FLAK: XCHI - At Willic
XAI at Target after focus

OBSERVATIONS:

None 10/10

POSITION IN FORMATION

		X	
X			X
		X	
X			X

X
X X
X X
X X

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & X & \\ X & & \hat{X} \\ & X & \\ X & & X \end{array}$$

T.W.5

INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERR. FORM

PILOT GRUETZMACHER A/C# 2315 BOX I

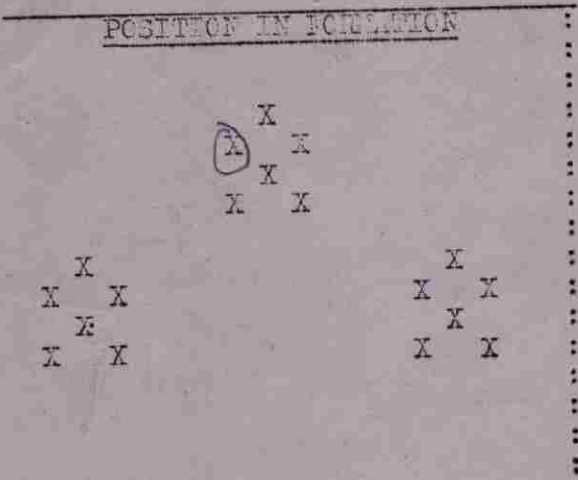
CASUALTIES _____

BOMBS : <u>4</u> <u>1000</u> ON <u>P.T.</u>		BATTLE DAMAGE <u>X</u>		
		"A"	"A-C"	"E"
<u>X</u>	RETURNED	:	:	:
<u>X</u>	JETTISONED	:	:	:

FLAK: X

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS: X

OBSERVATIONS: None 10/10



T.V.S
INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERR. FORM

PILOT PHILIPS A/C# 213 BOX II

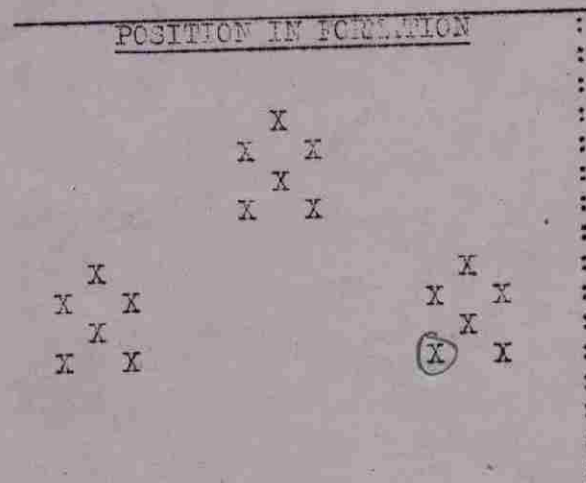
CASUALTIES _____

BOMBS :	<u>4</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>1050</u>	ON	<u>PT</u>	BATTLE DAMAGE			
		<u>X</u>		RETURNED					
		<u>X</u>		JETTISONED					

FLAK: - XHA - at target

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS: None 14/10



T.W.S
INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

CASUALTIES *in*

<i>H</i>	A	RETURNED	:	<i>nil</i>	:
<i>heads</i>	X	JETTISONED	:		:

1531 - XH1

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS: 1062

POSITION IN FORMATION

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & X & \\ X & & X \\ & X & \\ X & & X \end{array}$$

INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERR. FORM

PILOT ANDERSEN A/C# 508 BOX II

CASUALTIES nil

BOMBS :		ON	PPF	BATTLE DAMAGE	"A-C"	"E"
<u>4</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>1000</u>	<u>ON</u>	<u>PPF</u>	<u>nil</u>	
	<u>X</u>		RETURNED			
	<u>X</u>		JETTISONED			

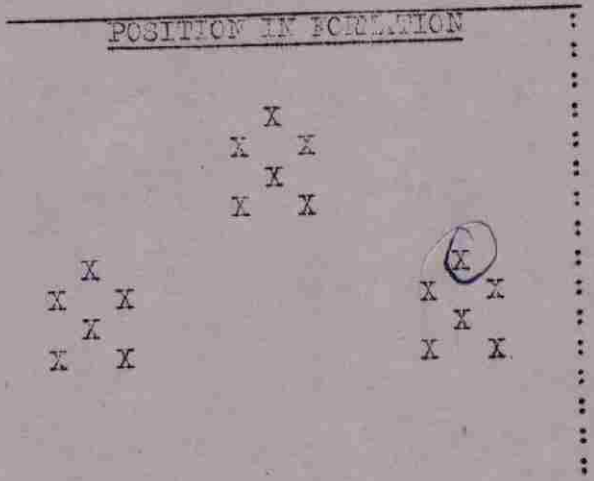
FLAK: XH1 - LUTGEN

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

nil

OBSERVATIONS:

alt 11 000
TOT 1512 1/2
AIS 200
axis - 228° mag.



Luria
INTERROG. TOR

CONFIDENTIAL

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PILOT EVANS A/C# 523 BOX II

CASUALTIES nil

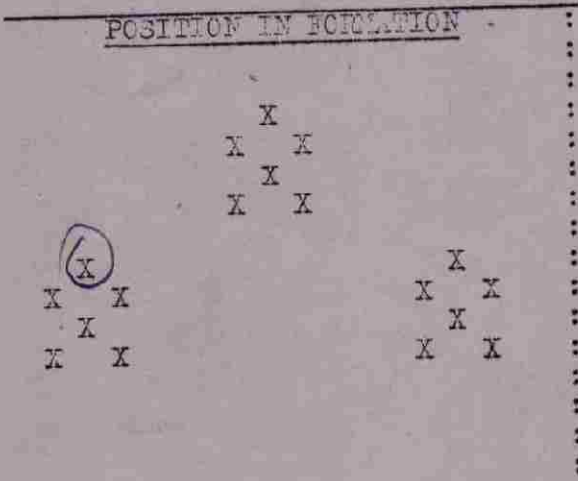
BOMBS :	ON	BATTLE DAMAGE	"A-C"	"E"
<u>4</u> <u>X 1000</u>	<u>PPT</u>			
<u>X</u>	RETURNED	<u>nil</u>		
<u>X</u>	JETTISONED			

FLAK: ~~west~~ XHI 5 miles west of Wittlich - way out

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:
nil

OBSERVATIONS:

TOT 1513
alt 13000
axis 230°



Luria
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PILOT SHELEY A/C# 330 BOX I

CASUALTIES					
BOMBS :	<u>X</u>	ON	BATTLE DAMAGE		
	<u>X</u>	RETURNED		"A-C"	"E"
	<u>X</u>	JETTISONED			

FLAK:

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

Returned Early.

POSITION IN FORMATION			
	X		:
	X	X	:
		X	:
	X	X	:
			:
X	X		:
X		X	:
X	X	X	:
			:
			:
			:

INTERROGATOR

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F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERR. FORM

PILOT REMISZEWSKI A/C# 2037 BOX I

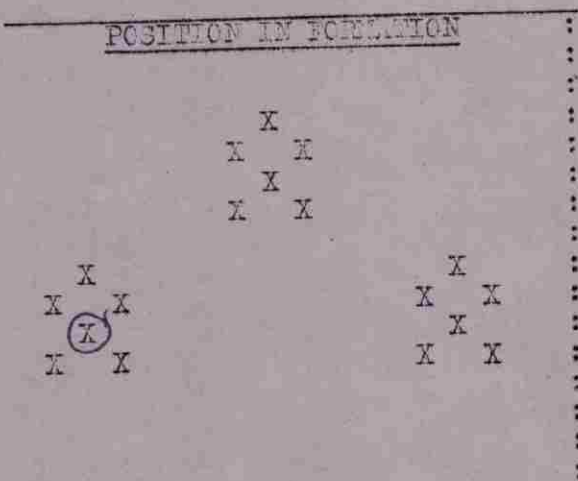
CASUALTIES _____

BOMBS : <u>4</u> <u>X</u> <u>100</u> ON <u>P</u>		BATTLE DAMAGE		
		"A"	"A-C"	"E"
<u>X</u>	RETURNED	:	:	:
<u>X</u>	JETTISONED	:	:	:

FLYK: ~~no flash seen at first sighting~~
40 bursts of flak behind as turned off target.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS: 10/10 clouds in target area



INTERROGATOR

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F/O

CONFIDENTIAL

INTER. FORM

PILOT BUSHIRK A/C# 498 BOX I

CASUALTIES

BOMBS :		BATTLE DAMAGE		
		"A"	"A-C"	"E"
<u>4</u>	<u>1000</u> ON <u>P</u>			
<u>X</u>	RETURNED			
<u>X</u>	JETTISONED			

FLK: XVHI behind at target
XHI just across line R on west
 came home. north of tree point
 of turning point at withheld

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

t.o.t. — give to kill
 alt. — 13200

Dropped on tutt. my. I run id
not drop. tutt dropped on ppg.
10/10 at clouds.

POSITION IN FORMATION

		X		
	X		X	
		X		
	X		X	
(X)				
X		X		
	X		X	
X		X		

NINA
 INTERROGATOR

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F/O _____

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERROG. FORM

PILOT HLIVKO A/C# 300 - BOX I

CASUALTIES

BOMBS :		BATTLE DAMAGE	"A-C"	"E"
4	X 1000CN P			
	X RETURNED			
	X JETTISONED			

FLAK: X H1 low & behind at target.
XX H2 below target.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

nil.

OBSERVATIONS: clouds at about 5/10 from bombline to rhine. 10/10 at target.
no obs. 10/10 clouds.

POSITION IN FORMATION

		X		
	X		X	
		X		
	X		X	
X	X			X
X			X	X
X	X		X	
X	(X)		X	X

H. W.
INTERROGATOR

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CASUALTIES

BOMBS : 4 X 1000 ON Pr

: BATTLE DAMAGE

X

RETURNED

X

JETTISONED

157

77 1 - C 91

5.8.1

FILE:

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

POSITION IN FORMATION

X
X X
X
X X

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & X & \\ X & & X \\ & X & \\ X & & X \end{array}$$

X X X
X X
X

INTERROG. TOR

CONFIDENTIAL

K JETTISONED : none :

OBSERVATIONS:

POSITION IN FORMATION

		X	
X			X
		X	
X			X

X X X

X X
X X
X X

INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERVIEW FORM

PILOT SUTTON A/C# 297 BOX I

CASUALTIES X

BOMBS :	<u>4</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>1000</u>	ON <u>TARGET</u>	BATTLE DAMAGE			
		<u>X</u>		RETURNED		<u>X</u>		
		<u>X</u>		JETTISONED				

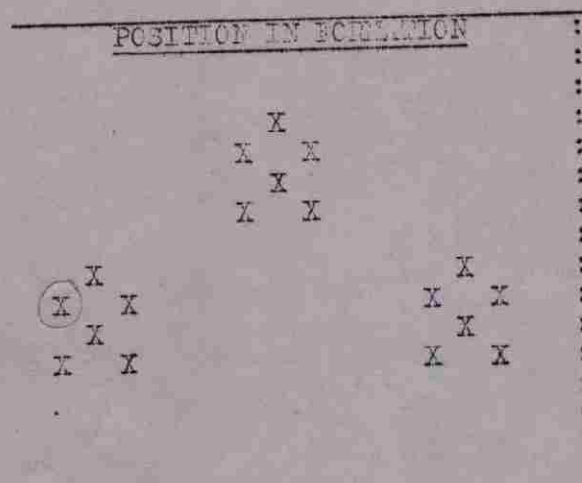
FLICK: *Just after releasing bombs, saw 40 bursts XX & inaccurate. Modest & inaccurate at Rhine*

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

X

OBSERVATIONS:

X



2-3
INTERVIEWER

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F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERR. FORM

PILOT NAPIER A/C# 521 BOX II

CASUALTIES nil

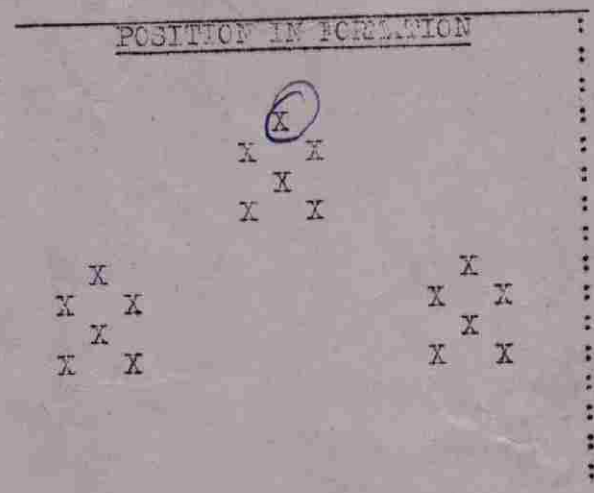
BOMBS : 4 X 1000 ON PPF BATTLE DAMAGE
: " " : "A-C" : "E"
: X : RETURNED : :
: X : JETTISONED : nil :

FLK: 25 bursts with 1 X H 1
nil target

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS: nil

OBSERVATIONS: nil F/A strafing near Trer

TOT 15 12 1/2
alt 11 700
afis 225° mag.



Luvia
INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

FLUK:

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

PDF
15/10 over target

POSITION IN FORMATION

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & X & \\ X & & X \\ & X & \\ X & & X \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & X & \\ X & & X \\ & X & \\ X & & X \end{array}$$

Park

INTERROGATOR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

F/O

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERVIEW FORM

PILOT

ERRATABERE

A/C#

9315

BOX

I

CASUALTIES

BOMBS :

X 1000

ON

PT

BATTLE DAMAGE

X

RETURNED

X

JETTISONED

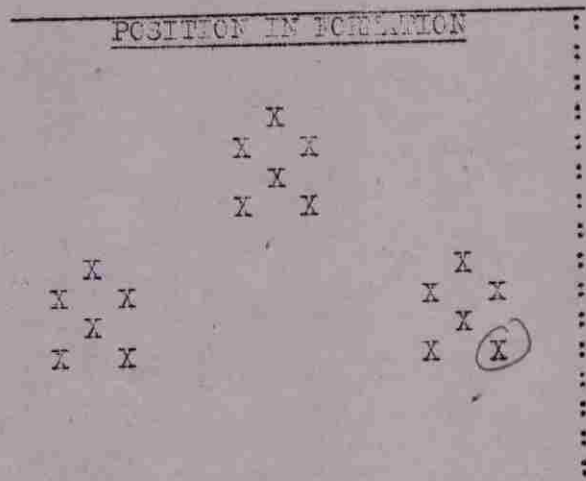
"A-C"

"E"

FLAK: X HI at Rhine on way out

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:
DFF
10/10



Perk
INTERROGATOR

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F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERR. FORM

PILOT WEINERT A/C# 241 BOX II

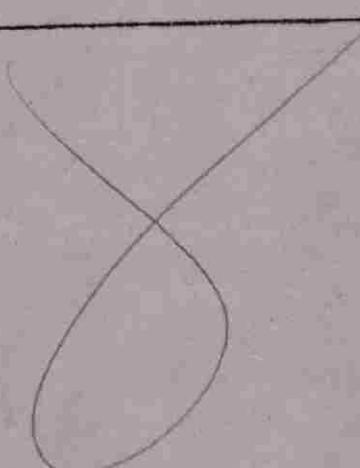
CASUALTIES _____

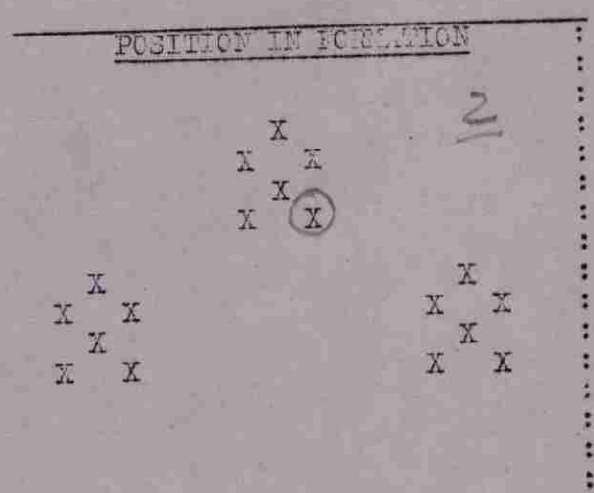
BOMBS :	<u>4 X 1000</u>	ON <u>P.T.</u>	BATTLE DAMAGE		
			"A"	"A-C"	"E"
	<u>X</u>	RETURNED			
	<u>X</u>	JETTISONED			

FLAK: 15-20 bursts after left target at alt. to rear of group.

1530-1536 - 20 bursts scattered, inaccurate, white size of baseball - 6 or 7 thru formation - ahead of group & came thru - heading of 030° on NE leg.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS: 8-P-47's - no enemy

OBSERVATIONS: 



Hoppe
INTERROGATOR

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F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERPR. FORM

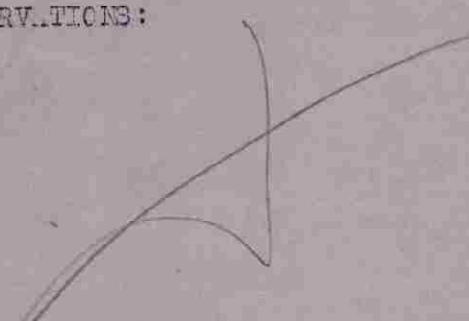
PILOT TRIPP A/C# 271 BOX II

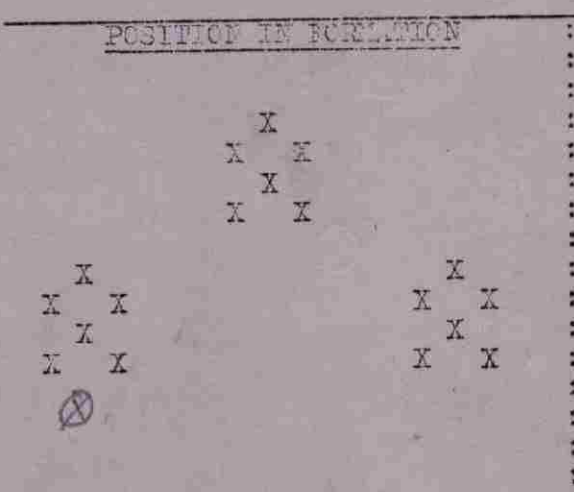
CASUALTIES _____

BOMBS : 4 x 1000 ON P.T. BATTLE DAMAGE
X RETURNED
X JETTISONED

FLANK: 1531 - 20-25 chuds - no formation
something then formation - pieced
just before turn on N.E. leg. } 5
Bombs away

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS: 5 trails N of ZR

OBSERVATIONS:




Asper
INTERROG. FOR

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F/O _____

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERVIEW FORM

PILOT ROONEY A/C# 507 BOX I

CASUALTIES nil

BOMBS : 4 X 1000 CN Lead APF BATTLE DAMAGE

	X	RETURNED	:	"A"	:	"I-C"	:
	X	JETTISONED	:	nil	:		:

FLAK: East of Tris XX H I

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

nil

OBSERVATIONS:

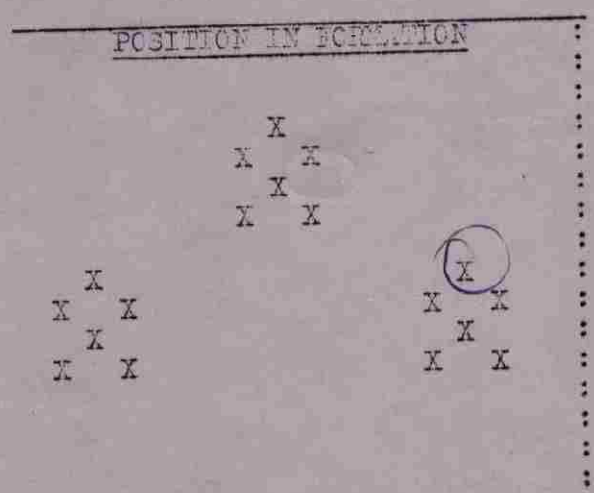
Contrails (continuous) near I P

pie plate phenomenon near I P

TOT - 1513

alt - 11400

azis - 224° mag.



Lucia

INTERVIEWER

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F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERR. FORM

PILOT MERRITT A/C# 223 BOX I

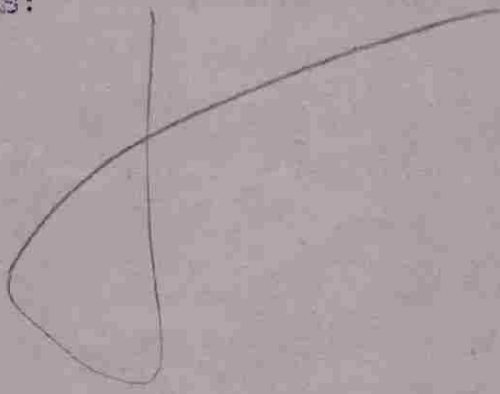
CASUALTIES _____

BOMBS : <u>4</u> <u>X</u> <u>1000</u> ON <u>P.T.</u>		BATTLE DAMAGE		
		"A"	"A-C"	"E"
<u>X</u>	RETURNED	:	:	:
<u>X</u>	JETTISONED	:	:	:

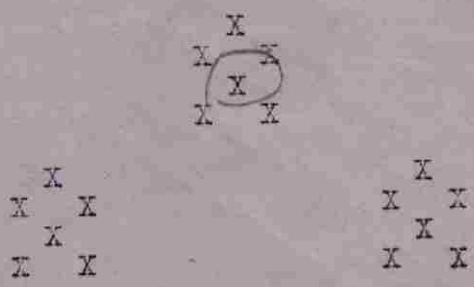
FLK: 50'clock low - 1530 over
30 bursts - 40
1457-1500 pie plates
three four - up & down three.
scattered

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS: 1.P. vapor trails mostly
single & one of 2.

OBSERVATIONS:



POSITION IN FORMATION



Hoppe

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F/O _____

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERROG. FORM

PILOT

HEINKE

A/C#

469

BOX

I

CASUALTIES

BOMBS :

4 I 1000NP

BATTLE DAMAGE

X

RETURNED

X

JETTISONED

"A-C"

"E"

FLAK:

X H 1 (10 bursts) first after enemy target
at 1531 on course 11-12 bursts ahead 400 to 70
behind near SE of Truer at Hatzersbach.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

10/10 at target.
2-3/00 clouds on leg N of Truer -
f.o.t. 1512 1/2
alt. 13500

Dropped on flight leader.

POSITION IN FORMATION

```

      X
    X  X
      X
    X  X
  
```

```

      X
    X  X
      X
    X  X
  
```

H. W. A.

INTERROGATOR

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F/O _____

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERFORM

PILOT

ANNIN

A/C#

335

BOX

II

CASUALTIES

X

BOMBS :

4

X

1000

ON Primary

BATTLE DAMAGE

X

RETURNED

X

JETTISONED

"A-C"

"E"

FLAK: XHI right after dropping bombs.

XHA about 8 to 10 minutes after leaving target.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

X

OBSERVATIONS:

7

POSITION IN FORMATION

X
X X
X
X X

X X
X X
X X

X X
X X
X (X)

6.3

INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

Box #	Opsfl	Date	F/O	Target	Alt.	Box Leader	T/O	15 min.
I		19 FEB / 45				DUNN	TOT	
							L/D	
A/C	Fail to Bomb	ATT	Bomb	Ilsp	A/C Dam	E/A	Pers.	
No.	Reason	T	E	O	P	S	J	T
1	501							
2	499							
3	2315							
4	223							
5	330							
6	416							
1	507							
2	469							
3	224							
4	215							
5	9315							
6	205							
1	498							
2	208							
3	297							
4	2437							
5	300							
6	332							
7	249							

DUNN
501-W
GRUETZMACHER
2315-L
TUTT
499-G

MERRITT
223-B

COOK
416-G
SHELEY
330-P

BUSHKIRK
498-R-1
ROONEY
1365-K
507-G

SUTTON
297-T
EERRIS
208-L-1
TURNER
224-E
HEINKE
FERRIS
469-A

REMISZEWSKI
2437-D-1
WARREN
215-R

GRABER
332-P-1
HLIVKO
300-K
BISHOP
205-M
ERRATANERE
9315-F

1 SPARE
SPIRES
249-F

64 H

TOTALS FOR MISSION

B.

(2) No. a/c off by type: _____
A-20G's _____ A-20J's (obtained from Opna)(3) No. of a/c failing to bomb _____ explain each failure.
_____ Recall due to weather
_____ Foracamel
_____ Mechanical
_____ Other Reasons(4) No. a/c bombing. _____
_____ Primary.
_____ Secondary.
_____ Other.
(Obtained from recaps.)

C.

(1) Time up _____
T.C.T. _____ (Obtained from Tower).
Time Down _____

D.

(1) No. a/c _____
_____ Missing
_____ Destroyed
_____ Damaged _____ (cat. B/C)
_____ Damaged _____ (cat. A)(3) No. Crew _____ Killed _____ Wounded _____ Missing _____
(Obtained from Recaps).

E. Results of Bombing. (Obtained from Group Bombardier).

	No.	Type
I. Bombs on Primary	_____ X	_____
Bombs on Secondary	_____ X	_____
Bombs on Other	_____ X	_____
Bombs Returned	_____ X	_____
Bombs Jettisoned	_____ X	_____ Where _____
(Obtained from Recaps)		

(The NCO in charge should fill this out immediately finishing taking the recaps and hand to the Officer making up the Ops Report).

Box #	Opstfl	Date	P/O	Target	Alt.	Box Leader	T/O	15 min.
II		19 FEB / 45				NAPIER	TOT	
							L/D	
A/C	Fail to Bomb	ATT	Bomb Disp	A/C Dam	E/A	Pers.		
Reg No.	Reason	P S O	P S J F R	N D A A C B E D	P D K W M			
1 521			H					NAPIER 521-N
2 492			H					VAN ROBE BORNELL 229-B 492-E
3 229			H					BEHLMER 252-D
4 252			H					BRINDSTONE 244-I WEINERT 241-F
5 241			H					
6 244			H					
1 508			H					
2 305			H					
3 274			H					
4 264			H					
5 335			H					EVANS 523-N-1
6 213			H					ANDERSEN 508-Z
1 523			H					PRICHA 381-G RUSSELL 321-T
2 321			H					MENNY 274-S GANNON 305-U
3 381			H					WRIGHT 354-S-1 PARKER 264-I-1
4 354			H					DRUM 314-H LASETER 318-U-1
5 328			H					PHILLIPS 213-A ANNIN 335-W
6 344			H					
271			H					SPARE

TRIPP
271-R

76

TOTALS FOR MISSION

B.

(2) No. a/c off by type: _____
A-20G's _____ A-20J's (obtained from Opns)(3) No. of a/c failing to bomb _____ explain each failure.
Recall due to weather _____
Personnel _____
Mechanical _____
Other Reasons _____(4) No. a/c bombing. _____
Primary. _____
Secondary. _____
Other. _____
(Obtained from recaps.)

C.

(1) Time up _____
T.O.T. _____ (Obtained from Tower).
Time Down _____

D.

(1) No. a/c _____ Missing _____
Destroyed _____
Damaged _____ (cat. B/C)
Damaged _____ (cat. A)(3) No. Crew _____ Killed _____ Wounded _____ Missing _____
(Obtained from Recaps).

E. Results of Bombing. (Obtained from Group Bombardier).

	No.	Type	
I. Bombs on Primary	_____	K	_____
Bombs on Secondary	_____	X	_____
Bombs on Other	_____	X	_____
Bombs Returned	_____	X	_____
Bombs Jettisoned	_____	X	_____ Where _____

(Obtained from Recaps)

(The NCO in charge should fill this out immediately finishing taking the recaps and hand to the Officer making up the Ops Report).

ITA JEA V JKI JKI 12/19 P + P
FROM COSOMBR 416 19/1800A
TO COMBOMDIV NINE ATTN: SIGNAL OFF.
COMCBTWIG 97 (INFO)
BT
CONFIDENTIAL 416BC FAX-102-J

*Rec'd
1955
19-2-80*

A - YS - E 35
B - 19 FEBRUARY 1945 (1301-1602)
C-- N-NAN AND W-WILLIAM REPORTED TO DIVISON OPS COMPLETED AFTER
LEAVING TARGET AREA.
D - PPF MISSION
E - NONE
F - NONE
G - NONE
H - NONE
I - NONE
J - NONE
K - NONE
AYLESWORTH
BT 19/1800A
JF BDB
ITA R.....19/1835
JEA R.....19/1835A

BITD
FK KKK

KKKK

ITA JEA V JKI JKI 13/19 OP - OP

FROM 416 BOMB GROUP 19/1830A

TO CG, 9TH BOMB DIV. (M) ATT: A-2
CG, 97TH COMBAT WING 2 "

BT

CONFIDENTIAL 416BG FAX-103-D OPFLASH FOR 19 FEB. 1945.

A. 416 BOMB GROUP
B. WEISBADEN ORDNANCE DEPOT (M-345636)
C. 36 A-26'S
D. 35 A-26'S ATTACKED PRIMARY DROPPING ON PPF A/C
1 A-26 SALVOD ON BRIEFED SECONDARY (MAXIX NASTATTEN M-092784)
ON GEE RUN (GEE COORDINATES RUHR CHAIN : 6.02-32.82) AFTER
BOMB RELEASE MALFUNCTION OVER PRIMARY.
E. NIL
F. 140 X 1000 GP ON PRIMARY
4 X 1000 GP ON SECONDARY (NASTATTEN)
G. UNOBSERVED DUE TO CLOUD COVER
H. NIL
I. NIL
J. TARGET : WEAK INACCURATE HFF ON TURN OFF PRIMARY
ELSEWHERE : WEAK INACCUARTE HFF BETWEEN BADEM AND GT. LITGIN
(L-190568 - L-349581)
K. NIL
L. PRIMARY 11,000 - 13,500 SECONDARY 12,700
M. PRIMARY 1513 SECONDDARY 1517
AYLESWORTH
BT 19/1830A
JF AS AS
ITA B B R19/1850A DF AR
BBB
JEA AR R.....19/1850A CW AR

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

ITA JEA V JKI JKI 11/19 OP - OP
FROM HQS 416TH BOMB GROUP (L) S-2 PI 91/1900A
TO HQS 9TH BOMB DIV. (M) ATTN: A-2 PI
HQS 97TH COMBAT WING ATTN: STAFF BURY OFF.

BT
SECRET 416BG FAX-101-D

B. WEISBADEN ORDNANCE DEPOT.
J. NO STRIKE PHOTOS DUE TO CLOUD COVER.
AYLESOTH

JF

AR

ITA R.....19/1822

BITD

AR.

JE A R.....191822A

FK

AR.

*Rec'd
19-5-5
14-2-15*

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

USAAF FORM 34A

SECRET

SECRET

AUTH: CO STA

DATE: 20 Feb. 1945

INIT: _____

HEADQUARTERS
416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
Office of the Commanding Officer

TO: Commanding General, 9th Bombardment Division (H), APO 140, U.S. Army.
Attn: Statistical Control.

From: 416th Bombardment Group (L), APO 140, U.S. Army.

Ref: Oprep A No. 322 for 24 hrs. ending midnight 19 Feb. 1945
Mission or Operation No. 207 97th GEN L.O. 371-753

A. Short Narrative of Operation:

Target Beltschen Ordnance Depot
Place of take-off Station A-69
Place of landing Station A-69
Take-off time 1240 Landing time 1618
Time over target 1513 Bombing Altitude 11,000 - 12,500
Nature of mission Bombing Other None
Weather 10/10 solid overcast
Results Unobserved
Enemy opposition Weak inaccurate fire on turn off primary

B. Type & model of aircraft:

1. Dispatched 36 A-26
2. Attacking target (indicate target) or completing mission.
35 A-26 Beltschen Ordnance Depot
1 A-26 Hartston (Secondary)
3. Abortive due to:
 - (1) Weather: None
 - (2) Personnel: None
 - (3) Mechanical: None
 - (4) Other: None
4. Missing (i.e. cause and place unknown) None
5. Destroyed - before reaching target None
giving cause where known _____
6. Destroyed - over or after leaving None
target giving cause where known _____
7. Damaged (give category & cause) None
8. Sorties 36 A-26

SECRET

(over)

USAF FORM 344 (rev'd)

S E C R E T

D. Total operational flying hours

a. Day (Sunrise to sunset) 13610b. Night (Sunset to sunrise) None

E. Ammunition by calibre:

a. Total carried into air 68,400 lb .50 cal.b. Expended on operations Nonec. Lost on wrecked or missing a/c None

F. Bombs, flares, etc. used:

a. Total carried into air: 144 x 1000 lb GP 1/10 M 1/1000b. Expended on operations: 144 x 1000 lb GP
(List targets separately)c. Jettisoned Noned. Lost or wrecked on
missing a/c Nonee. Total Returned None

G. Own Personnel Casualties:

Type of Casualty	Pilot	Co-pilot	Nav	Bomb	R.Gun	E.Gun	T.Gun
Killed in Action	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing in Action	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seriously Wounded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slightly Wounded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

H. Enemy aircraft by type or description (tentative claims):-

a. Destroyed Noneb. Prob. Dco Nonec. Damaged None

For the Commanding Officer:

GEORGE SCHENKEL,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

S E C R E T

JKI V ITA JJF NR 7/19 OP OP

FROM 1ST PATHFINDER SQ PROV 19/1530A

TO : CG, IX BOMB ARMDMENT DIVISION

CG, 97TH COMBAT WING

CO, 416TH BOMB GROUP

ATTENTION - A-2

SECRET QGX BT

1ST PPF SQ PROV F-248-D

- A. 1ST PATHFINDER WITH 416TH BOMB GROUP ON FEB 16TH
- B. UNNA ORDNANCE DEPOT
- C. ONE B-26
- D. ONE B-26 CASUAL TGT TOWN OF KAMEN; RA 9533; SEVERE BATTLE DAMAGE FROM FLAK SIX MINUTES BEFORE TOT CAUSING PILOT NOT TO HAVE SUFFICIENT CONTROL OF AIRCRAFT TO ATTACK PRIMARY (TWO FLIGHTS OF GROUP BELIEVED TO HAVE DROPPED ON PPF. PPF BOMBED VISUALLY.
- E. NONE
- F. 4 X 500 GP ON CASUAL TGT
- G. BELIEVED GOOD - HITS IN BUILT-UP AREA OF TOWN.
- H. ONE B-26 CRASHLANDED AT HELMOND, HOLLAND.
- J. EMMERICH RE 9760 - INT ACC HFF WINTERSWIJK RA 3077, STADTLOHN RA4478 MOD ACC HFF COESFIELD RA6174 TO DULMEN RA6859 CONTINUOUS INT ACC HFF LUDINGHAUSEN RA8055 INT ACC HFF KAMEN RA9533 MOD ACC HFF SOEST RB2631, HAMM RB0543, MUNSTER RA9275 MOD INACC HFF BELIEVED INACC BECAUSE OUT OF RANGE. ONE RED BURST IN KAMEN AREA RA9533 WAS FOLLOWED BY SHORT CESSATION OF HFF
- K. NONE
- L. 13200 CASUAL
- M. 1239 CASUAL

NEW FIX INFORMATION UNAVAILABLE BECAUSE COPILOT HOSPITALIZED AT EINDHOVEN AS RESULT OF INJURIES SUSTAINED FROM CRASHLANDING.

- - - CO 1ST PATHFINDER SQ PROV - - -

BT 19/1530A

WF / ME AR K

JKI R. . . . 19/1655A EJ AR

JES JKI JPO VIA JEA V ITA JJF 10/10 -OP- -OP-

FROM 1ST PATHFINDER SQ. 1802/19

TO: CG. IX BOMB DIV.
RR 99TH BOMB WING
CG 98TH BOMB WING
CG 97TH BOMB WING
CO 391ST, 322ND, 410TH, 387TH, 394TH,
416TH, 409TH, BOMB GROUPS

SECRET BT

1SHT PATHFINDER SQ F-251-D

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQUADRON WITH THE 410TH BOMB GROUP
- B. MECHERNICH M/T REPAIR AND STORAGE WF 2221
- C. 1 B 26
- D. NONE
- E. 1 GROUP TOOK OVER FORMATION FOR VISUAL RUN 1 1/2 MINUTES BEFORE RELEASE
- F. 4 X500 GP RETURNED
- G. NO ATTACK
- H. NONE
- I. NONE
- J. NONE
- K. NONE
- L. NO ATTACK
- M. NO ATTACK

PFF SHIP CALLED "RIPSAW" ONE MINUTE AFTER ENTERING AREA, GROUP RECEIVED FIX FOR FORMATION. FAIR FORMATION FLOWN BY GROUP

-7 -

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQUADRON WITH THE 387TH BOMB GROUP
- B. NIEDERSCHELD RR BRIDGE WG 4036
- C. 2 B 26'S
- D. 2 BOX NR. 1 LEADER DROPPED ON PFF EQUIPMENT WITH UNOBSERVED RESULTS ON PRIMARY. BOX NUMBER TWO DROPPED ON LEAD FLIGHT OF SECOND BOX DUE TO EQUIPMENT AND "GEE" BEING OUT. DROP WAS MADE ON "DR" AT 50 DEG 13 MIN N 07 DEG 52 MIN E (WM 0977) CASUAL TARGET.
- E. NONE
- F. 4X 500 GP ON PRIMARY
4X 500 GP ON CASUAL TARGET
- G. UNOBSERVED RESULTS
- H. UNOBSERVED NONE
- I. NONE
- J. WIFF SAARBURG AREA WL 1413. WAHFF AND 7 MI WEST OF LIMBURG WM 1898 WIFF FROM TARGET AREA WG 4036.
- K. NONE
- L. 12,500 PRIMARY 12,000 CASUAL
- M. 1434 PRIMARY 1441 CASUAL
EXCELLENT FORMATION FLOWN BY GROUP. RIPSAW CALLED UPON ENTRY INTO TACT AREA. REFERRED PFF SHIP TO "D" DOG PARADE RECEIVED FIX OK FROM "D" DOG PARADE.

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQUADRON WITH THE 394TH GROUP
- B. IRLICH RR BRIDGE WF 7905
- C. 2 B 26'S
- D. 1 DROPPED ON "ETA" ON PRIMARY AFTER EQUIPMENT FAILURE. GEE VERY INTERMITTENT. OUT MOST OF THE TIME. PFF SHIP DROPPED ALONE AFTER GEE FIX AS BEING 8 MI NW OF TGT. AT WL 6898
1 BOX TWO LEADER OF PFF ATTACKED A CASUAL TARGET AT MARING WL 5748
THIS ATTACK WAS MADE ON NORDEN THRU A HOLE IN THE CLOUDS. PFF SHIP DROPPED ALONE.
- E. NONE
- F. 4 X 500GP ON PRIMARY
4 X 500 GP ON CASUAL
- G. UNOBSERVED RESULTS
- H. NONE
- I. NONE
- J. MAHFF FROM MEISBURG WL 2568 AND WL 4078
- K. NONE
- L. 12,500 PRIMARY 12,000 CASUAL
- M. 1500 PRIMARY 1508 CASUAL
"POOR" FORMATION FLOWN BY BOX ONE AND FAIR FORMATION FLOWN BY BOX TWO. SWEEPSTAKE CALLED UPON ENTERING AREA AND TEN MINUTES PRECEEDING, AND DID NOT RECEIVE AN ANSWER.

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQUADRON WITH THE 397TH BOMB GROUP
- B. IRLICH R & BRIDGE WF 7905
- C. 2 B26'S
- D. 2 PRIMARY ON EQUIPMENT
- E. NONE
- F. 8 X 500 GP ON PRIMARY
- G. UNOBSERVED
- H. 1 CAT "A" DUE TO FLAK
- I. NONE
- J. MIHFF FROM MAYEN WL 6392 AND NEUWEID WF 8103
MIHFF FROM KRONSFELD
- K. NONE
- L. 12,500 AND 11,160 PRIMARY
- M. 1447 AND 1448 PRIMARY

EXCELLENT FORMATION FLOWN BY GROUP SWEEPSTAKES CALLED 2 MILES WEST OF GIVET AND RECEIVED FIX AS BEING 2 MILES SOUTH OF GIVET. "GEE" FIX SHOWED THIS WAS INCORRECT, WAS 2 MILES NORTH OF GIVET.

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQ WITH THE 416TH BOMB GROUP
- B. WIESBADEN ORD DEPOT WM 3464
- C. 1 B 26
- D. 1 ATTACKED PRIMARY ON EQUIPMENT
- E. NONE
- F. 4 X 500 GP ON PRIMARY
- G. UNOBSERVED
- H. NONE
- I. NONE
- J. WIHFF FROM TARGET AREA WM 3464
- K. NONE
- L. 13,400 PRIMARY
- M. 1512 1/2 PRIMARY

POOR FORMATION FLOWN BY GROUP DANGEROUS FLYING INTO AND UNDER PFF SHIP WHEN BOMBAYS WERE OPEN, NARROWLY AVERTED ACCIDENT. GROUP WAS OK ON THE DROP AND WAS REFERED TO "D" PARADE REFERRED HIM BACK TO "C" AND SWEEPSTAKE ANSWERED AND REFERRED HIM BACK TO RIPSAP THEN RECEIVED BOX

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQUADRON WITH THE 409TH BOMB GROUP
- B. WIESBADEN ORD DEPOT WM 3464
- C. 1 B 26
- D. 1 AFTER EQUIPMENT FAILURE. PFF SHIP FOLLOWED GROUP IN AND MADE DROP ON GROUPS "GEE" DROP.
- E. NONE
- F. 4 X 500 ON PRIMARY
- G. UNOBSERVED
- H. NONE
- I. NONE
- J. ITHFF IN TAGET AREA WM 3464
- K. NONE
- L. 13,500 PRIMARY
- M. 1520 PRIMARY

GOOD FORMATION FLOWN BY GROUP BUT BOXES WERE NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TOGETHER STATION WAS NOT CALLED FOR RADIO TRANSMITTER OUT

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQUADRON WITH THE 391ST BOMB GROUP
- B. AU RR BRIDGE WF 9442
- C. 1 B 26
- D. 1 PFF SHIP DROPPED INDEPENDENTLY ON RELEASE SIGNAL RECEIVED FOLLOWING GROUPS COURSE. "GEE" JAMMED AND PARTIALLY EQUIPMENT FAILURE.
- E. NONE
- F. 4 X 500 GP ON PRIMARY
- G. UNOBSERVED
- H. NONE
- I. NONE

K. NONE
L. 11,500 PRIMARY
M. 1549 PRIMARY GOOD FORMATION AND GOOD WINDOW SHIPS FLOWN
BY GROUP. RIPSAW CALLED ONE MINUTE AFTER ENTERING TACTICAL AREA
RECEIVED FIX AS VEXXX BEING 0-0501.

A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQUADRON WITH THE 322ND BOMB GROUP
B. AU RR BRIDGE WF 9442
C. 1 B 26
D. 1 ON PFF EQUIPMENT
E. NONE
F. 4 X 500 GP ON PRIMARY
G. UNOBSERVED
H. NONE
I. NONE
J. WIFF FROM WILTINGEN WL1818
K. NONE
L. 1544 1/2 PRIMARY

EXCELLENT FORMATION FLOWN BY GROUP.
RIPSAW CALLED ONE MINUTE AFTER ENTERING AREA AND TOOK EIGHT
MINUTES TO RECEIVE GRID FIX AS BEING "P -7510".

- - CO 1ST PATHFINDER SQ - - -

BT 1802/19

SSR/BIRD RELAYED BY CW AR

JKI R.....19/2150A

JF

AR

ADND

TNKS

A LOT

JEA, JKI V ITA JJF 13/19 OP OP

FROM 1ST PATHFINDER SQ 1805/19
TO CG IX BOMB DIV. ATTN A-3
CG 97 BOMB WING A-3
CO 416 BOMB GROUP S-3
CONFIDENTIAL BT

1ST PATHFINDER SQ F-254-E

PFF OPERATIONAL CRITIQUE

DATE : 19/2/45 TIME : 1512 1/2
PFF PILOT : LT. A B JOHNSON

A. FORMATION :

1. CLASSIFICATION : GOOD
2. REMARKS : PFF PILOT WONDERS WHY FORMATION OVERRAN HNM SEVERAL TIMES.

B. WINDOW SHIPS :

1. CLASSIFICATION : NONE
2. REMARKS :

C. NAVIGATION :

1. CLASSIFICATION : GOOD
2. REMARKS : PFF PILOT LED MOST OF THE WAY

D. INTERPLANE COMMUNICATIONS : GOOD

E. BRIEFINGS : RENDEZVOUS

F. MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS: NONE

- - - CO 1ST PATHFINDER SQ - - -

BT 1805/19

SSR/DEF BB

JKI R.....19/2215A

JEA R.....

JF

KKKK

Handwritten:
2845
FX
308
FX308
S-2
S-3

*File as
for Mission Order #207*

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M)

AP# # 140
20 February 1945

MISSION SUMMARY # 41

19 February 1945

Section I

Field Order 753

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>MISSION RESULTS</u>
391 BG	Au (Pracht) (F-936416) Rail Bridge	Undet. (PFF)
322 BG	Au (Pracht) (F-936416) Rail Bridge	Undet (PFF)
410 BG	Mechernich (F-223210) Prime Mover Depot	Excellent
387 BG	Niederscheld (G-398359) Rail Bridge	Box I - Undet. (PFF) Box II - Undet. (ETA)
397 BG	Neuwied/Irlich (F-794047) Rail Bridge	Undet. (PFF)
394 BG	Neuwied/Irlich (F-794047) Rail Bridge	Box I - Undet. (ETA) Box II - P.N.B.
416 BG	Wiesbaden (M-344636) Ordnance Depot	Undet. (PFF)
409 BG	Wiesbaden (M-344636) Ordnance Depot	Undet. (ETA)



- A -
SECRET

S E C R E T

GROUP NARRATIVE

Six full groups, plus one box of a seventh group, attacked three-rail bridges, an ordnance depot, and a prime mover depot, recording Excellent to Undetermined results. An eighth group, plus the second box of the above-mentioned seventh group, bombed other targets.

Au (Tracht) (Rail Bridge)

391 BG: 35 a/c dispatched (including 1 IFF); 32 dropping 62 x 2000, 4 x 500 GF on primary. 3 window a/c dropped 6 x 2000 GF, on "Gee", at Trabon Trarbach (L-555510), approximately 65 miles SW of primary.

No losses, damage, casualties.

IFF called "Ripsaw" one minute after entering the tactical area and obtained the desired fix.

Bombing by boxes on IFF lead from 11,500-12,500 feet. Due to lack of adequate tracking signal, and with "Gee" jammed, IFF followed course of preceding group (322 BG) over target, and dropped on release signal.

No photo coverage or visual observation of results due to cloud cover.

322 BG: 37 a/c dispatched (including 1 IFF); 34 dropping 129 x 1000, 4 x 500 GF on primary. 2 window a/c dropped 8 x 1000 GF, on "Gee", at Kisselbach (L-915615), because "Gee" was jammed in area of briefed primary (Eastatten, M-785090). Bomb disposition unknown of 1 a/c which landed at Verdun.

No losses, damage, casualties.

IFF called "Ripsaw" 1 minute after entering tactical area, and 7 minutes later obtained desired fix.

Bombing by boxes on IFF lead from 12,500 - 12,700 feet.

No photo coverage or visual observation of results due to cloud cover.

Machernich (Prime Mover Depot)

410 BG: 41 a/c dispatched (including 1 IFF); 38 dropping 227 x 500 GF on primary. 2 window a/c.

1 a/c failed to bomb; other (IFF abandoned operations when group took over for visual run).

11 a/c flak battle-damaged; no losses, casualties.

IFF called "Ripsaw" 1 minute after entering tactical area - desired fix obtained.

Visual bombing by boxes on group lead from 12,500 feet.

Boxes I and II - EXCELLENT. Both boxes bombed almost simultaneously. Bursts form an unbroken pattern with 97% of bombs within 1000 foot radius of DMTI. Excellent two box pattern centered 260 feet ENE of DMTI, blanketing repair shop and railroad tracks south, north and east of DMTI and extending across railroad track to blanket several buildings east of target area. Direct hits and near misses to several buildings NW of DMTI.

- B -
S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Niederscheld (Rail Bridge)

387 BG: 37 a/c dispatched (including 2 IFF), 17 dropping 32 x 2000, 4 x 500 GP on primary. 16 a/c dropped 30 x 2000, 4 x 500 GP on Other target. 3 window a/c.
1 a/c failed to bomb: mechanical failure.

No losses, damage, casualties.

IFF called "Ripsaw" on entering tactical area and was referred to PARADE - desired fix obtained.

Bombing by boxes (Box I on IFF lead, Box II on group E.T.A.) from 11,000 - 12,500 feet.

Box I - UNDETERMINED. No photo coverage or visual observation of results due to cloud cover.

Box II - UNDETERMINED. No photo coverage or visual observation of results due to cloud cover. IFF equipment failed and "Gee" in both IFF and box leader a/c was not functioning. Box leader attempted to bomb briefed secondary (Montabaur - G-070043) on E.T.A., but "Gee" fix in another box a/c indicates that bombs fell at L-975745, approximately 25 miles SW of secondary target, in enemy territory.

Neuwied/Irlich (RR Bridge)

397 BG: 36 a/c dispatched (including 2 IFF), 29 dropping 53 x 2000, 8 x 500 GP on primary. Bomb disposition unknown of 1 a/c which landed at Verdun. 3 window, 1 spare a/c.

2 a/c failed to bomb: mechanical failures.

10 a/c flak battle damaged, 2 crewmen wounded; no losses.

IFF called "Sweepstakes" approximately 1 minute before entering tactical area and obtained desired fix.

Bombing by boxes on IFF lead from 11,000 - 12,580 feet.

No photo coverage or visual observation of results due to cloud cover.

394 BG: 36 a/c dispatched (including 2 IFF); none bombed primary. 29 a/c dropped 54 x 2000, 8 x 500 GP on Other targets. 3 window, 1 spare a/c.

3 a/c failed to bomb: 1 mechanical, 1 personnel failure; 1, other (Lost to flak enroute to target).

Above-mentioned lost a/c was hit by flak in vicinity of Kyllburg (L-180600); and exploded; 4 chutes observed.

4 additional a/c flak battle-damaged; 9 crewmen missing.

IFF a/c called "Sweepstakes" 10 minutes before, and again upon entering, tactical area, but could not make contact for reasons unknown. However, group leader made contact on entering area and obtained desired fix.

Bombing by boxes (Box I dropped on IFF E.T.A., Box II visually on group lead) from 12,000 - 12,800 feet.

Box I - UNDETERMINED. No photo coverage or visual observation of results due to cloud cover. IFF equipment failed and "Gee" was functioning only intermittently. IFF attempted to bomb primary on E.T.A. "Gee" fix in IFF a/c indicates that bombs fell at L-680980, 8 miles NW of target. Box a/c determined from "Gee" fix that bombs dropped at Mayen (L-630925), approximately 10 miles SW of primary.

- C -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Box II - Flights A and B. I.N.B. IFF equipment and "Gee" failed, this a/c subsequently dropping visually at L-570480, approximately 40 miles SW of primary. Box leader's "Gee" was jammed so he elected to bomb other target visually through break in clouds. Target attacked has not been located due to clouds and lack of detail on photos, but is believed to be in vicinity of Nohfelden (L-570100), about 60 miles SW of primary, in enemy territory. Loose pattern is apparent through center of town attacked, causing heavy damage.

Flight C. I.N.B. 1 a/c from this flight turned back prior to II when the engine cut out. Subsequently, however, the engine started again so pilot elected to bomb other target visually through break in clouds. Target attacked has not been determined due to lack of information regarding location ("Gee" was jammed) but it is believed to be in vicinity of Kalenborn (L-540850), about 20 miles SW of primary. Photos show concentrated pattern directly on selected AT, a large warehouse, probably demolishing it.

Wiesbaden (Ordnance Depot)

416 BG: 37 a/c dispatched (including 36 A-26's, 1 IFF), 36 dropping 140 x 1000, 4 x 500 GI on primary. 1 a/c dropped 4 x 1000 GI on briefed secondary (Nastatten - M-092784), due to rack malfunction at primary.

No losses, damage, casualties.

IFF called "Ripsaw" one minute before entering tactical area and obtained desired fix.

Bombing by boxes on IFF lead from 11,000 - 13,500 feet.

No photo coverage or visual observation of results due to cloud cover.

409 BG: 30 A-26, 11 A-20, 1 IFF a/c dispatched; 23 A-26, 6 A-20, 1 IFF dropping 91 x 2000, 28 x 500 GI on primary. 3 window a/c.

1 A-26 a/c, having turned back due to an oil leak, dropped 4 x 1000 GI at Reinsfeld (L-390200), while another a/c (A-20) dropped 4 x 500 GI at M-490790, bombs falling out when doors were opened. A third a/c (A-26) dropped 1 x 1000 GI, which had hung up at primary, at M-080310 (All three points in enemy territory).

7 a/c failed to bomb: 6 (5 A-26, 1 A-20), weather; 1, A-26, personnel failure.

No losses, damage, casualties.

IFF was unable to call "Ripsaw" due to radio failure; however, group leader made contact on entering tactical area and obtained desired fix.

Bombing by boxes on group lead (IFF equipment failed; "Gee" was jammed, so group leader dropped on R.T.A.) from 12,500 - 14,300 feet.

No photo coverage or visual observation of results due to cloud cover.

- D -
S E C R E T

SECRET

SECTION II

A/C OFF

301

A/C Bombing

269

A/C Failing to Bomb

8

A/C Recalled (Weather)

6

Other

Window 14

Spare 2

Bombs of 2 A/C Unaccounted for

18

TOTAL

301

Bombs on Enemy Territory

499,250

Total Bombs to Date

109,615,725

A/C Lost (394 BG)

1

A/C Missing

0

A/C Crash-Landed

0

A/C Battle Damaged

26

8.96%

Killed

0

Wounded

2

Missing

9

Injured

0

Claims

0

- 1 -

SECRET

S E C R E T

FAILURES TO BOMB

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>NO. A/C</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>REASON</u>
410	1	Other	PFF a/c abandoned operations when group took over for visual bombing.
387	1	Mechanical	Prop trouble.
397	2	Mechanical	Left engines cutting out.
394	1	Mechanical	Bomb bay doors would not open.
	1	Other	Lost to flak enroute to target.
	1	Personnel	Switches were not turned on.
409	1 A-26	Personnel	Pilot ill.

OBSERVATIONS

WEATHER: Am Fracht

391 BG: 10/10 stratocumulus and altocumulus, tops 9,500 feet. Thin patchy 3/10 altocumulus base 14,000 feet, tops 15,000 feet. Visibility 4-5 miles.

322 BG: 10/10 thin cloud at 8-9,000 feet. Patchy 4/10 stratus below. 4-6/10 thin medium cloud at 13,000 feet. Visibility unrestricted.

Mechernich

410 BG: 6/10 stratocumulus, tops 5,000 feet. Large hole over target. Visibility 4-5 miles air-to-ground, and 8-10 miles air-to-air.

Niederscheld

387 BG: 10/10 stratocumulus, tops 7-8,000 feet. 10/10 altostratus at 14,500 feet. Visibility above cloud unlimited.

Neuwied/Irlich

397 BG: 10/10 stratocumulus, tops 8,000 feet with some tops to 10,000 feet. Breaks to the west. 10/10 alt-stratus, base 12,500 feet, tops 14,000 feet. Visibility 500 yards in cloud on bomb run.

394 BG: 10/10 stratocumulus, tops 7,000 feet with some breaks to the north. Visibility unlimited above cloud.

Wiesbaden

416 BG: 10/10 stratocumulus, tops 6-7,000 feet. Visibility unlimited.

409 BG: 10/10 altostratus, tops 8,000 feet. 6/10 thin altostratus at 12,500 feet started 40 miles west of target. Visibility unlimited air-to-air.

S/A PHOTO REPORTS

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>CAMERAS PHOTOGRAPHING</u>	<u>CAMERA FAILURES</u>		<u>PERSONNEL FAILURES</u>	
		<u>NO.</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
410 BG	100%	0	0	0	0
394 BG	100%	0	0	0	0

S E C R E T

FLAK ANALYSIS ANNEX

A/C OVER ENEMY TERRITORY	290
A/C LOST TO FLAK	1
A/C BATTLE DAMAGED	25
% A/C BATTLE DAMAGED	8.96%
<u>Au (Traacht) RR Bridge</u>	<u>391, 322 Gp.</u>
A/C Lost to Flak	0
A/C Battle Damaged	0
% A/C Battle Damaged	0

The 991 BG reported 6-8 bursts of heavy flak far to the left of them. This flak was probably coming from the defenses of Sinzig as the route briefed took the formation at the extreme range for these guns. The 322 BG also reported flak in the same general area as well as at Nescher. Crews reported that this flak was following the window trail and was very inaccurate. The second box also encountered weak inaccurate flak at Laacher Lake (F-6801).

<u>Nechemnich Prime Mover Depot</u>	<u>410 Gp.</u>
A/C Lost to Flak	0
A/C Battle Damaged	11
% A/C Battle Damaged	26.82%

Moderate accurate heavy flak was encountered just after leaving the target. 12 guns are located at the target and there was a large hole in the clouds that provided 4-5 miles of air-to-ground visibility. This would enable gunners to engage visually.

<u>Niedersheld RR Bridge</u>	<u>387 Gp.</u>
A/C Lost to Flak	0
A/C Battle Damaged	0
% A/C Battle Damaged	0

Weak inaccurate heavy flak was encountered at the bombline south of Trier at L-1518 and at Limburg (M-2398). A total of 11 heavy guns are located at Limburg. However, the 3 gun battery just north of town was probably the only one in action.

<u>Neuweid/Irlich RR Bridge</u>	<u>397, 394 Gp.</u>
A/C Lost to Flak	1
A/C Battle Damaged	14
% A/C Battle Damaged	21.74%

The 397 BG reported moderate accurate heavy flak at the target and at Mayen. This follows the usual experience at these two points. The 394 reported flak at only one point. At Kyllburg (L-1860) moderate accurate flak was encountered. The formation was a few miles south of the briefed course and flew within the defenses of Bitburg where the defenses have been increasing for the past few days until now there are approximately 30 heavy guns present. The lost a/c received a hit in the left engine and exploded. 4 chutes were seen.

<u>Wiesbaden Ordnance Depot</u>	<u>416, 409 Gp.</u>
A/C Lost to Flak	0
A/C Battle Damaged	0
% A/C Battle Damaged	0

Flak encountered at the target brings out a very interesting point. The first group over the target (416) encountered only weak inaccurate flak. However, the second group reported that the flak was moderate to intense but inaccurate.

S E C R E T

The inaccuracy of the flak was probably due to complete cloud cover. The first group to attack had a surprise element in their favor while the second group did not. The attack was made from the northeast and evidently took the gunners by surprise. By the time the second group attacked the gunners were alerted and were able to fire. The target lies within the defenses of Mainz and moderate to intense flak would normally be anticipated.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT REACTION

T.O.T.'s: 1423 to 1551

No e/a encountered during the course of this mission.

- 4 -
S E C R E T

PUBLIC RELATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

NINTH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION HQS, France:-----The Germans' important heavy motor depot at Mechernich, situated 22 miles southwest of Bonn and comprising a network of repair buildings and oil tanks, was left burning Monday, following an attack by A-20 Havoc light bombers of the Ninth Bombardment Division.

While dense cloud met Marauders and Invaders carrying out other attacks against three rail bridges, an ordnance depot at Wiesbaden and targets inside the town of Mayen, the Havocs found the skies clear over Mechernich and dropped high explosives with deadly effect on the vital motor depot. An A-20 gunner, S/Sgt. Joseph A. Greichunos, of 3622 Pulaski street, East Chicago, Ind., reported seeing "a cluster of bombs bore into the main building area and send a large burst of flame shooting up through the smoke."

Targets for the Marauders were the railroad bridges at Au (Pracht), 24 miles east of Bonn; Niederscheld, 19 miles northwest of Giessen, over the Dill river; and Neuweid-Irlich, over the Weid river, 8 miles northwest of Coblenz. Results of the attacks were not known, due to cloud cover.

Two forces of Invaders, meanwhile, struck at the Wiesbaden ordnance depot, repair and supply point for artillery, engineering materiel, motor transport and armored forces' vehicles. Pathfinder-led, the A-26's were also unable to observe their results because of bad weather.

In the Mayen attack, which saw one small force of Marauders directing a "blind" attack against targets inside the town, the bombers ran into the only heavy flak defenses of the day and ^{we} lost one B-26.

Enemy fighters failed to challenge any of the bomber formations, and flak was nil to moderate at most of the day's targets. The Mayen-bound Marauder was the only loss reported up to a late hour Monday.

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19 February 1945

Forwarded to Paris 1915 hrs
to Press Camp 1930 hrs

GP-416-SU-OP-5
19 FEB 45

AF9
Ship 88E
Item 1

P.R.C.

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DOD DIR 5200.9, 27 Sep 58

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