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NUMPAGE 76**Title Extensions:****Abstract****Descriptive** TITLE SUPPLIED.**Notes:****Title** MISSION REPORTS: TARGET VIERSEN, GERMANY**Added****Entries****Author:****Subject:****Major Command:****Administrative Markings**

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GENERAL INDEX

F-060964
 TARGET VIERSEN DATE 24/2/45 NO. 1038 MISS. 213 F.O. 760

STATUS ATTACKED. BRIEFING OFFICER _____

1. IX BC Synopsis of Mission -
2. Opflash Report -
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P.R.C.

06092031

ITA JKI JPO JJF V JEA JEA 05/24 (S.S. - S.S.)
T (ITA T JJF)

FROM: JEA MSG. CEN.
TO : COMBOMDIV NINE
COMBOMGRPS 410, 416
1ST PROV. PATHFINDER SQDN.

FX488

SIGNAL SERVICE

ATTENTION MSG. CEN.

IN OUR FIELD ORDER NO. F-199-E JEA 01/24 SENT YOU AT 24/0047A PLS
CORRECT 3. B. 410TH BOMB GROUP LINE 3. B. (6) TO READ:

3. B. (6) BOMB 13,000 FEET OR BELOW CLOUDS DOWN TO BUT NOT BELOW 8,000
FEET. LOSE 2,000 FEET AFTER RELEASING BOMBS.

JEA MSG. CEN.

BT 24/0555A

AR

SS

ITA R 240600A IC AR
JKI R 24/0600A RSS AR
JPO R 24/0600A SK AR T

ITA JES JKI JPO JJF V JEA JEA 21/24 OP OP
T (ITA T JJF)

FROM: 97TH COMBAT BOMB WING 24/2047A
TO : COMBOMDIV NINE
COBOMGRPS 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
24 FEBRUARY 1945

F-199-E

FIELD ORDER NO. 177-760

MAPS: NORMAL

1. B. (1) REF. CURRENT BOMB LINE

2. THIS WING WILL ATTACK TARGETS IN GERMANY.

ZERO HOUR PLAN "A" 24/1300A
ZERO HOUR PLAN "B" 24/1300A

3. A. 409TH BOMB GROUP:

- (1) VIERSEN COMMUNICATIONS CENTER F-060964
- (6) BOMB 12,000 FEET OR BELOW CLOUDS DOWN TO BUT NOT BELOW 8,000 FEET. LOSE 1,000 FEET AFTER RELEASING BOMBS.
- (9) MPI: GSGS 4414 SHEET NO. 4704. COVER AREA BOUNDED BY THE FOLLOWING GRID. COORD.: 05359635, 05859680, 06259680 AND 06659620.
- (10) 14 X 250 LB. GP FUSED 1/10 SEC. NOSE, 1/40 SEC. TAIL.
- (12) TOT: ZERO HOUR PLUS 20 MIN.

3. B. 410TH BOMB GROUP:

- (1) VIERSEN M/Y F-076958
- (6) BOMB 12,000 FEET OR BELOW CLOUDS DOWN TO BUT NOT BELOW 8,000 FEET. LOSE 2,000 FEET AFTER RELEASING BOMBS.
- (9) MPI: GSGS 4414 SHEET NO. 4704. COVER M/Y BETWEEN GRID. COORD.: 06729620 AND 08349545.
- (10) 6 X 500 LB. GP FUSED 1/10 SEC. NOSE, 1/100 SEC. TAIL.
- (12) TOT: ZERO HOUR.

3. C. 416TH BOMB GROUP:

- (1) VIERSEN COMMUNICATIONS CENTER F-060964
- (6) BOMB 12,000 FEET OR BELOW CLOUDS DOWN TO BUT NOT BELOW 8,000 FEET. LOSE 1,000 FEET AFTER RELEASING BOMBS.
- (9) MPI: GSGS 4414 SHEET NO. 4704. COVER AREA BOUNDED BY THE FOLLOWING GRID. COORD.: 05359635, 05759555 AND 06659620.
- (10) 14 X 250 LB. GP FUSED 1/10 SEC. NOSE, 1/40 SEC. TAIL.
- (12) TOT: ZERO HOUR PLUS 30 MIN.

X. (1 - 4) NO CHANGE.

- (5) A/C REQUIRED: MAXIMUM EFFORT BOMBING BY FLIGHTS OF 6 A/C.
- (6) ROUTE OUT: BASE TO E-4218 TO I P TO TARGET.
- (7) ROUTE BACK: TARGET TURN RIGHT TO R P TO BASE.
- (8) IP: E-9108.
- (9) AXIS OF ATTACK: GENERALLY N W TO S E.
- (10) RP: E-4218.

(11) IN THE EVENT SECOND RUNS ARE MADE ON TARGET, GROUPS WILL TURN RIGHT TO E-7104 TO I P (E-9108) TO BEGIN RUN.

(12) GROUPS ARE CAUTIONED THAT AN A-26 GROUP WILL BE ON TARGET F-060964 AT ZERO HOUR PLUS 10 MIN., AND 2 B-26 GROUPS WILL BE ON THE SAME TARGET AT ZERO HOUR PLUS 40 MIN., AND ZERO HOUR PLUS 50 MIN.

(13) IF PRIMARY TARGET CANNOT BE BOMBED BY VISUAL MEANS, GROUPS WILL BOMB PRIMARY TARGET ON (A) "GEE" (B) TARGET E.T.A.

(14) GROUPS WILL SECECT AN ALTERNATE TARGET IN ACCORDANCE WITH IX BOMB DIV. CIPHER F-576-E (2-9-45)

(15) FRIENDLY ARTILLERY WILL NEUTRALIZE ENEMY FLAK BATTERIES WITHIN RANGE.

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

ITA JES JKI JJF V JEA JEA 03/24 OP - OP
T (ITA T JJF)

FROM: 97TH COMBAT BOMB WING 24/0100A
TO : COMBOMDIV NINE
COBOMGRPS 409, 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
24 FEBRUARY 1945

INTELLIGENCE SUPPLEMENT NO. 2 FIELD ORDER NO. 177-760

F-201-E

1. TARGET: VIERSEN COMMUNICATION CENTER. SEE GROUP G.L.O. FOR TACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE.
2. MAP COVERAGE:
----- GSGS 4414 SHEET 4704

PHOTO COVERAGE:
----- US 31/4098 PRINTS 1041, 42, 43
2031, 32, 33, 36, 37.
5106E/4704
3. FLAK: COUNTER BATTERY FIRE FOR BOTH PLANS COORDINATED WITH E.T.A. CHECK PLOTTED POSITIONS.
4. TARGET IS APPROXIMATELY 12 MILES BEYOND CURRENT BOMBLINE.

COMCBTWIG 97

BT 24/0100A

BBBBBBBBBB

SS

ITA R 240255A AL KKK
JKI R..... 24/0255A RSS KK

FX 499

,:ITA JJF JES JKI JPO V JEA JEA 7/24 OP OP

T (ITA PASS TO JJF)

FROM 97TH COMBAT BOMB WING 24/1225A

TO COMBONDIV NINE

COBOMGP 409

COBOMGP 410

COBOMGP 416

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

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

F-2,30E BT

97TH COMBAT BOMB WING

APO 140

24 FEBRUARY 1945

ANNEX NO.1 TO FIELD ORDER NO.177-760.

CANCEL PLAN "A"

PLAN "B" IN EFFECT.

COMCBTWIG 97

BT 24/1225A

CES AR

JES R.....24/ 9 SORRY SORT OF GARBLED UP HJGFO. OK

JP

1225A

SL

AR

JKI R.....24/1225A

EW

AR

1250
24 Feb 45
SAL

MISSION NO. 213

LOADING LIST
BOX 1
FLIGHT 1

24 February 1945

1. 469 A
MAJOR F L DODD
LT W E BREWER
LT A H MALNEY
S/S A J MAJORSKI

4. 330 F
LT W MIDGROVE
S/S M LIGER

2. 507 C
LT R B FRINKS
LT M C MC NUTT
S/S VAN WERT, D B

5. 223 B
LT J F STANKOWSKI
SGT A H KIMBALL

3. 2315 L
CAPT R C CRUTCHMACHEN
S/S J J RICKETSON

6. 307 M
LT R FORD
SGT R J KAMISCHKE

FLIGHT 11

1. 481 F
CAPT R H EVARD
LT T M MC CARTHY
S/S R F EUSINGER

4. 495 G
LT R C BUCHANAN
SGT R G HINDMAN

2. 213 A
LT J H MONTROSS
S/S J H FALRELL

5. 335 W
LT R A WISSELL
S/S D W JORDAN

3. 370 Q
LT W W ARLEN
SGT J G FAIRFEL

6. 361 M
LT R H LONG
SGT G J MC CARTHY

FLIGHT 111

1. 505 Y
CAPT C J ANDERSON
LT W FARRAGUT
S/S P C BURDA

4. 264 I
LT F R PARKER
S/S S L HETRELL

2. 325 D
LT L J FUCHS
S/S L C FERRUSCH

5. 321 T
LT J H BLUWINS
SGT F GENTRY

3. 305 U
LT L W GANNON
S/S J W ROBINSON

6. 229 E
LT J F PHILLIPS
S/S F B HARRISON

STAFF
9315 F
LT W G BISHOP
SGT M C HARRIS

MISSION NO. 213
24 February 1945

MISSION NO 213

LOADING LIST
BOX 14
FLIGHT 1

24 February 1945

1. 503 X
LT R J MOOREY
LT R L KIDR
LT G R BOCH
S/S A THIAN

4. 224 E
LT E O TUNSH
S/S J SISKIEWICZ

2. 498 R
LT J J LACKOVICH
LT R C SMITH
PVT R M BARTY

5. 416 O
LT F F WALLACE
SGT R PLANT

3. 215 R-1
LT J R WARDEN
S/S C C STINGUP

6. 334 G
LT J G NEWELL
S/S J A HUMPHRIS

FLIGHT 11

1. 497 S
CAPT R J TUFF
LT J T BOCK
S/S R S SCHERER

4. 209 M
LT T J MURRAY
SGT V F GROSS

2. 237 B
LT J E GROSS
SGT H D HILLING

5. 250 A
CAPT S M HIXON
SGT H K MILLER

3. 297 F
LT F W HENDERSON
SGT H SPILLMAN

6. 326 F
LT G L MILLER
S/S H H DAVIS

FLIGHT 111

1. 492 E
LT S L MILLER
LT J E GROSS
S/S J M FLEMING

4. 314 H
LT M W DU BOIS
S/S D L GRIFFIN

2. 381 C
LT G B JOHNSON
S/S L F JENSEN

5. 252 D
LT R H HACKETT
SGT H A KODG

6. 354 S
LT B O TURNER
S/S M R HAYES
LT J W BRITT

6. 298 E
LT G M JOHNSON
SGT J H DEATHERAGE

DEPART

286 D
LT A R TURMAN
S/S L L LANTON

MISSION NO 213
24 February 1945

F/O

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERFORM

PILOT

Poucha

$$A/C_{\frac{H}{H}}$$

325

BOY

CASUALTIES

BOMBS : 14 X 250 ON 147

: BATTLE DAMAGE

5

RETURNED

Y

JETTISONED

FLAK:

KKWA 77 area.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

Heavy traffic (backways) on autobahn NE of B

POSITION IN RELATION

	X	
X		X
	X	
X		X

	X	
X		X
	X	
X		X

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

MAZ

INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

J-785125

F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTER. FORM

PILOT Heinke A/C# 507 BOX I

CASUALTIES

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

14 X 250 safe - malfunction

FLY: mid-acc. 20 sec. bomb release point to turn off - go works

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS: nil

OBSERVATIONS: A-20 in trouble - smoking from engine near bomb line turned back - the formation on way out.

at 1330 about six miles NE of Charleville, Bombardier took fuel & opened bomb doors in vicinity of 04°38'E 50°27'N. Did not know bombs had dropped until bomb bay doors were opened on bomb run - were told by others in formation that bombs had dropped when doors previously opened -

POSITION IN FORMATION

		X	
	X		X
		X	
	X		X
X	X		
	X		
X			

Lt. Richman at Bombs
at 1540

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PILOT May Dunn A/C# 469 BOX ±

CASUALTIES

BOMBS :		ON	BATTLE DAMAGE		
<u>14</u>	<u>X250</u>	<u>ON 5-44</u>	"A"	"A-C"	"E"
<u>X</u>		RETURNED	:	X	:
<u>X</u>		JETTISONED	:	:	:

FLAK: Cut oil line - nose plane off

XXHA -

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

Pt didn't drop (was off ^{was south of head} course of run) so our BN had see fix - was homing on pt S. & dropped on that. Small cloud. May be fire - Bombed on heading of 60°. Made left turn off instead of right - flare was from right mostly.

Akt 2 minutes later - ATOT - 1357. (3.95 - ^{36.5} ~~37.6~~ Rubel)

of 3 ships (may be 409) Aros at akt target area. One was going down in smoke - gunners followed it as far as possible. no chutes seen.

POSITION IN FORMATION

```

      (X)
     X  X
      X  X
      X  X

X  X  X
X  X  X
X  X  X

      X  X
     X  X
    X  X
  
```

404th & 416 Trapper pattern. over Caps - report - schedule for 1st & last noticed of together

Shindens

INTERCOMTOR

CONFIDENTIAL

BOY

CASUALTIES

BOLEBS :

14. $\times 250$

CN Tet

BATTLE DAMAGE

X

RETURNED

 $\mathbb{K}$

JETTISONED

FLICK:

XXXX Doubtful

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

POSITION IN CORRELATION

X
X X
X
X X

X X
X X X
X X

X X
X X
X X

MAZ

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CONFIDENTIAL

BOX

: BATTLE DANCE

RETURNED

JETTICOMED

КВНА от лесного района

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

POSITION IN CORRELATION

X
X X
X X

X
X
X

X X X

MAZ

INTERROTOR

CONFIDENTIAL

BOM

JETTISONED

WNA before release point

OBSERVATIONS:

X
X X
X
(X) X

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CONFIDENTIAL

INTERNAL FORM

PILOT

Anneri

 $\frac{1}{C} \frac{dC}{dt}$

378

BOX

CASUALTIES

hid

BC1BS :

14

X 250

ON

12

BATTLE DAMAGE

Yes

115

VI A-C

19E11

2

RETURNED

Teil 1 a. d.

Σ

JETTISONED

1. Средства - Касса

: male

FLAK:

XXHA - all right in path at release. Very accurate
didn't follow into turn.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

Phil

OBSERVATIONS:

muscle ground activity

POSITION IN CORRELATION

X	X	X
X	X	X
X	X	X

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

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

Shinde

INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERFORM

PILOT

Evans

A/C#

481

BOX

1

CASUALTIES

BOMBS :

*14 X 250*ON *P.*

BATTLE DAMAGE

*Nil.**X*

RETURNED

X

JETTISONED

FLICK:

*Just before drop - few bursts, - heard others.**Abt XXHA -*

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

Nil.

OBSERVATIONS:

*PFF turned 1 1/2 minutes early. Made run from non-
briefed heading - 50°.**Abt 8/10.**TOT - 1357 1/2 (80° -)**DR would put area OK - probably to right
of locn - South of DMP.*

POSITION IN FORMATION

		X		
	X		X	
		X		
	X		X	
X	X			
	X			
X	X			

		(X)		
X			X	
		X		
X			X	

Shinden
INTERROGATOR

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F/O _____

CONFIDENTIAL

INTER. FORM

PILOT Anderson A/C# 505 BOX 1

CASUALTIES _____

BOMBS :	<u>14</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>250</u>	ON	<u>PT</u>	BATTLE DAMAGE			
		<u>X</u>		RETURNED					
		<u>X</u>		JETTISONED					

FLYK: XXHA about 1 min before bombs
away until we dropped

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

Silver discs just after target
could not see bombs due to clouds
Dropped on lead flt.

POSITION IN FORMATION

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

TOT 131358
Hd 80°
alt 12200
AS 200

Perk.

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F/O

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INTER. FORM

PILOT Blevins A/C# 321 BOX 1

CASUALTIES

BOMBS :		ON	BATTLE DAMAGE		
			" "	" "	" "
14	X	250	ON	PT	
	X		RETURNED		
	X		JETTISONED		

FLAK: XXHA before bombs away on bomb run.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

scattered clouds - did not see
target

POSITION IN FORMATION

		X	
	X		X
		X	
	X		X

X
X X
X X
X (X)

	X	
Y		X
	X	
Y		X

Perk.
INTERROGATOR

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X JETTISONED : 1 hole :

no counter flank fire observed

Luna
INTERROG. TOP

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F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTER. FORM

PILOT Musgrove A/C# 330 BOX /

CASUALTIES Nil

BOBS :	<u>14</u>	<u>X 250</u>	ON <u>Prim</u>	BATTLE DAMAGE	<u>Nil</u>		
	<u>X</u>		RETURNED		<u>"L-C"</u>		<u>"E"</u>
	<u>X</u>		JETTISONED				

FLAK: X#1 - 25 burst - ahead & right - none felt or heard.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS: Nil.

OBSERVATIONS: Clouds obscured results - alt 7/10 +

POSITION IN FORMATION

X

X X

X

X X

X

X

X

X

X

X X

X

X X

X

X

X

X

Shinde

INTERROGATOR

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F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERR. FORM

PILOT Ford A/C# 307 BOX 1

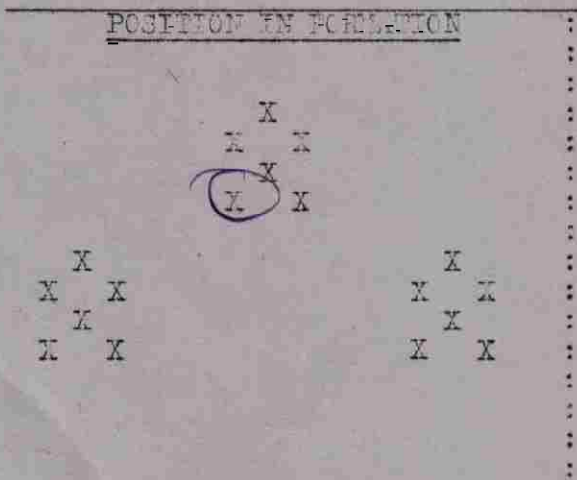
CASUALTIES nil

BOMBS :	<u>14</u> X <u>250</u> ON	BATTLE DAMAGE		
	X RETURNED	scratch?	"A-C"	"E"
	X JETTISONED	on canopy		

FLAK: XX HA - for 1 min on run until bombs away

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:
nil

OBSERVATIONS:
A-20 smoking in target area
losing altitude
Saw Heinkler's bombs go away - all of
them - when he opened his doors. It was
not until 15 minutes later that we bombed.
His bombs went away about 5 minutes
after PPF A/c took over the lead.



Luna
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X JETTISONED : *Handwritten mark* :

F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERP. FORM

PILOT Parker A/C# 264 BOX 1

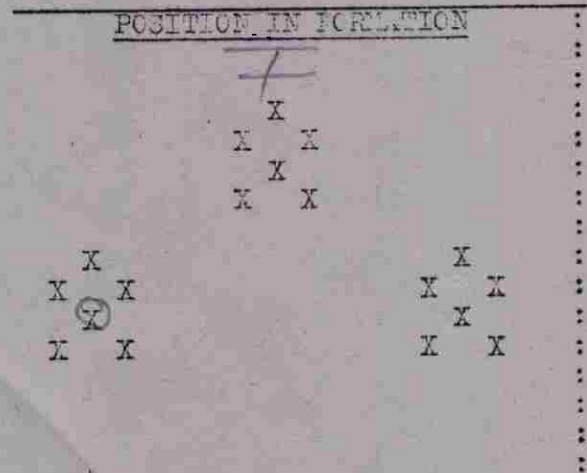
CASUALTIES _____

BOMBS :	<u>10 X 250</u>	<u>ON Primary</u>	BATTLE DAMAGE			
	<u>4 X 250</u>	RETURNED	<u>Cot A</u>		"A-C"	"E"
	<u>X</u>	JETTISONED				
	<u>reason undetermined</u>					

FLAK: mod - acc. on bomb run -

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS: nil -

OBSERVATIONS:



Had camera

D. C. Rogers
INTERROGATOR

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PILOT Philips A/C# 329 BOX 1

CASUALTIES _____

BOMBS :	<u>14</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>ON TGT.</u>	BATTLE DAMAGE			
	<u>X</u>			RETURNED			"A-C"	"E"
	<u>X</u>			JETTISONED				

FLAK: XXXX T9Taur.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

POSITION IN FORMATION



MAZ.
INTERLOCUTOR

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F/O

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INTER. FORM

PILOT Buchanan A/C# 495 BOX 1

CASUALTIES

BOMBS :		ON TGT		BATTLE DAMAGE		
				"A"	"A-C"	"E"
13	X 200	ON	TGT			
1	X 250	RETURNED				
X		JETTISONED				

FLK: AAA on bomb run.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

cluster mine caught on shackles and retained
1-250
many vehicles on road at
1349K

POSITION IN FORMATION

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

MAZ
 INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERFORM

PILOT Russell A/C# 335 BOX 1

CASUALTIES

BOMBS :		ONT 97	BATTLE DAMAGE			
			"A"	"B"	"A-C"	"E"
X	RETURNED					
X	JETTISONED					

FLK: XAR. Tgt area.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

POSITION IN FORMATION

X
X X
X
X X

X
X X
X
X

X
X X
X
X

MAZ
INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTER. FORM

PILOT Rooney A/C# 503 BOX 11CASUALTIES nil

BOOMBS : <u>14</u>	<u>X</u> <u>>50</u>	ON	BATTLE DAMAGE	<u>W-C</u>	<u>E</u>
	<u>X</u>	RETURNED			
	<u>X</u>	JETTISONED	<u>nil</u>		

FLAK: XXHA - from Viersen to Krefeld Herdingen
on 1st run - none on second.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

nil

OBSERVATIONS: PPF turned off without dropping tho he had his doors open - he turned off ^{left} when Box I turned off after they had dropped. We heard no call from PPF. We went back to IP (S of Eindhoven) took 360 over IP - PPF took us in on 2nd run - waggled then peeled to left and we went on to bomb on Gee coord. and came back by returning to course from Gee fix. PPF left us ~~2~~ 1 minute before we dropped on 2nd run, believe South of Primary (36.5) (39.5)
 No observation of bomb hits due to clouds. 6-9/10

POSITION IN POSITION

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

TOT - 14/6

Alt - 11500

Azis - 130° mag.

On both runs PPF pullaway was too late for us to get set.

Luria
 INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERM. FORM

PILOT Miller A/C# 492 BOX 11

CASUALTIES

BOMBS :	ON	BATTLE DAMAGE	"A-C"	"E"
<u>14</u> X <u>250</u>				
X	RETURNED			
X	JETTISONED			

FLAK: X to XX #1. at target.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

None

OBSERVATIONS:

TOT - 1414 (and low)

11,500

105° HLL

Bombed on Box leader.

Smoke after bombing
East half of town in smoke.

8-10/10 at tgt.

Vis - 10-15 Miles

6-8 at target.

PPF pulled
up & out.
made 2 runs

POSITION IN FORMATION

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

INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

X JETTISONED :

CONFIDENTIAL

4

Wid

JETTISONED

See below.

X
X X
X
X X

CONFIDENTIAL

BOY

BATTLE DAMAGE

RETURNED

JETTISONED

XHA on bomb run (1st run)

OBSERVATIONS:

Made 2 runs - clouds covered target, no observations.

POSITION IN FORMATION

X
X X
X
X
X X

X
X X
X (X) X
X X

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

Park

INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTER. FORM
PILOT Hackley A/C# 252 BOX 11

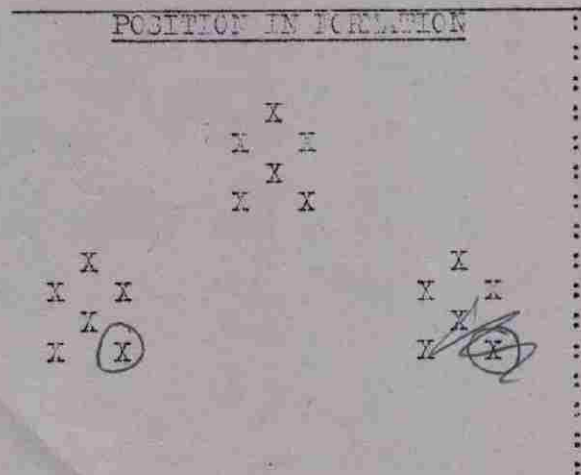
CASUALTIES
BOMBS : 14 X 250 ON PT : BATTLE DAMAGE
 X RETURNED : "A-C" : "E"
 X JETTISONED : _____ :
 : : :

FLK: X - XX H.I just before bombs away
 on their left.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

Clouds obscured target - made 2
runs - bombed on flt leader



Park
INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTER. FORM

PILOT Sewell A/C# 334 BOX 11

CASUALTIES _____

BOMBS :	<u>14</u> <u>X</u> <u>250</u> <u>ON</u>	BATTLE DAMAGE		
	<u>X</u> RETURNED		"I-C"	"E"
	<u>X</u> JETTISONED	<u>✓</u>		

FLY: XXHA Tgt area

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

Camera

POSITION IN FORMATION

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

MAZ
INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERFORM

PILOT Warren A/C# 215 BOX 11

CASUALTIES

BOEBS :	<u>14</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>250</u>	ON	<u>Tgt</u>	:	BATTLE DAMAGE	:		:		:	
		<u>X</u>		RETURNED		:	<u>✓</u>	:	<u>"L-C"</u>	:	<u>"E"</u>	:	
		<u>X</u>		JETTISONED		:		:		:		:	

FLAK: XXXXA. IN Tgt area.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

Camera
POSITION IN FORMATION

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

MAZ
INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERFORM

PILOT Turner A/C# 324 BOX 11

CASUALTIES

BOMBS :	<u>14</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>250</u>	ON	<u>Pin</u>	BATTLE DAMAGE	<u>nil.</u>
	<u>X</u>			RETURNED			
	<u>X</u>			JETTISONED			

FLAK: XX#1 - one tonight & ahead.
covered in area.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

nil.

OBSERVATIONS:

As we made 2d run on target, a ship went
down in Holu area. Spiraled down smoking
nochutes seen. Followed to top of cloud
level. 6500 - ft tops.

POSITION IN FORMATION

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

INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERFORM

PILOT McIlhorm A/C# 326 BOX 11

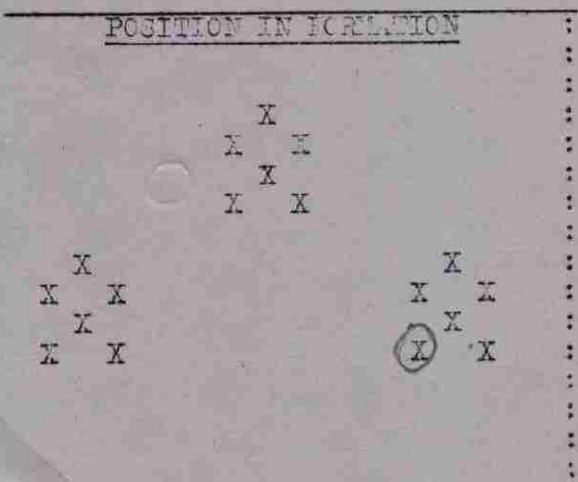
CASUALTIES nil.

BOMBS :	<u>14</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>250</u>	ON	<u>Run</u>	:	BATTLE DAMAGE	<u>nil.</u>	:		:		:	
		<u>X</u>			RETURNED	:	"A"	:	"A-C"	:	"E"	:		
		<u>X</u>			JETTISONED	:		:		:		:		

FLAK: 15-20 knots very inaccurate

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS: nil.

OBSERVATIONS:



Alinder
INTERSECTOR

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F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERFORM

PILOT Tull A/C# 497 BOX 11

CASUALTIES nil

BOMBS :	<u>13</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>250</u>	ON	BATTLE DAMAGE	<u>nil</u>
		<u>X</u>		RETURNED		
		<u>X</u>		JETTISONED		

FLAK: Light & accurate. Not audible. (15-20 bursts)

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

rule 13 loaded
dropped in side flight.
undesired results.
Saw 2 chutes going down in target area
not pure white.

POSITION IN BURST

		X	
	X		X
		X	
	X		X
X	X		
	X		
X			

Shind
 INTERCOM

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERFORM

PILOT Huron A/C# 250 BOX 11

CASUALTIES Nil

BOILERS :	<u>14</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>250</u>	ON	:	BATTLE DAMAGE	<u>Nil</u>
		<u>X</u>		RETURNED	:		
		<u>X</u>		JETTISONED	:		

FLAK: XX41 - for Box II Between flights.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

Abt 7/10. -
10-15 Convoy on N-S - NW of 78°
Two runs - push/pull pulled up + out on 2d run.

POSITION IN FORMATION

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

Shind
 INTERCOM

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTER. FORM

PILOT Cooke A/C# 237 BOX 11

CASUALTIES _____

BOMBS :	<u>14</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>250</u>	ON	<u>PT</u>	BATTLE DAMAGE			
	<u>X</u>			RETURNED				"A-C"	"E"
	<u>X</u>			JETTISONED					

FLAK: X HI on bomb run about $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 min before bombs away.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

OBSERVATIONS:

Dropped on flt leader.
Cloud cover at target

POSITION IN FORMATION

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

Park
INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O _____

CONFIDENTIAL

INTER. FORM

PILOT Henderson A/C# 297 BOX 11CASUALTIES nilBOMBS : 14 X 250 ON ? BATTLE DAMAGE

On 2 nd run.	X	RETURNED	:	"A"	:	"I-C"	:	"E"
	X	JETTISONED	:		:	<u>nil</u>	:	

FLAK: X to XXH1 on 1st run at Box I.
no flak on 2nd run.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

nil

OBSERVATIONS:

~~Doesnt~~ Doesnt know what was bombed
On way back from 1st bomb run unidentified
twin engine with US markings - B-26 or
A26 (but not A-26) smoking from left
engine - losing altitude thru clouds.

POSITION IN FORMATION

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

Interrogator
INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

F/O

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERFORM

PILOT

Lackovich

A/C#

498

BOX

11

CASUALTIES

nil

BOMBS :

14 X 250

ON ?

BATTLE DAMAGE

"A"

"I-C"

"E"

X

RETURNED

nil

X

JETTISONED

FLX:

XXHA

from target bombed - whatever that was - for about 1 min on second run. Returned to End Haven for 2nd run

XXHA on first run - from target area on 1st run

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS:

nil

OBSERVATIONS:

2 Runs - Believe bombed Krefeld - Urdingen. PPF had equipment failure ⁴⁹⁸ Bombed on bot leader. ETA had run out. PPF had GEE failure on 1st run) on 2nd run - peeled off to left. Did not drop his bombs.

Bombs away 14/6

Had GEE fix on 2nd run

POSITION IN FORMATION

X
X X
X X
X

X
X X
X
X X

X
X X
X X
X X

Luria

INTERROCTOR

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F/O

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INTER. FORM

PILOT

Turman

A/C#

286

BOX

Spine-11

CASUALTIES

nil

BOMBS :

14 X 500

ON Primary

BATTLE DAMAGE

X

RETURNED

Col. A

"A-C"

"E"

X

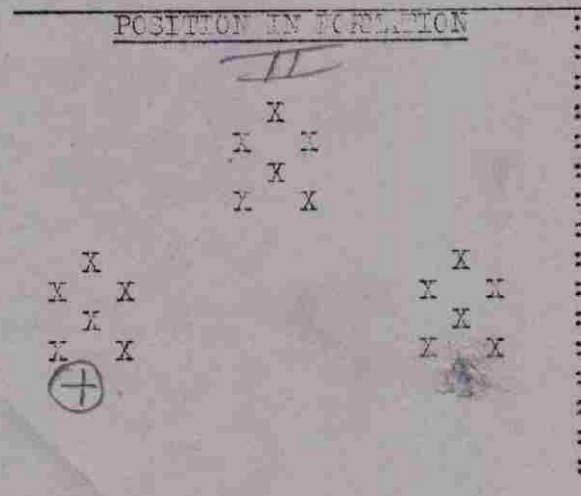
JETTISONED

FLAK:

1st run mod - inacc - 2nd run - in large inacc.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS: nil

OBSERVATIONS:



S. S. Rogers
INTERCOMTOR

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F/O _____ CONFIDENTIAL INTERR. FORM

PILOT Murray A/C# 209 BOX 11

CASUALTIES nil

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

FLAK: meagre snare

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS: nil

OBSERVATIONS:

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

L.S. Rogers
INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

INTERROGATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

247 145

144 X 250 - 85-

935-Store
Beckhoff

Box #	Ops Mtl	Date	F/O	Target	Alt.	Box Leader	T/O	15 min.
II		84/9/45				Dr. Rovery	TOT	
A/C	Fail to Bomb	ATL	Bomb Disp	A/C Dam	E/A	Pers.	L/D	
Res No.	Reason	T S O	T S J	M D A	C O B E D	P D K V M		
1	503		14					503 Rovery
2	498		14					215 498 Warren Bakerick
3	215		14	Ret Rd				224 Turner-E
4	224		14					334 416 Surrell Wallace
5	416		14					
6	334		14					
1	497		13	Ret Rd				
2	237		14					
3	297		14					
4	209		14					
5	250		14					
6	326		14					
1	492		14					
2	381		14					
3	354		14					
4	314		14					
5	252		14					
6	238		13					
1	286	Spare.	14					

264
247
511

1
5
146

492
Miller

497
Twist

354
381
314
309
238
252
226
250

Turner-B
Jordan
Hudson
Creeke

To: C G, 9th Bomb. Division • Attn A-2
 C G, 97th Combat Wing Attn A-2
 From 416 B.G.

Opflash for 24 February 1945

~~A.~~ Operational Priority. Confidential

A. 416 B.G.

B. VIERSEN COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (F060964)

C. 38 A-26's

D. 18 A-26's ^{Box I bombed primary} ~~dropped~~ on GEE run at
~~Ruhr Chain coordinates 36.5-3.95~~ after
 PPF A/C equipment failure.

^{deputy leader of}
 1 A-26 ^{Box I} dropped prematurely ~~in~~
 in friendly territory ^{at 57.8 51.5} when bombs
 fell out upon opening of bomb bay doors.
 Cause of malfunction not ascertained.

^{bombed primary}
 19 A-26's ^{Box II} dropped on GEE run
 at Ruhr Chain coordinates ~~36.5-3.95~~
 on second run. PPF A/C failed to
 drop on ~~first run~~ either first or second
 runs.

E. ~~21~~
 ↓

~~F. 247 X 250 GP by Bot I at 295-336.5 Poles~~

~~5 X 55~~

264 X 250 GP by Bot II at 3.95

F. 511 X 250 GP ON PRIMARY

14 X 250 GP fell out at 5785125

6 ~~GP~~ X 250 GP returned.

G. Unobserved due to cloud cover

H. ¹⁰ A/C damaged by flak. Cat A

~~1 A/C damaged by flak. Cat AC~~

I. nil

J. Moderate accurate HFF ~~at~~ ^{fairly} continuous through last minute of bomb run.
nil elsewhere

K. nil

L. Bot I 12,500

Bot II 11,500

M. Bot I 1357

Bot II 1416

TO : CG, 9TH BOMB DIVISION ATT: A-2
CG, 97TH COMBAT BOMB WING ATT: A-2

FROM : 416 Bomb Group

OPFLASH FOR 24 FEBRUARY 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Operational Priority

A. 416 Bomb Group

B. VIERSEN COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (F-060964)

C/ 38 A-26's

D. 18 A-26's, Box I bombed primary on GEE run after PPF A/C equipment failure.
19 A-26's, Box II bombed primary on GEE ~~run~~ on second run. PPF A/C failed to drop on either first or second runs.

E. 1 A-26 deputy leader of Box I dropped ^{SAFE} prematurely in friendly territory at J-785125 when bombs fell out ~~upon opening~~ ^{when bomb bay doors were opened} ~~when~~ upon levelling for bombsight. Cause of malfunction not ascertained.

F. * 511 x 250 Gp on primary
14 x 250 GP fell out at J-785125 (SAFE)
6 x 250 GP returned
(ONE A/C CARRIED 13 BOMBS)

G. Unobserved due to cloud cover

H. 10 A/C damaged by flak. Cat. # "A"

I. Nil.

J. Moderate accurate HFF fairly continuous through last minute of bomb run. Nil elsewhere.

K. Nil.

L. Box I 12,500
Box II 11,500

M. Box I 1357
Box II 1416

X. 2 chutes observed in target area from possible A-20 seen to spiral down.

Sydney A. Lewis
Captn
1700 hrs

JEA ITA V JKI 16/24 OP OP

FROM 416TH BOMB GROUP (L) 241731A
 TO CG 9TH BOMB DIVISION ATT: A-2
 CG 97TH COMBAT BOMB WING ATT: A-2
 CONFIDENTIAL BT
 FAX-215-D

OPFLASH FOR 24 FEBRUARY 1945

- A. 416 BOMB GROUP
- B. VIERSEN COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (F-360964)
- C. 38 A-26'S
- D. 18 A-26'S, BOX I BOMBED PRIMARY ON "GEE" RUN AFTER PPF A/C EQUIPMENT FAILURE.
 19 A-26'S, BOX II BOMBED PRIMARY ON "GEE" ON SECOND RUN. PPF A/C FAILED TO DROP ON EITHER FIRST OR SECOND RUNS.
- E. 1 A-26 DEPUTY LEADER OF BOX I DROPPED SAFE PREMATURELY IN FRIENDLY TERRITORY AT (J-785125) WHEN BOMBS FELL OUT WHEN BOMBAY DOORS WERE OPENED FOR LEVEL. CAUSE OF MALFUNCTION NOT ASCERTAINED.
- F. 511 X 250 GP ON PRIMARY
 14 X 250 GP FELL OUT AT J-785125 (SAFE)
 6 X 250 GP RETURNED
 (ONE A/C EXXXX CARRIED 13 BOMBS)
- G. UNOBSERVED DUE TO CLOUD COVER
- H. 10 A/C DAMAGED BY FLAK. CAT. "A"
- I. NIL.
- J. MODERATE ACCURATE HFF FAIRLY CONTINUOUS THROUGH LAST MINUTE OF BOMB RUN. NIL ELSEWHERE.
- K. NIL.
- L. BOX I 12,500
 EXXXXXXXXXX
 EXXXXXXXXXX BOX II 11,500
- M. BOX I 1357
 BOX II 1416
- X. TWO (2) CHUTES OBSERVED IN TARGET AREA FROM EXXXXXXXXXX FROM POSSIBLE A-20 SEEN TO SPIRAL DOWN.

BT 241731A

DM AR

JEA R.....24/1955A LEG AR

ITA R.....24/1955A APPHMAPPHMSHHKKN O

IA

ITA JEA V JKI 18/24 OP OP

FROM 416TH BOMB GGUP (L) S-2 241830A
TO HQS 9TH BOMB DIV (M), ATTN: A-2 DUTY OFFICER.
HQS 97TH COMBAT WING, ATTN: A-2 DUTY OFFICER.

SECRET QX BT
FAX-217-XXXX FAX-217-D

B. VIERSEN COMMUNICATION CENTER.
J. NO PHOTOS DUE TO CLOUD COVER.

BT 241830A
DM AS BBBBBB
ITA R.....24/1859A RB KKK
JEA R.....24/1907A LEG KKK

ITA JEA V JKI 20/24 P P
T-(ADDRESSEE)
FROM 416TH BOMB GROUP (L) 242000A
TO 1ST PATHFINDER SQUADRON (PROV)
9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M) (INFO COPY)
97TH COMBAT BOMB WING (L) (INFO COPY)
CONFIDENTIAL BT
416 BG FAX-221-E 24 FEBRUARY 1945

PATHFINDER REPORT 24 FEBRUARY 1945

PATHFINDER LEADS BOTH BOXES SATISFACTORY WITH THE FOLLOWING
EXCEPTIONS. BOTH PATHFINDER AIRCRAFT ABANDONED BOMB RUN SO CLOSE TO EXX
RELEASE POINT THAT BOX LEADERS HAD DIFFICULTY CORRECTING TO DROPPING
POINT. SECOND BOX PATHFINDER MADE LEFT TURN RETURNING TO IP FOR SECOND
RUN INSTEAD OF RIGHT AS BRIEFED.

---AYKESWORTH COBOMGR 416---

BT 242000A
DM BBBB TO ITA
ITA R..... 24/2211A MZ B9B6B

JEA R.....24/2210A RL AR

USAAF FORM 34A

SECRET

SECRET

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

AUTH: CO STA A-69
DATE: 26 Feb. 1945
INIT: _____

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

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

Ref: Oprep A No. 327 for 24 hrs. ending midnight 24 Feb. 1945
Mission or Operation No. 213 97th CGS F.O. #177-760

A. Short Narrative of Operation:

Target Vienna Communications Center
Place of take-off Station A-69
Place of landing Station A-69
Take-off time 1226 Landing time 1522
Time over target Box 1-1357 Box 2-1416 Bombing Altitude 11,500 - 12,500
Nature of mission Bombing Other None
Weather 7-8/10's stratus
Results Unobserved due to cloud cover
Enemy opposition Moderate accurate IFF on bomb run.

B. Type & model of aircraft:

1. Dispatched 38 A-26's
2. Attacking target (indicate target) or completing mission.
37 A-26's Vienna Communications Center
3. Abortive due to:
 - (1) Weather: None
 - (2) Personnel: None
 - (3) Mechanical: 1 A-26 - bombs released prematurely - rack malfunction
 - (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) 10 A-26's cat. A - flak
8. Sorties 38 A-26's

SECRET

(over)

USAF FORM 344 (cont'd)

SECRET

D. Total operational flying hours

a. Day (Sunrise to sunset) 106.30b. Night (Sunset to sunrise) None

E. Ammunition by calibre:

a. Total carried into air 78,000 x .50 cal.b. Expended on operations 975 x .50 cal. (testing)c. Lost on wrecked or missing a/c None

F. Bombs, flares, etc. used:

a. Total carried into air: 531 x 250 lb GP 1/100 1/400b. Expended on operations: 511 x 250 lb GP
(List targets separately)c. Jettisoned 11 x 250 lb GP released prematurely
rock malfunction.d. Lost or wrecked on
missing a/c Nonee. Total Returned 6 x 250 lb GP

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. Des Nonec. Damaged None

For the Commanding Officer:

GEORGE SCHENKELIN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

SECRET

JKI VIA JEA V ITA JJF 20/24 OP OP

FROM 1ST PATHFINDER SQ PROV 24/2100A
 TO C G IX BOMB DIVISION A-3
 C G 97TH BOMB WING A-3
 C O 416TH BOMB GROUP S-3
 CONFIDENTIAL BT

FX-547

1ST PATHFINDER SQ PROV

F-325-E

PPF OPERATIONAL CRITIQUE

DATE: 24/2/1945

TIME: 1540

PILOT: STONE (206)

A. FORMATION:

1. CLASSIFICATION: EXCELLENT
2. REMARKS: COMMENDATION FROM PPF LEAD.

B. WINDOW SHIPS:

1. CLASSIFICATION: NONE
2. REMARKS:

C. NAVIGATION:

1. CLASSIFICATION: GOOD
2. REMARKS: ON COURSE AND ON TIME:

D. INTERPLANE COMMUNICATIONS: GOOD

E. BRIEFINGS: GOOD

F. MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS: 1 PRE RELEASE

CO 1ST PATHFINDER SQ PROV

BT 24/2100A

JN BBBB

SS (RELAY)

JKI R 25/0435A FD KK

JKI VIA JEA V ITA JEF 23WC OP OP

FROM 1ST PATHFINDER SQ PROV
TO CG IX BOMB DIVISION A-3
C G 97TH BOMB WING A-3
C O 416TH BOMB GROUP S-3
CONFIDENTIAL BT

FX-548

1ST PATHFINDER SQ PROV

F-328-E

PFF OPERATIONAL CRITIQUE

DATE: 24/2/1945

TIME: 1610

PILOT: GRUBB (668)

A. FORMATION:
1. CLASSIFICATION: GOOD
2. REMARKS:

B. WINDOW SHIPS:
1. CLASSIFICATION: NONE
2. REMARKS:

C. NAVIGATION:
1. CLASSIFICATIONS: GOOD
2. REMARKS: ON TIME AND ON COURSE.

D. INTERPLANE COMMUNICATIONS: POOR PFF COULD RECEIVE GP LEAD
N BUT COULD NOT TRANSMIT TO GP

E. BRIEFINGS: GOOD

F. MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS:

CO 1ST PATHFINDER SQ PROV

BT 24/2100A

EG AR

SS (RELAY)

JKI R 25/0440A

FD AR

T₀

JES JPO JKI VIA JEA V ITA V JJF JJF 14/24 OP OP

FROM 1ST PATHFINDER SQ F-319-D 24/1650
TO CG IX BOMB DIV ATTN A-3

CG 97, 98, 99 COMBAT WINGS
CO 387, 394, 410, 416, 344, 323, 409, 386, 391, 322, GRPS

SECRET BT

1ST PATHFINDERSQ

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQ WITH THE 387 BOMB GROUP
- B. VLATTEN COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
- C. ONE B 26
- D. ONE B 26 PRIMARY ON EQUIPMENT
- E. NONE
- F. 4 X 500 GP PRIMARY
- G. GOOD HITS IN TARGET AREA

H. NONE

I. NONE

J. NONE

K. NONE

L. 13000 PRIMARY

M. 1303 PRIMARY

NOTE: GROUP FLEW GOOD FORMATION

ANNEX: NR. 1 PFF CALLED SWEEPSTAKES TWO MINUTES AFTER ENTERING
AREA AND RECEIVED DESIRED FIX

-
- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQ WITH THE 391 BOMB GROUP
 - B. RHEINDALEN COMMUNICATION CENTER WR 0484
 - C. ONE B 26
 - D. ONE B 26 PRIMARY ON EQUIPMENT
 - E. NONE
 - F. 4 X 500 GP PRIMARY
 - G. UNOBSERVED
 - H. NONE
 - I. NONE
 - J. MEAGER INACCURATE IN TARGET AREA
 - K. NONE
 - L. 13500 PRIMARY
 - M. 1410 PRIMARY

ANNEX : NR. 1 PFF MADE NO CALL

-
- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQ WITH THE 391 BOMB GROUP
 - B. ZULPICH COMMUNICATION CENTERWF 2333
 - C. ONE B26
 - D. ONE B 26 PRIMARY ON EQUIPMENT
 - E. NONE
 - F. 4 X 500 GP ON PRIMARY
 - G. UNOBSERVED
 - H. NONE
 - I. NONE
 - J. NONE
 - K. NONE
 - L. 13000 PRIMARY
 - M. 1305 PRIMARY

NOTE : BOMBS SALVOED TWO OR THREE SECONDS LATE BECAUSE BOMBS STUCK
ON TOGGLE

ANNEX : NR. 1. PFF CALLED SWEEPSTAKES ONE MINUTE AFTER ENTERING
AREA AND RECEIVED DESIRED FIX

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQ WITH THE 394 BOMB GROUP
- B. BLATZHEIM COMMUNICATION CENTER WF 2251
- C. ONE B 26
- D. ONE B 26 PRIMARY ON EQUIPMENT
- E. NONE
- F. 4X 500 GP PRIMARY
- G. UNOBSERVED
- H. NONE
- I. NONE
- J. NONE
- K. NONE
- L. 13000 PRIMARY
- M. 1313 PRIMARY

NOTE : GROUP FLEW SUPERIOR FORMATION

ANNEX : NR 1: PFF CALLED SWEEPSTAKES TWO MINUTES AFTER ENTERING AREA AND RECEIVED DESIRED FIX

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQ WITH THE 410 BOMB GROUP
- B. VIERSEN MARSHALLING YARD WF 0896
- C. TWO B 26'S
- D. ONE B 26 PRIMARY ON EQUIPMENT SECOND BOX DROPPED ON FIRST BOX
- E. ONE B 26 EQUIPMENT FAILURE TURNED AROUND AT 1326 WITH POSITION UNKNOWN DUE TO "GEE " BEING JAMMED
- F. 4 X 500 GP PRIMARY
4 X 500 GP RETURNED
- G. EXCELLENT - STRIKES SEEN IN TARGET AREA
- H. NONE
- I. NONE
- J. MEAGER INACCURATE AT BOMBLINE QE-8401 - MODERATE INACCURATE IN TARGET AREA.
- K. NONE
- L. 12,500 PRIMARY
- M. 1333 PRIMARY

NOTE: GROUP DID NOT FOLLOW BRIEFED ROUTE OUT - FOLLOWED HEADING OF 270 DEGREES FROM TARGET INSTEAD OF RETURNING TO WAITING POINT AND RETRACING.

ANNEX NO. 1: PFF CALLED ROSALEE ONE MINUTE AFTER ENTERING AREA AND RECEIVED DESIRED FIX.

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQ WITH THE 409TH BOMB GROUP
- B. VIERSEN COMMUNICATION CENTER WF-0696
- C. TWO B-26'S
- D. TWO B-26'S PRIMARY PFF SHIP WITH BOX NO. 1 BOMBED ON GEE DUE TO EQUIPMENT FAILURE - PFF SHIP WITH BOX NO. 2 DROPPED ON COMBINATION OF EQUIPMENT AND NORDEN FOR RATE.
- E. NONE
- F. 8 X 500 GP PRIMARY
- G. BOX NO. 1 PFF BOMBS SEEN TO HIT IN TARGET AREA - 1ST BOX BOMBS UNOBSERVED
BOX NO. 2 BOMBS SEEN TO HIT VERY CLOSE TO AIMING POINT.
- H. NONE
- I. NONE
- J. MEAGER INACCURATE IN TARGET AREA
- K. NONE
- L. 12,500 AND 12,000 PRIMARY
- M. 1340 AND 1342 PRIMARY

NOTE: FIRST BOX OF GROUP DROPPED TWO MINUTES EARLY

OBSERVATION : HOSPITAL SEEN AT WF-025842

ANNEX NO. 1: NO CALL WAS MADE BY PFF DUE TO THE FACT THAT THERE WAS NO STATION TO CALL

-
- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQUADRON WITH THE 322ND BOMB GROUP
 - B. VIERSSEN COMMUNICATION CENTER
 - C. ONE B-26
 - D. ONE B-26 PRIMARY ON EQUIPMENT
 - E. NONE
 - F. 4 X 500 GP PRIMARY
 - G. UNOBSERVED
 - H. NONE
 - I. NONE
 - J. MODERATE INACCURATE AT DULKEN WF-0396
 - K. NONE
 - L. 12,500 PRIMARY
 - M. 1426 PRIMARY

NOTE: EXCELLENT FORMATION FLOWN BY GROUP
ANNEX NO. 1: NO CALL MADE - NOT BRIEFED TO CALL

-----3

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQUADRON WITH THE 386TH BOMB GROUP
- B. VIERSSEN COMMUNICATION CENTER WF-0696
- C. ONE B-26
- D. ONE B-26 PRIMARY ON EQUIPMENT
- E. NONE
- F. 4 X 500 GP PRIMARY
- G. BELIEVED GOOD
- H. NONE
- I. NONE
- J. MEAGER INACCURATE IN TARGET AREA
- K. NONE
- L. 12,500 PRIMAR

.M1426 PRIMAGY H HHHHHH
NOTE: GROUP DISCIPLINE VERY POOR - TALKED TOO MUCH ABOUT PFF
ANNEX NO. 1: NO CALL MADE - NOT BRIEFED TO CALL

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQ WITH THE 344TH BOMB GROUP
- B. VIERSSEN COMMUNICATION CENTER WF-0696
- C. TWO B-26'S
- D. TWO B-26'S PRIMARY ON COMBINATION OF EQUIPMENT AND NORDEN FOR RATE FOR SECOND BOX --- ON EQUIPMENT WITH FIRST BOX
- E. NONE
- F. 8 X 500 GP PRIMARY
- G. STRIKES SEEN IN TARGET AREA
- H. ONE B-26 CAT "A" FLAK
- I. NONE
- J. MODERATE TO INTENSE ACCURATE IN TARGET AREA - MODERATE ACCURATE AT GLADBACH WF-0989
- K. NONE
- L. 12,500 AND 11,800 PRIMARY
- M. 1406 AND 1406 1/2 PRIMARY

OBSERVATION: ONE ME109 SEEN AT 1400 AT BOMB LINE NORTH WEST OF TARGET
QE 8605 FLYING EADT TWO THOUSAND FEET UNDER FORMATION JUMPED BY P-38'S

NOE: GROUP WENT ON COURSE THIRTY-THREE MILES WEST OF PRESCRIBED POINT
- ONLY SEVEN SHIPS OF GROUP DROPPED ON PFF SHIP LEADING SECOND BOX -
THE REST OF BOX DROPPED WHEN ONE FLIGHT LEADER WAS SHOT DOWN BEFORE
RELEASE

ANNEX NO. 1: PFF CALLED ROSALLE ONE MINUTE AFTER ENTERINT AREA BUT DID
NOT RECEIVE FIX DUE TO INABILITY TO HEAR STATION - REASON UNKNOWN

OBSERVATIONS: ONE B-26 SEEN AT 1406, NUMBER TWO OF "C" FLIGHT OF
SECOND BOX, TO RECEIVE DIRECT HIT IN RIGHT WING BETWEEN FUSELAGE AND
WING - WING BLEW OFF AND AIRCRAFT WENT INTO VERTICAL DIVE WITH NO
CHUTES BEING OBSERVED; ONE B-26 SEEN AT 1404 NO. 3 OF LEAD FLIGHT OF
SECOND BOX, HIT BY FLAK - ENGINE WAS SMOKING AND AIRCRAFT WAS RETURNING
OVER BOMB LINE UNDER CONTROL WHEN LAST SEEN; NO CHUTES OBSERVED;
WINDOW AIRCRAFT WAS SEEN AT 1405 AT TARGET TO GO INTO FLAT SPIN WITH
SMOKE COMING FROM PLANE - AIRCRAFT WAS NOT SEEN HITTING GROUND AND NO
CHUTES OBSERVED - ONE B-26 SEEN AT 1407 IN TARGET AREA TO DROP OUT OF
FORMATION OUT OF CONTROL AT A 50 DEGREE ANGLE - PASSING INTO CLOUDS
WHEN LAST SEEN - NO CHUTES OBSERVED.

- A. FIRST PATHFINDER SQ WITH THE 416TH BOMB GROUP
- B. VIERSEN COMMUNICATION CENTER WF-0696
- C. TWO B-26'S
- D. NONE EQUIPMENT FAILURE GROUP TOOK OVER AND DROPPED VISUALLY
- E. TWO B-26'S EQUIPMENT OF PFF SHIP LEADING SECOND BOX WENT OUT
NEAR TARGET SO SHIP MADE 180 DEGREE TURN ALMOST TO
BOMB LINE AND TRIED SECOND RUN ON "GEE" BUT IT
WAS JAMMED
- F. 8 X 500 GP RETURNED
- G. NONE
- H. ONE B-26 CAT "A" FLAK
- I. NONE
- J. MEAGER TO MODERATE ACCURATE AT GLADBACH WF0989 - MEAGER ACCURATE
AT RHEIDAHWEN WF-0485 AND KIRSPER WF-0190
- K. NONE
- L. 12,500 AND 12,000 PRIMARY
- M. 1355 AND 1356 PRIMARY

NOTE: ONE SHIP OF LEAD FLIGHT SALVOED BOMBS FOUR MILES SOUTH EAST OF
EMELOUX VJ-9018
ANNEX NO. 1: NO CALL MADE - NOT BRIEFED TO CALL

CO 1XT PATHFINDER SQ PROV

BT 24/1650A
HW BBN URGENTN
CC: PARU 5,
J. MEUVAC INACCURATE AT BOMBPIKE QE-8401 - MOBECAE INACVURATENIN
N NNAEGET AREUM
~~MONO 035520 HERNAC~~ NOT FOPPOW BCIEFED ROKTENOKT U KOLLOWEJ HEUJONG OF
N 270 JEGCEES FGOM TARGET INFTEAD OKNRETURNING TO QAITINV
DISREGARD THIS PART UNDER THE LINE OF -----'S
IT WAS A CORRECTION BUT DOES NOT APPLY HERE
AS THIS MACHINE TOOK THAT OK

RELAYED BY RL AR

JES R VIA JEA.....24/2309A JMB AR
JPO R VIA JEA.....24/3XXX 24/2309A WAC AR TKS AR
JKI R VIA JEA.....M24/2309A DM AR

REPEAR FROM L. PARA DNCINE WITH WDS
NOTE: GROUP DISCIPLINE VERY POOR - TALKED TOO MUCH ABOUT PPF
ANNEX NO. 1: ETC? OK K

L. 12,500 PRIMARY
M. 1426 PRIMARY
NOTE: GROUP DISCIPLING VERY POOR - OK? OK AND TIC OK T B F R

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M)APO # 140
25 February 1945MISSION SUMMARY #47

24 February 1945

Section I

Field Order 760

GROUPTARGETMISSION RESULTS387 BG: Vlatten (F-159286)
Communication Center

Box I - Good (PFF)

Box II - Good (PFF)

391 BG: Zulpich (F-232331)
Communication Center

Undet. (PFF)

394 BG: Blatzheim (F-223514)
Communication Center

Undet. (PFF)

323 BG: Rheindahlen (F-039842)
Communication Center

Box I - Unsat. (PFF)

Box II - Unsat. (PFF)

410 BG: Viersen (F-076958)
Marshalling Yard

Box I - Superior

Box II - Undet. (PFF)

409 BG: Viersen (F-060964)
Communication Center

Box I - Undet. (GEE)

Box II - Unsat. (PFF)

416 BG: " "

Undet. (GEE)

344 BG: " "

Box I - A.B. (PFF)

Box II - A.B. (PFF)

386 BG: " "

Undet. (PFF)

322 BG: " "

Box I - A.B. (PFF)

Box II - A.B. (PFF)

A - 1

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Ten groups attacked five communication centers and one marshalling yard recording SUPERIOR to UNDETERMINED results. Two groups employed area bombing method.

Vlatten (Communication Center)

387 BG: 36 a/c dispatched (including 1 PFF), 33 dropping 64 x 2000 GP, 4 x 500 GP on Primary. 3 window a/c.

No losses, battle damage, casualties.

PFF contacted "Sweepstakes" 2 minutes after entering tactical area and received desired fix.

Bombing by boxes on PFF from 12,400 - 13,000 feet.

Boxes I & II - GOOD. Approximately 45% of bursts are inside 1000' radius of DMFI. The bomb pattern blankets center and southern portion of village inflicting severe damage to road network and dwellings, and probably severing main highway on west side of town. The N.E.-S.W. road also on west side of town was blanketed with bursts.

Zulpich (Communication Center)

391 BG: 37 a/c dispatched (including 1 PFF), 34 dropping 65 x 2000 GP, 4 x 500 GP on Primary. 3 window a/c.

No losses, battle damage, casualties.

PFF contacted "Sweepstakes" one minutes after entering tactical area and received desired fix.

Bombing by boxes on PFF lead from 12,500 - 13,000 feet.

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

Blatzheim (Communication Center)

394 BG: 34 a/c dispatched (including 1 PFF), 30 dropping 58 x 2000 GP, 4 x 500 GP on Primary. 3 window a/c.

1 a/c failed to bomb: mechanical.

No losses, battle damage, casualties.

PFF contacted "Sweepstakes" 2 minutes after entering tactical area and received desired fix.

Bombing by boxes on PFF from 12,000 - 13,000 feet.

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

Rheindahlen (Communication Center)

323 BG: 37 a/c dispatched (including 1 PFF), 33 dropping 61 x 2000 GP, 4 x 500 GP on Primary. 3 window a/c.

1 a/c failed to bomb: mechanical.

No losses, battle damage, casualties.

B - 1

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Fighter control was not called as formation was in TAF area.

Bombing by boxes on PFF from 12,500 - 13,800 feet.

Boxes I & II - UNSAT. The pathfinder ship released bombs in a turn causing bombs to be thrown out of airplanes in the formation. After repeated attempts to salvo bombs of Flight Gof Box I, bombs were released 30 seconds after the release of the pathfinder. Bombs fell in a very widespread pattern in the area two miles NW of DMPI. Cloud obscures majority of bombs and an accurate statement of bomb results is impossible.

Viersen (Marshalling Yard)

410 BG: 45 a/c dispatched (including 43 A-20, 2 PFF), 41 (including 1 PFF) dropping 243 x 500 GP on Primary. 1 of above a/c jettisoned 1 x 500 GP safe in woods at 0-285132 (friendly territory) due to rack malfunction. 3 window a/c.

1 a/c failed to bomb: mechanical - PFF equipment failure.

No losses, 6 a/c battle damaged, no casualties.

PFF contacted "Roselise" 1 minute after entering tactical area and received desired fix.

Bombing by boxes (Box I visually on group lead, Box II on PFF) from 12,000 - 12,500 feet.

Box I - SUPERIOR. 100% of bombs within 1000' radius of DMPI. Good pattern centered on and near tracks 250' SE of DMPI. Bursts extended along tracks to blanket 800' section of main line and sidings. Cloud cover prevents further assessment of probably damage.

Box II - UNDETERMINED. Approximately 1/3 of bomb pattern visible, through clouds, just outside 1000' radius of DMPI. Visible bursts centered on and blanketing several hundred feet of track. Balance of bursts probably hidden by clouds within the 1000' mark.

409 BG: 42 a/c dispatched (including 30 A-26, 10 A-20, 2 PFF), 40 (including 30 A-26, 8 A-20, 2 PFF) dropping 434 x 250 GP, 8 x 500 GP on Primary. 1 window a/c.

1 a/c failed to bomb: 1 (A-20) other - believed PFF had overshot target and attempted turn to make second pass before discovering PFF was going to drop.

No losses, 6 a/c battle damaged, no casualties.

Fighter Control was not called as formation was in TAF area.

Bombing by boxes on PFF (Box I "GEE", Box II equipment and Norden) from 12,200 - 12,500 feet.

Box I - UNDETERMINED. Bombed into clouds - results could not be determined. Bombs from 7 a/c which released early are visible at F-035969 in north outskirts of Dulkan, 3,550 yards WNW of Primary target. These 7 a/c consisted of box deputy leader, who released 15 to 20 seconds early when he mistook a window container thrown from lead a/c for bombs away, and Flight G which bombed on deputy. Pattern covers Dulkan-Suchteln road, and two or more town streets. There was probable damage to 20-25 residences in vicinity of pattern.

G - 1

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Box II - UNSATISFACTORY. No bombs of pattern within 1000' radius of DMPI. Pattern is centered approximately 1950 yards SSE of DMPI. Pattern covers route 59 to Munchen-Gladbach, five secondary roads, and a single track normal gauge R.R. spur line. Pattern also covers two large factories in south portion of town, and several residences.

416 BG: 40 a/c dispatched (including 38 A-26, 2 FFF), 37 (A-26) dropping 511 x 250 GP on Primary. 1 A-26 had premature release and dropped 14 x 250 GP at J-785125, approximately 8 miles NE of Charleroi (friendly territory). Bombs were dropped safe through clouds. Reason for release is undetermined.

2 a/c failed to bomb: mechanical - FFF equipment failures.

No losses, 11 a/c battle damaged, no casualties.

Fighter Control was not contacted as formation was in TAF area.

Bombing by boxes on group lead (GEE) from 11,500 - 12,500 feet.

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

344 BG: 37 a/c dispatched (including 2 FFF), 30 dropping 443 x 250 GP, 8 x 500 GP on Primary. Bomb disposition unknown of 1 a/c lost. 3 window a/c.

3 a/c failed to bomb: 1, mechanical; 2, personnel - crewmen became ill.

1 a/c, mentioned above, was lost at target when left wing was torn off by flak. No chutes seen. 6 crewmen are missing.

10 other a/c battle damaged, no further casualties.

FFF contacted "Roselee" 1 minute after entering tactical area and received desired fix.

Bombing by boxes on FFF from 12,000 - 13,000 feet.

Box I - A.B. Majority of bombs fell just outside of target area (200' south of nearest edge) in concentrated pattern. Bombs fell in an industrial area with probable heavy damage to several large factory type buildings.

Box II - A.B. Bombs hit in smoke of Box I. Approximate pattern just outside target area (about 220' south of nearest edge). Bombs hit in industrial area. Clouds and smoke prevent accurate assessment of hits.

386 BG: 37 a/c dispatched (including 36 A-26, 1 FFF), 35 dropping 208 x 500 GP on Primary.

2 a/c failed to bomb: mechanical.

No losses, 14 a/c battle damaged, no casualties.

Fighter Control was not called as formation was in TAF area.

Bombing by boxes on FFF from 12,000 - 12,800 feet

No photo coverage due to cloud cover; however, crews report excellent results on basis of visual observation through breaks in clouds.

D - 1

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

322 BG: 37 a/c dispatched (including 1 PFF), 34 dropping 257 x 500 IB, 4 x 500 GP on Primary. One of these a/c dropped 6 x 500 GP at Suchteln (F-050991) when bombs hung up at Primary. 3 window a/c.

No losses, 1 a/c battle damaged, no casualties.

Fighter Control was not called as formation was in TAF area.

Bombing by boxes on PFF from 12,150 - 12,500 feet.

Boxes I & II - A.B. Because of cloud cover and type of bomb, it is difficult to ascertain exactly where all bombs hit; however, it appears as though over 50% landed in the north part of the target area, the rest falling to the west. Both boxes dropped practically simultaneously on one PFF, therefore it is impossible to differentiate the boxes. Fires were being started.

E - 1

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

SECTION II

A/C OFF

382

A/C Bombing

348

A/C Failing to Bomb

11

Other: Window 22

TOTAL

Bombs of 1 a/c unaccounted for

23

382

Bombs on Enemy Territory

608.99

Total Bombs to Date

112,490.75

A/C Lost (344 BG)

1

A/C Missing

0

A/C Crash-Landed

0

A/C Battle Damaged

58

15.88%

Killed

0

Wounded

0

Missing

6

Injured

0

Claims

0

S E C R E T

1-1

S E C R E T

FAILURES TO BOMB

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>NO. A/C</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>REASONS</u>
394	1	Mechanical	Bomb bay doors would not open.
323	1	Mechanical	Bomb rack malfunction.
410	1 (PFF)	Mechanical	Equipment failure.
409	1	Other	Thought PFF had overshoot - closed bomb bay doors and unprepared to drop when PFF and group dropped.
416	2 (PFF)	Mechanical	Equipment failure.
344	1	Mechanical	Engine trouble.
	2	Personnel	1 - Bombardier ill. 1 - Pilot ill.
386	2	Mechanical	Engine trouble.

OBSERVATIONS

WEATHER: Vlatton 387 BG: 9/10 strato-cumulus, tops 4000'. Visibility 10-12 miles.

Zulpich 391 BG: 9/10 strato-cumulus and cumulus, tops estimated 6000'. No medium or high cloud. Visibility 10-20 miles.

Blatzheim 394 BG: 2-3/10 cirrus above 20,000'. 9-10/10 strato-cumulus, tops 3500'. Visibility unlimited air to air, and 10 miles plus air to ground.

Rheindahlen 323 BG: 6-8/10 strato-cumulus 35-4000/1500'. Visibility 4-6 miles up sun and 8-10 down sun.

Viersen 410 BG: 7/10 strato-cumulus, tops estimated 4-5000/2500-3000'. Large holes over target but aiming point obscured on first run. Second run O.K. Visibility 8-10 miles on bomb run.

409 BG: 8/10 strato-cumulus, tops 45-5500'. Visibility 4-6 miles.

416 BG: 6-7/10 strato-cumulus with small holes. Visibility 7-8 miles in all directions.

344 BG: 7/10 strato-cumulus, base 3000, tops 5000'. Visibility unlimited above cloud. 8/10 alto-cumulus base 15,000'.

386 BG: 7-8/10 strato-cumulus, tops 6000'. 3/10 cirrus 18,000'. Air to ground visibility 8-10 miles.

322 BG: 8/10 cumulus, tops 5000, base 3000'. Visibility 4-8 miles air to ground in light haze.

S E C R E T

S/A PHOTO REPORT

GROUP	CAMERAS PHOTOGRAPHING	MECHANICAL FAILURES		PERSONNEL FAILURES	
		NO.	PERCENT	NO.	PERCENT
387	100%	0	0	0	0
323	87%	0	0	1	13
410	100%	0	0	0	0
409	100%	0	0	0	0
344	100%	0	0	0	0
322	100%	0	0	0	0

FLAK ANALYSIS ANNEXA/C OVER ENEMY TERRITORY

376

A/C LOST TO FLAK

1

A/C BATTLE DAMAGED

58

% A/C BATTLE DAMAGED

15.88%

Vlatten Communication Center

387 Gp.

Zulpich Communication Center

391 Gp.

Blatzheim Communication Center

394 Gp.

A/C Lost to Flak

0

A/C Battle Damaged

0

% A/C Battle Damaged

0

Flak was not encountered enroute or at the target. Moderate accurate heavy flak is the usual experience at Zulpich. However, the 9/10 cloud cover over the target probably kept the enemy gunners inactive.

Rheinlahlen Communication Center

323 Gp.

A/C Lost to Flak

0

A/C Battle Damaged

10

% A/C Battle Damaged

27.02%

Weak to moderate accurate heavy flak was encountered for about one minute on the bomb run and at the target. Cloud cover was only 6-8/10 and the gunners were probably able to engage the formation through breaks in the clouds. In the immediate target area there are two heavy batteries (one 5 gun and one 4 gun). Both of these batteries were probably in action.

Viersen M/Y & Communication Center 410, 409, 416, 344,

386, 322 Gp.

A/C Lost to Flak

1

A/C Battle Damaged

48

% A/C Battle Damaged

21.12%

3 - 1

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Flak, that ranged from weak inaccurate heavy to moderate accurate heavy, was encountered at the target. Two groups reported flak during the last minute of the bomb run, and one group reported that the flak followed them through the turn off target.

The lost a/c (344 Gp.) received a direct hit in the left wing and went down. The a/c was hit by the first salvo that the enemy gunners fired.

Weather played a large part in the effect that the enemy gunners put forth. The first two groups over the target reported 8/10 cloud and only received weak inaccurate fire. The next two groups reported 4-6/10 cloud and encountered moderate accurate fire. Cloud cover was 7-8/10 when the last two groups attacked and the flak was again weak and inaccurate. The target is well within range of the guns that are in the defense of Gladbach, and for the most part these were probably the guns in action.

COUNTER-BATTERY:

The F/A of the Seventh Corps fired counter-battery fire on 12 heavy positions - 12 rounds of 155mm were fired on each position. The F/A of the Fifth Corps fired on 3 positions with 4 rounds each of 240mm Howitzer, 4 positions with 36 rounds each of 4.5 in. and 155mm, and on 6 positions with 10 rounds each of 155mm on each position. The Ground Station reported that the radio contact with the bomber formations was excellent.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT REACTION

T.O.T.'s: 1303 to 1426

Pathfinder with the 344th Group observed an Me 109 at 1400 in the vicinity of E-8605, 2000 feet under the formation. The e/a was jumped by P-38s.

4 - 1

S E C R E T

PUBLIC RELATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

NINTH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION HQS, France, Feb. 24th: Continuing their air offensive in close coordination with Cologne-bound U. S. Armies, Ninth Bombardment Division Marauders, Invaders and Havocs today (Saturday) struck heavy blows at rail and communications centers to halt the flow of enemy reinforcements to the Ninth Army front.

Main weight of the medium and light bomber assault was hurled against the railroad yard and communications network in the town of Viersen, 17 miles northwest of Dusseldorf. Heavy traffic was spotted in the yards by Havoc crews, and an A-20 gunner reported seeing bombs fall in a tight pattern on the car-laden tracks.

Marauder and Invader crews, flying with pathfinder aircraft, found the weather "closed in" over the German town a few minutes later, and dropped bombs with unobserved results. The vital rail center is important to the enemy in his efforts to get reinforcements to the Ninth Army sector, where American troops are driving to isolate the Ruhr valley.

Other Marauder forces, meanwhile, were directing "blind-bombing" attacks against communications in the towns of Vlatton and Zulpich, 26 and 22 miles southwest of Cologne, and Rhindahlen, 18 miles west of Dusseldorf. The three communications centers were being used by the Germans to move divisions from the south to the north in an effort to halt the Ninth Army's current drive to the Rhine. Results went unobserved because of ten-tenths cloud over all three objectives.

Scattered clouds also confronted a lone B-26 formation which attacked the town of Blatzheim, 15 miles west of Cologne, which the Germans were reported to have converted into a storage and communications center for front-bound reinforcements and supplies.

Flak defenses, silent over some of the day's targets, were active at Viersen, and one Marauder was shot down over the target area. No enemy fighters were sighted.

Nearly 350 bombers participated in the day's operations.

-30-

24 February 1945

Phoned to Paris, 1700 hrs
" " Press Camp, 1715 hrs

MICROFILMED

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DECLASSIFIED
I POP DIR 5200-27 Sep 58

06C92031

P.R.C.

AP9
Ship 88E
Item 1

GP-416-50-0P-S
24 FEB 1945

MISSION 213